



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

From the Helm



Thirteen years ago a group of community members joined together for the shared purpose and goal of creating the South Country Education Foundation. These founding members were inspired by the fact that we live in a community rich in its diversity of talents, with people who care deeply about education and individuals with a generous spirit of involve-

ment. Since its inception, the Foundation has been able to provide nearly \$500,000 in grants and scholarships to thousands of students throughout our school district.

We have recently awarded a new round of Fall Grants which are as diverse as our community. Through literacy, technology, art, science and community service, these grants will reach a broad spectrum of students throughout the South Country School District.

This past summer our Becker/Gambles Music Fund provided \$6000 in scholarships for summer music study and involvement in youth orchestras. The Students 4Art committee held another successful summer art program providing scholarships as well. The Foundation continues to provide partial funding for the popular Dancing Classrooms Program which reaches all our fifth grade students at Frank P. Long Intermediate School.

We are excited about partnering with the Knapp Swezey Foundation and grateful for its interest and generosity. This partnership fulfills part of our mission by fostering relationships within our community to further sustain SCEF.

Please take a moment of your time and read through our newsletter to see how your donations are helping to shape the educational lives of our students. We can't thank our donors enough for providing us with the means to fulfill our mission.

I am grateful to our generous donors for their support of the South Country Education Foundation and ask that all of you continue supporting our efforts to reach as many students as possible. I would also like to thank the founding members who began with an idea that has blossomed into a wonderful organization of which I'm proud to be a part. —MARY MOJALLALI

SCEF, Knapp/Swezey and B&G—Working Together

South Country Education Foundation and Knapp/Swezey Foundation have combined efforts to offer swimming lessons to young people in the South Country School District.

"Both organizations view swimming as a key element in the development of a truly educated person, especially when he or she lives on an island" explained Knapp/ Swezey Chairman Priscilla Teich. Because of that, she said, "It was easy for us to get on board."

The new program was conceived by members of the board of SCEF to be modeled on an earlier program offered by the foundation to all fifth graders at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. The program ran for two years, helping district fifth graders advance their swimming skills.

The 2011 project is being offered through the Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area located on Atlantic Avenue in North Bellport. The lessons will take place at the new Brookhaven YMCA pool in Patchogue. All expenses for the program – lessons fees, chaperones and buses – will be borne by the Knapp/Swezey Foundation.

Tracie Van Dina, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, said, "We are thrilled to offer the program through our organization and hope to serve not only our club members but also other students in the district." She said the swim program is a way to introduce the Boys & Girls Club to young people in the community not already involved. The organization is open to anyone in the service area who fills out a simple application. And, all this comes just as their new building is under construction and they gear up to expand program offerings.

The first series of lessons are scheduled to begin in November. The lessons are offered in a series of 45 minute sessions. Students are divided by skill and progress at their own pace. The Y uses a Bubble Belt System for instruction. Students wear a floatation device that is made less buoyant as the swimmer progresses until they are ultimately swimming unassisted.

A large portion of the South Country School District borders on the Great South Bay. There are, however, no public swimming pools in the Bellport, Brookhaven and East Patchogue communities that comprise the district. For some students, transportation to other communities for activities like swimming lessons is a problem.

"As we find with many of the application that come before our board, transportation often stands in the way

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Photo taken at the Patchogue Family YMCA swimming pool facility where the program will be taking place. From left to right: Mary Mojallali, President, SCEF; Justin Scott, Aquatic Director, Patchogue Family YMCA; Rob Powell Program Director and Tracie Van Dina-Romandetti Executive Director, both of the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area; Priscilla Knapp Teich, President, Knapp/Swezey Foundation; Robin Young Roe and Diane Zanazzi, Board members, SCEF.

of an educational experience. This is one example of how organizations working together can do something truly wonderful," said SCEF board president Mary Mojallali. —ROBIN YOUNG ROE

Experiencing the Creativity of Community

The Setting:

A gorgeous sunny, blue sky adorned with artistically crafted kites (an alien by the name of Sherbert, a bright yellow sunflower, a gothic dragon and "LOVE") dancing with the wind / A courtyard of blooming trees with branches swaying with delight, graced by young artists' ceramic wind chime creations / A wall, a shelf, proudly wearing the color-rich acrylics and handmade paper, the prints created from carefully etched acrylic, beautifully handwoven baskets, and life-size gesture drawings / Young artists filled with pride as parents, grandparents, siblings and friends admired their creations of the week—an impressive body of work.

The Event:

This, the Experience of Art Exhibition, marked the culmination of the Students 4 Art third summer art program.

From first through twelfth grades sixty students participated, twelve of whom were awarded full scholarships by SCEF's Students 4 Art Committee.



