

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 1 Summer 2021

FROM THE HELM

It has been a year.



But there is good news and reason to praise the inventive, dedicated teachers of South Country who found and implemented ways to deliver ideas and knowledge to students in this district. This issue includes a listing of grants awarded during our Hybrid Grant Cycle and details some of the remarkable programs conceived by our teachers.

The SCEF board, too, has been busy. In place of our annual cocktail party we organized a raffle of an Apple Watch and put out a year-end newsletter, both raising funds for our operating expenses. The Knapp/Swezey Foundation, Inc. has also lent a hand with a grant to insure that our work continues without interruption.

For 23 years the SCEF has inspired teachers who then inspire students to explore science with new S.T.E.A.M. equipment, visit new worlds on field trips, learn art with visiting artists and take home books to share with their parents and family. Small grants transform classrooms and make ordinary school days extraordinary ones.

We are pleased to announce plans for this year's Cocktail Party and Auction at the home of Chantal and Richard Berman, gracious and long-standing hosts for this event. We invite you to "Meet Us by the Bay" to commit to the students of the South Country School District.

Please look at our social media page on Facebook, our website, scefonline.com, and reports on bellport.com in case there are last minute adjustments to our event due to state mandated restrictions.

So, "Meet Us by the Bay" on Saturday, August 14, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

It is my hope that supporters will come to the event to support public education and a community that believes it can help bring special lessons to local students.

– Robin Young Roe

FROM THE AUCTION BLOCK

Get your paddles ready for the SCEF live auction event August 14. There are many interesting items on the list that is still in formation.

Our featured item is a **1977 Mercedes 450 SL** restored by the masterful Steve Montick of Monti's Auto Body. Steve served on the SCEF board for many years and is a long-time supporter. The car has 80,000-plus miles and is Forest Green with a brand new Saddle interior.



If you're looking for other ways to get around, you might be interested in a **pair of Giuseppe Zanotti sneakers**. Very chic, comfortable and available in the winning bidders size. These sneakers are donated by Alain and Luisa Baume of Bellport.

Two wheel transport? Chantal Berman and Fiona Bassett live a block away from each other in Bellport. They had not met until Chantal ran over Fiona's bike in a local driveway. This story turned into good news for the education foundation as they decided to turn the accident into something positive: They donated **a new a bike** to our auction.

Frank P. Long art teacher Mandy Schonzeit will capture your dog's image and personality in **a professional portrait**. Why not?

And, another highlight, **a five-night stay at a Lake Tahoe two-bedroom vacation house** is also being auctioned for summer or winter visits, some black out periods will apply. This donation is made available by Christopher and Kerry Rohrmeier. Christopher is a BHS graduate.

As always, local businesses are offering weekend packages and other deals and items of interest.

MEET US BY THE BAY! ~~~~~

WANT TO DONATE?

We hope supporters will consider the SCEF as they plan their annual gifts. Donations may be sent to SCEF, PO Box 512, Bellport, NY. 11713. Donations may also be processed at our website scefonline.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at our 23rd Auction and Cocktail Party on Saturday, August 14, 2021!

SCEF APPROVES MORE THAN \$18,000 IN GRANTS

We awarded a total of \$18,591.27 in grants for this school year. Despite not being able to have our annual cocktail part/auction, we are able to fund these grants with the generous support of our community through the years. These grants will reach a large population of students in the South Country School District.

CEED GRANT

Art & Nature Group Inc. dba CEED

Sally Wellinger - Executive Director for Center for Environmental Education and Discovery • \$2,000.00

This request is to partially cover 10 programs by CEED. The rest of each grant will be covered by CEED. Some can be virtual but many are hands on or outside hikes and field trips. The teacher would apply to CEED, only one program will be offered per class unless less than 10 teachers request programs. Once a program is requested, CEED will provide the program proposal and once accepted by the teacher, an agreement will be given to the district along with an invoice that shows the cost was covered by the grant and/or CEED.

PLT4M FITNESS PLATFORM

Charles Maragioglio • Bellport High School • \$1,000.00

PLT4M is an online fitness platform that offers high school students an online curriculum that can be used on a phone, tablet or chrome book. They would have access to online courses and modules, videos and workouts. They will be able to input their results and they will be assessed by the teacher.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Tracy Kellerman, Aimee Iuliucci, Kelly Scott

Bellport High School • \$750.00

Every week, a homeroom class will be picked at random. Everyone in that homeroom will earn a prize. A trivia question will be asked and students with a correct answer will earn BHS gear from the school store, privilege passes, snacks, etc.

