

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm

Spring brings with it a sense of excitement and hopefulness. It's a time for planting a garden or opening the windows to let the fresh air come rushing through the house. That same excitement and hopefulness holds true for those of us involved in the South Country Education Foundation. Our next round of grants have been awarded, concerts for our community and students to enjoy have been held, and many exciting activities with our Students 4 Art Committee are coming to fruition. We have also been busy planning our next auction which will be held on July 10th at the Bellport home of our supportive hosts, Richard and Chantal Berman. This is the event in which we receive the majority of funding for the two grant cycles held during the school year.

What follows in the pages of the newsletter is a picture of what we have been doing to enhance the educational opportunities of the students throughout the district. It takes many volunteers to whom I am forever grateful. Each person giving of his time to the Foundation is also making a gift to a child who attends our schools.

I am grateful to all of our donors who help make our many projects possible. Please take a few minutes to read about our grants and the teachers and community members who have come up with ways to reach our students through innovative and non-conventional ways.

We also ask that you continue to support the Foundation through your donations and by attending our auction this summer. You will be a part of an exciting and hopeful tradition the Foundation has built over the last eleven years.

—MARY MOJALLALI

Becker/Gambles Facilitates Piano Donation for New Middle School Auditorium

Jinny and Ralph Weston lived on Library Lane in Brookhaven for over 50 years before recently moving to New Hampshire to be closer to their daughter. They had packed what they planned on taking and given most of the remainder away to friends. But, they had not yet found a home for their piano.

Fortunately for students in the South Country School District, Ralph gave Karen Rowley, a neighbor and head of SCEF's Becker/Gambles Music Fund's instrument donation program, a call. Karen had just the plan for the six-foot Lester grand piano...it would be perfect for the new auditorium of the Bellport Middle School. South Country District Music Chairman Tim Hogan was pleased to accept the gift on behalf of the school district. This very handsome piano was refurbished by Dick Realandor a few years ago, is in "remarkable condition and has extraordinary tone."

The Westons are pictured below with SCEF president Mary Mojallali and Bellport Middle School principal Brian Ginty on a recent spring morning when they were invited to see their gift to local students in its new home.

Our thanks to Jinny and Ralph Weston for their generosity. We hope that the piano will continue to grace many performances on the BMS stage.

PHOTO BY SUZETTE FANDALE



Students 4 Art Visits Artists' Studios

Sunday afternoons filled with art, good food and friends. Unlike your typical studio tour, Students 4 Art took a very different approach to creating its first studio visit series "Meet the Artists". Honoring the artistic expression of each of the four featured professionals, a group of 20 art-loving individuals came together on four consecutive Sunday afternoons, were inspired and, in the process, became friends.

2 South Country Education Foundation

The “Meet the Artists” objective was two-fold: one, to celebrate our local talent and nourish the creative spirit of the adult community; and two, to raise funds to develop educational opportunities and experiences in the visual arts for our youth.

We’re delighted to say they accomplished both, and much more. The series came to an end and participants clamored for another. Artists and participants alike made connections, all were inspired and saw the fruits of their contributions...new collectors, new students and new friends. The program raised close to \$2,000, which will go toward awarding grants for some students to participate in the August 2010 Summer Arts Program and to developing other visual arts programs.

While there is no substitute for personal participation, the following synopsis should convey the essence of each visit. We hope this inspires you, and we invite you to get involved, become part of the movement and participate in the next series.

Studio Visit 1: Artist/builder Michael Ince and his wife Zabby welcomed the group into their Ince-built home and studio, where it was treated to a viewing of Michael’s most recent calligraphic drawings. Everyone listened attentively as he shared his early recollections of growing up in Brookhaven and becoming passionate about the conservation of our natural resources, then lingered, taking in the view of his magical Marsh Guest House.