The committee owes the success of this program to ceramicist Marylin Silverman; educator, artist and printmaker Lorena Salcedo-Watson; educator and basket weaver Barbara Gallagher; and the four art educators who guided and inspired our blossoming students.

The 2012 Experience of Art summer program will take place July 30-August 3, 2012. Once again, scholarships will be awarded. Contact *students4art@gmail.com* or visit *www.scefonline.org* for more information,.

-LILLIAM VILLAFANE DI GIACOMO

SCEF Welcomes MLK Scholarship Fund and Nancy Marr

Nancy Marr, our newest board member, worked to establish the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund Committee in 1968 to help local students pursue college degrees. We welcome her to the SCEF board and share with you the details of her community involvement. —DAVA STRAVINSKY



The Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund Committee was started in 1968 to honor the memory of Dr. King. Many community residents were involved, but the inspiration came from Mary Alice Borg, who lived in Bellport at the time. Our hope was that we could inspire students who

might think that continuing education was not an option for them, and give them the opportunity to be recognized at graduation as an honoree.

We select the students from Bellport High School's blind list, which gives us information about the students' grades, community service, and family income, without identifying them by name. The students we choose have low income or unusual family problems, a record of service to the community, and a grade point average that shows that they can succeed in further education. We also ask that they have made application to college.

Each year we raise about \$4,000 so we are able to give several awards of \$500 each that the students can request after they have enrolled in college. We have been pleased to find that the group of students at the BHS Awards Night represents the diversity of the school district, with students of all races, from all parts of the district, and have often heard from students that they appreciated the help we have given them.

Members of the current committee are Consuelo Ludlam, Nancy Marr, Anna McClure, Mary Mojallali, Joann Neal, Martin van Lith and Ellen Williams.

We moved to the South Country School District in 1963, and sent two sons and a daughter to school here, graduating in 1975, 1977, and 1983. In 1965, I joined a group of parents in North Bellport who hoped to provide more recreational and educational opportunities for their children. This was incorporated in 1972 as the Bellport

SCEF Awards More Than \$16,000 in Fall Grants

Literacy, gyroscopes, fashion funk and hunger were among the topics discussed in funding submissions by school teachers and community organizations in the South Country Education Foundation's fall grant cycle. More than \$16,000 was awarded to 13 applicants.

Recycling Club

Peter Cisek, Frank P. Long Intermediate School **\$216.00**

Book Collector

Aimee Volk, Lisa Nabi Frank P. Long Intermediate School **\$235.70**

Wilson Fluency Program

Annmarie O'Sullivan Brookhaven Elementary School **\$561.00**

Amazing Author Visit Annmarie O'Sullivan, Dorothy Durand Brookhaven Elementary School \$2,000.00

Gyroscope Exhibit

Helen Geraghty Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society **\$1,000.00**

Junk to Fashion Funk Barbara Gallagher Bellport High School \$1,990.17

"Empty Bowl" Project Mary Trentalange Bellport High School \$2,000.73

Technology for Literacy

Monica Pullows-Tetuan, Diane Bavosa Bellport High School \$1,860.59

Community Learning

Danielle Gulotta Kreamer Street, Frank P. Long, Bellport Middle School **\$1,000.00**

SEQ Bottle Recycling Program Samuel Hoff Bellport High School \$988.23

The Fab Way to Comprehend

Stephanie Pirozzi Kreamer Street Elementary School \$274.73

RAZ-Kids.com

Sean Clark, Victoria Williams, Maryanne Brandi, KatherineFrankie, Kreamer Street, Brookhaven and Verne W. Critz Elementary Schools \$1,978.35

Belle Lumiere

Suzette Fandale Bellport High School \$1,978.36 The Recycling Club is asking for funds to purchase trash bags, scales, storage cans and books to be used in their collection and quantification of recyclables at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. The club has been in existence for five years and students have expanded their skills in weighing, measuring and charting of waste products.

Classroom book titles, narratives, cover pages and reviews can now be uploaded through a unique library system that catalogues and classifies books within each classroom at the intermediate school. The information is stored and organized in a program called Book Collector. The organizational program makes it possible for students to preview a particular section as they make their book selection. The grant pays for the purchase of the program and the applicants feel it will support existing reading programs in the building.

This grant is for the purchase of the Wilson Fluency/Basic Program to boost reading comprehension and fluency for struggling young readers. Wilson Fluency/Basic is a supplemental fluency program for student in the early grades. The program is proven to help students become fluent readers by providing them with instruction and oral reading practice.

Children's Author Jerry Pallotta will visit the Brookhaven Elementary School and talk on his special message, "Read a Zillion Books!" Mr. Pallotta is the author of more than 22 books on nonfiction topics such as reading, writing, math and science. The grant will pay his performance fee as well as his travel expenses.

This grant is intended to improve the signage for the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society's gyroscope exhibit. According to officials for the historical society, the museum has a treasure trove of gyroscopes, gyrocompasses and related materials. The signage will make the collection understandable for young visitors. Volunteers at the Brookhaven National Laboratory have offered their services to produce a video explaining the operation and function of gyroscopes.

More than 30 students in the Bellport High School Fashion Program will work collaboratively to create games and accessories out of re-cycled materials. The end products are called "Trashion," according to the grant writer, and such creations offer students the opportunity to connect, conceptualize and receive art in a creatively re-used form. The grant covers the cost of materials such as glue guns, drills, hacksaws and mannequins.

In a series of after school workshops, students, community members, artists and potters will learn to create clay bowls and woven baskets to be sold at the first Empty Bowl Dinner in the spring when community members are gathered to contemplate hunger. The proceeds from the sale of the bowls and baskets will be turned over to the Lighthouse Mission and earmarked for needy families. The grant pays for the purchase of clay, glazes and other materials used for the creation of the bowls.

Reading vocabulary and comprehension skills for English as Second Language students will be enhanced with the use of the Kindle Fire electronic reader. Special features of the Kindle Fire are its ability to access the web giving students without home computers the opportunity to complete research assignments that are part of their reading curriculum. In addition, the electronic reader has the ability to improve reading fluency with the text-to-speech capability. This is a great learning tool for English language learners whose reading skills often lag behind speaking and listening skills. The grant pays for eight Kindle Fire E-Readers and an Amazon gift card for purchase of materials.

Students with multiple disabilities will participate in real life experiences that foster language and communication skills through a series of field trips. The goal of the project is to create opportunities needed to become active members of society. The field trips will supplement classroom exercises in life skills instruction focused around manners, hygiene, appropriate restaurant behavior, money exchange and other topics. Field trips to a grocery story, restaurants and a mall are part of the grant. The grant pays for transportation, admission and meals.

Students for Environmental Quality will expand the high school's recycling program by adding recycling bins to the outdoor athletic fields and practice areas. SCEF funds will pay for the purchase of five indoor recycling bins, three outdoor recycling containers and bin liners.

An engaging team of puppets with names like Clara the Clarifier and Sammy Summarizer will help students improve their reading comprehension skills and gain meaning from written text. The grant provides for the purchase of the puppets.

RAZ-Kids.com, an interactive online reading program, will allow first and second grade students to independently practice their reading skills at their ability level. The program allows the teacher to select appropriate text for each child and effectively monitor student progress. The program also lets teachers communicate with parents. The grant pays for RAZ-Kids subscriptions for all first and second grade classes in the district.

Approximately 45 high school photography students will study traditional and unique lighting techniques on a field trip to the Staley-Wise Gallery in Soho where they will be exposed to the work of master photographers. They will then create their own pieces of artwork using a variety of photographic and lighting equipment as part of a unit of study called "Belle Lumiere." The emphasis will be on analyzing and recreating lighting techniques used by the masters. The grant pays for train fare to the gallery, lighting equipment and supplies to be used in the creation of the original art.

(continued from page 2)

Area Community Action Committee. It sponsored the Neighborhood Opportunity Center until 1972 and then built the building for the Bellport Day Care Center in 1975. I became its director in 1978 when it received funding for youth programs from the Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County Youth Bureaus and the South Country School District. B.A.C.A.C. provided tutoring, counseling, recreational, and after school programs in the district schools and at a center on Montauk HIghway. In 1996, it became a part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

One of the programs that we started with donations from the community was a music fund to assist more low income students to take advantage of the school's music program. Named after Mary Gambles, a community leader who worked for the rights of children in the community, the fund sponsored donations of used instruments, music lessons, and trips to musical events. In 1991, the Mary Gambles fund joined forces with a fund started by Arthur Becker to support music education in the district schools to become our current SCEF committee the Becker/ Gambles Music Fund. —NANCY MARR

SCEF Board Welcomes Steven Montick

Steven Montick, Bellport resident and owner of Monti's Auto Works and Monti's Auto Clinic in Bellport, has joined the South Country Education Foundation's board of directors. He is our new recording secretary

and will serve a three-year renewable term on the board.

Mr. Montick, who has worked as the director of Brookhaven Memorial Hospital's cardiac rehab program and also as a pharmaceutical company sales representative, is the father of four—all graduates or students in the South Country School District.