Studio Visit 2: Artist/craftsman David Ebner, recognized by collectors and curators alike as a mover and a shaker in studio craft furniture, opened his exquisite home to the participants. The group marveled in his studio as he worked on his iconic ‘Scallion Coat Rack’ and discussed features of his recent work. It is clear why his creations have been identified as the antiques of the future—their sophistication, simplicity and functionality make them all timeless beauties.

Studio Visit 3: Sculptor and educator John Cino took the group to River Studios in Patchogue, where he carves his ‘living’ sculptures. Like his poetry, John’s sculptures evoke a sensuousness that’s hard to resist. With each new piece, John begins a journey, recording the dynamics of nature and his relation to the



David Ebner pointing out a detail in a recent chair design.

living material. What one participant in the group saw as a living creature, another saw as a plant or music.

Studio Visit 4: Impressionist painter Mary Samuels opened her new Brookhaven studio to the group on the first day of spring, surprising all by pulling out her canvas, paints and brushes and, right before our very eyes, started work on a new piece. Mary’s paintings are all about emotion—joy and hopefulness. And this is exactly what she transferred to the group through her painting and her life story. It is no wonder why students have been anxious for her to open her doors to them.

For more information regarding the Meet the Artists Studio Visits and the 2010 Summer Arts Program, please contact us at students4art@gmail.com or at www.scefonline.org, Students 4 Art.

Students 4 Art wants to give special thanks to Pamela Lerner of Pamela Lerner Antiques and to James McPeak of the Brickhouse Brewery as well as to vendors Cirillo’s, Sam’s club, CostCo and Super Stop&Shop.

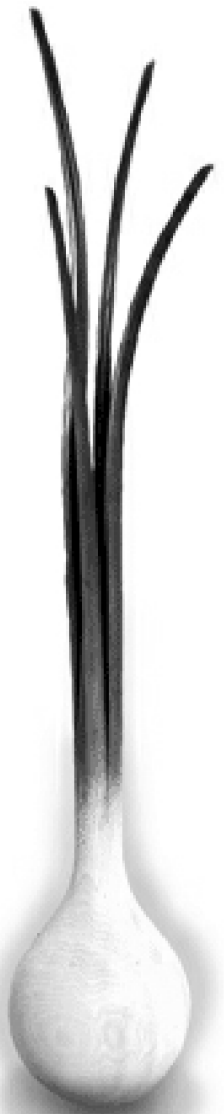
Mary Samuels and her husband Harold before hosting the last of our studio visits.



Above, artist Michael Ince with Leah Vox and James McPeak, pleased with their purchase of Michael’s calligraphic drawing shown in the background.

At right is John Cino in his Patchogue studio, hosting the third visit.





David Ebner's
classic scallion

A visit for 2 to the film set of
"Arthur" starring Helen
Mirren and Russell Brand.

◆
The Pride of Bellport
Basket Raffle

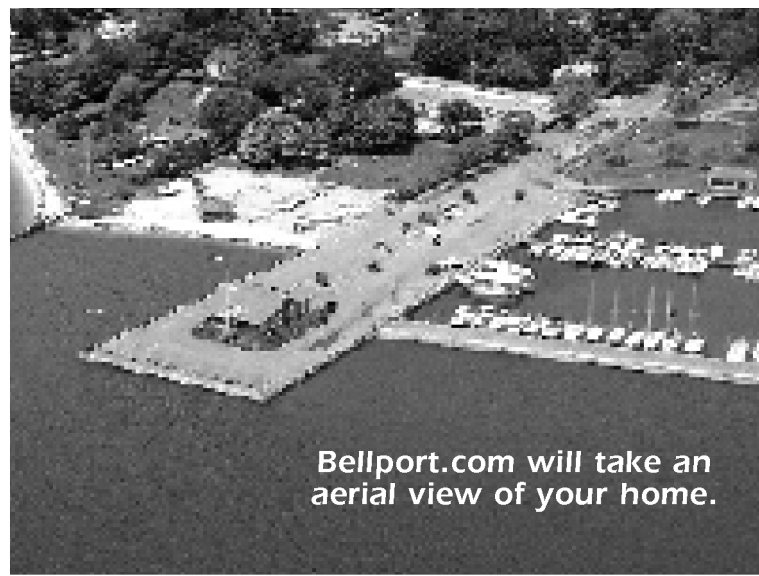
◆
Kreb Cycle Bicycle

◆
Gift Certificates to Painters
and other local restaurants

◆
Artwork of BHS students

◆
Bellport Village Centennial
Commemorative sterling
pendant and a pin

◆
Remote controlled
golf cart

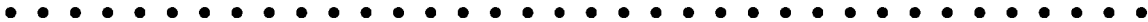


Bellport.com will take an
aerial view of your home.

PHOTO BY LARRY SRIBNICK

Some 2010 Auction Biddables

"Talkin' 'Bout the Good Times"
Kate Madsen's 17"x 24" painting
of her favorite marshes



The artwork for this year's auction invitation was made in Michelle Procida's Brookhaven Elementary art classroom as part of a grant from SCEF. Artist and printmaker Lorena Salcedo-Watson (pictured with students) spent several days at Brookhaven this past winter as a visiting artist, discussing her inspirations for making art and demonstrating several methods of printmaking including woodblock and linoleum cuts as well as a dry point intaglio. The second and third graders made etchings using the dry point process and Ms. Procida (background, left) even borrowed the press from Bellport High School so that the students would have a first hand experience of printing on a professional press.

We have just given Ms. Procida an additional grant to bring Ms. Salcedo-Watson back for a week this fall to explore different drawing media and to discuss with students how artists find their own personal imagery.

Grants of \$14,000 Awarded This Spring

The board of the South Country Education has awarded eleven grants in the fields of arts, technology, and character development for the Spring 2010 cycle. Several of these provide enhanced opportunities for students with special needs.

Be Cool, Be Safe

Donna C. Warshaw

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,025.00

Fourth and fifth grade students will learn to tame their tempers, prevent violence, stop bullying, build positive self images and celebrate their differences by using skills explained during an assembly program titled "Be Cool, Be Safe." The assembly offered by Encore Performing Arts, Inc. will include music, circus activities and other tools to help students develop creative methods to maintain harmony at school and safety in the outside world.

Kids and Technology: SMART Board Learning Equipment

Aimee Volk

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,996.00

This grant pays for the purchase of two SMART Document Cameras and two SMART Slates to complement SMART Boards already in the classroom. These new tools will help teachers and students retrieve information from technological sites as well as enhance the use of computer programs. The equipment will be shared with other classrooms in the building and become the property of the school.

Explore Reading Bags

Cathie Morganti & Victoria Williams

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,000.00

Reading reinforcement materials will be sent home in special Explore Reading bags with funds from this grant. These materials will be given to students considered to be at-risk in comparison to their peers and who are receiving reading services. Students will be able to: practice letter identification; reinforce their knowledge of beginning, medial and ending sounds; enhance rhyming and phonetic awareness; and learn decoding skills with their parents.

Vegetable/Herb Garden

Diane M.C. Coleman

Bellport High School

\$1,000.00

Funds from this grant will help support the students in the Special Education Life Skills Program who will plant, maintain and harvest a vegetable and herb garden in the high school atrium. They will learn to cook and improve the flavor of foods with herbs they have grown. The project also includes the composting of cafeteria waste to produce nutrients for the garden.

Motor Development and Fitness Fun

Kerry Hogan

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,975.63

Autistic students at Kreamer Street Elementary School will use the Nintendo Wii system to promote an interest in recreational sports, individual fitness and team sports. The Wii is known to help individuals with balance, speed, agility and individual fitness. The program will be supervised by physical therapists who work with autistic children. The grant will fund the Nintendo Wii system, the games, projector, Apple iPod and other items. The system will be shared with other classrooms in the building and become the property of the school.