Our new board member has been active in many volunteer activities, most notably with the Bellport Fire Department. A member for twenty-two years, he is a past captain of the Eagle Hose Company and has served as department secretary for fifteen years.

"Steve earned his status as a valuable member of the board at his first meeting when he took on the role of SCEF recording secretary," said President Mary Mojallali. "He is enthusiastic and hard working—just what we look for in a board member," continued Ms. Mojallali.

Steve and his wife Robin, a teacher in the South Country School District, have raised four children in Bellport Village where the Montick family has lived for twenty-four years. The oldest child, Dorothy, graduated from Bellport High School in 2009 as the class salutatorian. She now attends Fairfield University in Connecticut and will graduate this May with a dual major in math and political science. Emily Montick graduated from BHS with the class of 2011 and is a freshman at SUNY Cortland. Sons Steven and Timothy are 6th and 4th graders, respectively. — ROBIN YOUNG ROE

Becker/Gambles Music Fund News...

Eighteen students from Frank P. Long Intermediate School and Bellport Middle School were awarded music lesson scholarships this past summer. Three students in band, orchestra and chorus from each school received four lessons to help them retain their skills and improve their technique. The committee was also pleased to give a total of eleven awards to students from Bellport High School for summer music study. Those students chose a variety of opportunities: a number of students continued music study on their chosen instruments, one attended the Saratoga School of Orchestral Studies, another chose SUNY Fredonia band camp and three students are taking part in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra in New York. The total of all awards this year was \$5910. We are proud to be able to assist these students and congratulate them on their achievements.

We have just received a gift of a Korg electric piano from Bill Ruddick of Bellport. Many thanks to Mr. Ruddick and Barbara Flagg for contacting our committee and making this valuable piano available. The piano will be used at Bellport High School.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have hosted a third benefit concert with electric violinist Mark Wood on Tuesday, November 22nd. Along with Wood, vocalist Laura Kaye and drummer Elijah Wood will perform with the Bellport High School Concert Orchestra and Jazz Choir. In addition to a day and half of intensive workshops and rehearsals in preparation for the performance, Mark will again donate one of his custom made electric violins to raffle at the concert. And if that isn't enough, the D'Addario string company, a corporate sponsor of Wood's "Electrify Your Strings" program, is donating \$1000 worth of string supplies to our school. Thank you to everyone who supported this concert and for helping us expand the horizons of these students.

On Saturday, April 28th, we will once again produce our "Opera, Organ and More" concert at the Old South Haven Presbyterian church. We are thrilled to bring back Michael Douglas Jones, bass; Andrew Fuchs, tenor; Carol Weitner, organ; and Daniel Ragone, piano and are pleased to present soprano Maria D'Amato. Please see our website www.scefonline.org this spring for more information.

And last but by no means least, we welcome Jim Uzzi our new district music chairman to the committee. Our best wishes and deep appreciation go to Bellport High School's new assistant principal Tim Hogan who has served on the Becker/Gambles committee from its inception. We look forward to many more years working with Mr. Uzzi and the entire department to continue to enrich our students' music educations. —DAVA STRAVINSKY







Student musicians Elizabeth O'Connor, Aidan Lundstrom and Patrick Rojas entertain at the annual fundraiser. PHOTO BY BELLPORT.COM

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING GRANTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH, SPRING GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH, SPRING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

FRIDAY, MAY 11TH, SPRING GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CULTURAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 5 PM, OPERA, ORGAN AND MORE: VOICE AND ORGAN RECITAL OLD SOUTH HAVEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN

THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH, 3:30-5 PM, RECEPTION FOR FALL 2011 AND SPRING 2012 GRANT WINNERS HOME OF BARBARA AND EDWARD KNOWLES, BELLPORT

SATURDAY, JULY 14TH, 5-7:30 PM, 14TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY & AUCTION HOME OF CHANTAL AND RICHARD BERMAN, BELLPORT

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 30TH-AUGUST 3RD, FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENTS 4 ART, THE EXPERIENCE OF ART OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-12, BELLPORT HIGH SCHOOL

> CHECK OUR WEBSITE WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION <

The South Country Education Foundation has learned that an organization is only as strong as its donor list. Our organization, as proved by the list that follows, has the power and strength of a modern-day Superman. Every year we are overwhelmed by the support of the individuals and businesses listed in this newsletter. Our spirit soars and our confidence grows because of your gifts. Your gifts make our mission attainable. But, even better, your gifts bring enrichment to the young minds and talents that inhabit our schools each day.

Thank you!

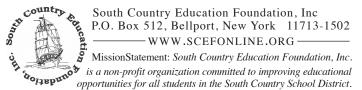
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FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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