Woodworker's Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$750.00

This grant is for the continued support of the Woodworker's Club which attracts 135 energetic students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. Students learn to construct bird feeders, bird houses, foot stools, book holders and bat houses. The grant also funds Advanced Woodworker's Club for fifth graders who excelled as fourth grade participants and now work on more intricate, elaborate projects. Funds will be applied to the purchase of saw blades, screws, sandpaper, wood stain, nails, and a table saw all of which become the property of the school.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$750.00

This grant supports the Frank P. Long Intermediate School Garden Club which for the past nine years has been responsible for the beautification of the school's courtyard. The garden provides learning experiences for club members as well as for the entire student body. Plans for this year include planting a perennial garden and an orchard consisting of apple, fig, and pear trees as well as blueberry bushes.

Finding Inspiration in Nature

Michelle Procida

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$1,500.00

Artist and printmaker Lorena Salcedo-Watson will hold a five-day residency workshop at Brookhaven Elementary School in January 2011. She will share drawing techniques and discuss nature as an approach to studying shape, texture, line, and color. Techniques for using a variety of materials such as graphite pencils, colored pencils and charcoals will be explored. The project will conclude with an art show in June.

'Clickers' for Educating a New Generation

Maryanne Brandi, Laura Earl

All District Elementary Schools

\$1,934.00

This grant will provide funding for 32 Classroom Participation System 'clickers' and a portable interactive tablet. The 'clickers' operating similarly to a television remote will permit students to interact with a classroom computer or SMART Board which has been shown to enhance student participation in classroom lessons. The 'clickers' and tablet, as property of the school district, will be moved from building to building according to a schedule designed by the staff.

Encaustic Painting with Jeremy Penn

Lisa S. Conk

Bellport High School

\$1,792.06

This grant will pay for a workshop offered to 25 advanced art students who will study encaustic painting with New York artist Jeremy Penn. Penn works in encaustics, a mixture of pigment and hot wax, building up countless layers of wax and then strategically removing parts creating a detailed sculptural effect. Funds are also being provided to purchase heat guns, plywood, electric griddles and paints.

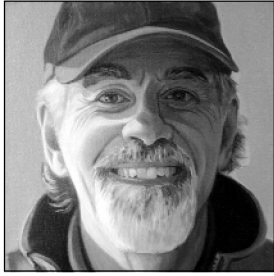
"Kids' Club" Arts & Crafts

Lighthouse Mission,

1543 Montauk Hwy

\$500.00

The Lighthouse Mission "Kids Club" Program is a character-building program for district students living at poverty level in the HELP Suffolk homeless shelter. This grant will help fund arts and crafts supplies for lessons focusing on a character skill such as kindness. The program meets every Saturday and is for at-risk children, ages 4 to 12.



An Interview with Andrew Pate, Class of '69

Andrew Pate is a self-taught designer and building consultant specializing in fine wooden cabinetry and traditional and contemporary furniture. Resilient wooden dance floors built to his design have been installed at Columbia University, Bennington College, Tufts University, Boston College, and in dozens of private studios. He recently spent three years designing woodwork and managing the renovation of a Federal Period Vermont farmhouse and is currently working on building a zero energy, high efficiency house. He lives with Stacey, his wife of twenty four years, in the rural, upstate village of Cambridge, New York.

PAINTING BY JERI MACDONALD. INTERVIEW BY DAVA STRAVINSKY

What is your most vivid memory of Bellport High School?

One of my most vivid memories was classmate Victor Bono's effort to build a sculpture of car hoods on heavy pipes cemented into the ground to represent a clipper ship at the entrance to the school. I don't know if it was completed or if it survived for any length of time. I found it inspiring that someone could work on something that was not part of the curriculum or class assignment. It might have been his art class project, he was definitely thinking creatively and BIG.

What was your favorite class?

I remember enjoying French class, reading literature in a language other than English was a challenge but seeing or imagining life through the words of another culture was enlightening. Taking French emboldened me to travel to France several times; a very rich and stimulating experience. I also became interested in French cooking and have cultivated my taste for great food of all sorts.

What are some of your more recent activities?

About 12 years ago I took up windsurfing. I visit Cape Hatteras for a couple of weeks in the spring and fall to sail and spend time at the ocean. I always wished I had taken advantage of sailing on Bellport Bay in HS, now I get back to Bellport occasionally and can rig up on the lawn by the band shell and head out onto the water. I am also on the board of the local art center, work on a recycling advisory board with the county, and am involved with a citizens group advocating for intelligent land use, development and conservation.

How did going to Bellport prepare you for your life and profession?

My second favorite class was mechanical drawing. I took it for two years. Although I might have gone to architecture school, I ended up leaving college and going into furniture making and building restoration. The drawing classes in conjunction with math and science skills and a general curiosity have allowed me to run a business on my own terms for over 35 years. I have designed and built cabinetry, furniture and sculpture. I have worked on several Frank Lloyd Wright houses and helped restore and remodel many older New England homes. I invented a sprung floor system popular with dancers. Regularly I advise clients on design and energy issues related to their homes. All of this was possible to some degree thanks to habits I developed and guidance I received at BHS.

What is your advice for BHS students?

I didn't know at the time what my High School classes were preparing me for. I would like to think students today know more about how they will support themselves and what they might do to contribute to making the world a better place. Life is complicated, busy, full of responsibilities, nothing is guaranteed. I recommend trying to get as much as you can out of the classes you take, looking for activities that expose you to ideas and people outside your comfort zone. Read, I was always a slow reader but reading has exposed me to valuable information, knowledge, and ideas. Reading has helped me to think deeply about the values and concerns of our society. Reading is also a great escape. Be prepared to think for yourself, defend your ideas, don't be afraid to try something new. Take time to commune with nature. Realize that you are connected to all other living things in the world one way or another.

Electrify Your Strings

"Electrify Your Strings" is the title of Mark Wood's project to bring excitement to string classrooms across the country using his electric violins to enliven and engage his students. The Becker/Gambles Music Fund joined with the Bellport High School Music Department to bring Mark Wood and Laura Kaye, vocalist, to Bellport High School for a day of workshops with the concert orchestra and jazz choir. The workshop culminated in a benefit concert on April 29th at the Walter Ebersole Auditorium of BHS. Also fueling the excitement was that the two handmade electric violins purchased by SCEF for the orchestra classes through a grant written by BHS orchestra teacher Jim Uzzi were delivered by Mr. Wood that day. He wasted no time in asking the students to step up and solo on them for several of the performance pieces.

Wood began his career with a full scholarship to the prestigious Juilliard School and studied under Leonard Bernstein at the Tanglewood Music School. He has gone on to develop his own unique and dynamic musical career, as a recording artist and performer and has performed onstage with Celine Dion, Billy Joel, Paul McCartney and many others. He is an Emmy award winning composer of music used in televised events and has received commissions for a variety of pieces for electric violin quartets and orchestras, appearing at Carnegie Hall in 2007 with the Etowah Youth Orchestra performing his work *Viper vs. Orchestra*. He is the inventor of his own unique electric violins resulting in radically shaped instruments that are far better suited to amplified performance in a contemporary music context than the acoustic violin. He serves on the board of the American

String Teachers Association working to broaden the orchestra curriculum and energize students and expand their musical horizons.

We are currently making plans with Mr. Wood for a return workshop and performance experience in 2011. He was most appreciative of how prepared our students were for the day of workshops and how talented and lively they were in their performances. We were very proud of our students, their teachers and to be part of such an exciting event.

For more information, please see www.markwoodmusic.com

Opera and More Recital

On Saturday May 8th, for the second year, the Becker/Gambles Music Fund committee presented a recital of opera arias and art songs. "Opera and More" was enjoyed by approximately 150 attendees and was held again at the beautiful Old South Haven Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven. The Foundation is grateful to Pastor Tom Philip for being so supportive of this concert.

This year four very skilled artists performed. Michael Douglas Jones, bass, who is a resident of East Patchogue, was joined by soprano Mihaela Buhaiciuc who earned her Ph.D in voice at SUNY Stony Brook, and tenor Dr. Thomas Rowell who, along with Mihaela, teaches voice at the University of South Alabama. Their accompanist was Leon Livshin who studied at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music, and who now teaches piano at Stony Brook. One of the functions of the Becker Gambles Music Fund is to bring university level students or performing artists to our schools to give

PHOTO BY LISA SCATUCCIO



“master classes” to sections of the school band, orchestra and choirs. Mihaela gave master classes at the Bellport High School choir for two years while she was studying at Stony Brook.

The audience enjoyed two trios by Mozart and several solos by composers including Brahms, Poulenc, Donizetti, Puccini and Debussy.

We are especially proud that the entire cost of this recital was underwritten by a group of generous sponsors, so that all of the ticket sales proceeds went directly to the summer music scholarships and music camp tuitions for South Country students in grades four to twelve. The sponsors were: Edward Bank, Friends at The Bellport, Chantal and Richard Berman, Daryl Jordan and Herman Washington, Barbara and Ed Knowles, Tony and Cynthia Marinelli, Michael and Hwasoon Mullaney, Bob and Pamela Rosenberg, Karen Rowley, Dava and John Stravinsky, Will Struyk and Jim Bonomo, Jerry and Priscilla Teich, and Maureen Veitch and Andrew Zimmerman. —WILL STRUYK

Opera Appreciation Classes

On certain Monday nights at Bellport High School, emotive operatic voices waft up the stairwells coming from the building's band room where educator and opera buff Ira Hayes is holding opera appreciation classes to adult members of the South Country School District. For the second year, Dr. Hayes is offering this series of eight classes in support of the summer music scholarship program of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. His students, many of whom attended last year's classes, are delving deeper into Verdi this spring, analyzing works by Puccini and Tchaikovsky, and then ending with Wagner's epic “Ring Cycle” in the autumn, if there is enough interest.

We thank Ira for challenging us to learn more and, once again, for making this very generous donation of his time and talents to benefit our students.



Dr. Ira Hayes supports the Becker/Gambles Music Fund with his entertaining series encouraging music appreciation.

Summer Arts Program

Students 4 Art (S4A) is launching its second summer arts program this August in response to the overwhelming response from the community. Known as The Experience of Art, this one-week program brings together five local artists, along with art educators, to offer students the opportunity to experience the visual arts through mediums and techniques that are distinct from, yet complementary to, those currently offered through the school district.

Running from August 2nd to the 6th, each day students will have exposure to a different artist, seeing them at work and getting first-hand guidance in their own exploration of the different visual art approaches. Designed to create connections between students, artists and educators, classes will have a maximum of 15 students.

The students' art will be showcased at a culminating student exhibition the evening of August 6th. For a snapshot of the first summer arts program in 2009, watch the movie on the website www.scefonline.org, *Students 4 Art*. For more information, e-mail students4art@gmail.com. —LILLIAM VILLAFANE DIGIACOMO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 3RD, 3:30-5 PM RECEPTION FOR FALL 2009 AND SPRING 2010 GRANT WINNERS
The Garden of Barbara and Edward Knowles, Bellport

SATURDAY, JULY 10TH 5-7:30 PM / 12TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION
Home of Chantal and Richard Berman, Bellport

SUNDAY, JULY 11TH 5:30 PM / 26TH BELLPORT CLIPPER CLASSIC
<bellportclipperclassic.com>

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH / STUDENTS 4 ART SUMMER PROGRAM EXHIBITION

MONDAY, AUGUST 23RD / FALL GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH / FALL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST / FALL GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

(For more information, see our website www.scefonline.org)



South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713-1502

WWW.SCEFONLINE.

SCEF Mission Statement:

South Country Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District. Its mission is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside of the South Country School District budget.

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