EXPANDING MULTICULTURALISM THROUGH A VIRTUAL TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

Jessica Weinberg • Brookhaven Elementary School • \$500.00

All students in grades K-3 would be able to travel around the world and become virtually immersed in a variety of cultures and topics. Teachers in all disciplines can find ways to build the background knowledge of their students through the use of interactive videos and research.

HOLOCAUST VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Stephanie Factor • Bellport High School • \$1,200.00

After completing the reading of the book "Night" and other literature about the Holocaust, the students will take a virtual field trip with the Long Island Holocaust Museum where students will speak with and hear about stories of survival during the Holocaust. The second part of the grant is to pay for books for ENL students at various reading levels, about topics of interest to high school students.

KIVA CHALLENGE

Andrew Budris • Bellport High School • \$2,000.00

This is a continuing project that we supported for the past two years. It is a problem-based learning project that involves students researching the challenges associated with living in developing countries. Groups of students from the entire 9th grade will select a Kiva applicant and create a persuasive project for their classmates with the goal of winning the opportunity to loan actual grant money to their applicant.

3RD GRADEN SQUARE 1 TILE WALL

Kiara Braithwaite • Kreamer Street Elementary • \$895.00

Students will create personal ceramic tiles. They will be grouted and displayed on the walls of Kreamer Street Elementary. Student learning will be about art and about leaving a legacy.

POETRY ALIVE

Colleen Oates-Robesch • BHS Librarian Bellport High School • \$990.00

This grant will fund three assembly shows presented via Google Meet during a single school day. Each show can accommodate 200-400 students in school and is for 35 minutes. This will be virtual. They are high-energy shows with two professional performers. The poems, memorized and performed theatrically, are found in popular textbooks and anthologies. They can visit individual classrooms to work directly with smaller groups.

INTERACTIVE STEM SCIENCE EQUIPMENT

William Corbett, Aimee Iuliucci

Bellport High School • \$1,900.00

The equipment to be purchased is for two classrooms. It includes (2) Zoom H1n Portable Recorder, new Apple iPad 128gb 10-2, Ipevo v4k dual mode document camera, (2) Microsoft lifecam studio 1080pHS webcam. These will assist with upgrading education for students learning remotely.

PLAY WITH A PURPOSE

Krista Albrecht • Bellport High School • \$864.00

The grant would provide programs for students with moderate to severe disabilities a chance to build confidence while mastering skills through play. From basic sound and number identification, all through making independent living decisions. The presentation of the materials in a game format helps to keep learners' attention encouraging progression through skills. The school district already subscribes to some of these programs. The 9 licenses will be distributed to three teachers at Kreamer Street, one teacher at FPL, one teacher at BMS and four teachers at BHS.

ENRICHING SCIENCE PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Krista Albrecht, Tracy Kellerman, Charles Valentine

Bellport High School • \$1,692.72

This is a collaboration between the science, Life Skills, and 8:1:3 programs. This project will include multiple units of study on an appropriate level for 20 students with moderate to significant disabilities at Bellport High School. Activities such as Volcano discovery, Magnet Fun, Global Challenges, Electricity Lab, Specimen study, Magnification, Force and Motion, Science Truth or Myth and Chemistry Lab.

ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT

Justin White • Bellport High School • \$2,000.00

This grant will be for adaptive equipment for students with disabilities enrolled in the 12:1:1 Life Skills program. Adaptive physical education is a specially designed program of developmental activities, games, sports, and rhythms suited to the interests, capacities, and limitations of students with disabilities who may not safely or successfully engage in unrestricted participation in the activities of the regular physical education program.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS WITH CEED

Jane Quatralo • Bellport High School • \$1,000.00

A collaboration between the Life Skills, 8:1:3 programs and CEED Farm where 20 students will learn about their local environment, food chains, and their effect on the surrounding areas through presentations, workshops and virtual field trips.

ENGAGING EXPERIENCES IN A VIRTUAL YEAR

Ellen Hoffman • Bellport High School • \$600.00

This grant is for two virtual field trips for Honors College English classes affiliated with LI University. American Literature will have the opportunity to watch a Zoom production of "Moby Dick" and includes a talk back with the cast and director. World Literature will take a virtual field trip to the Holocaust Museum in DC. They will have a question and answer session with a Holocaust survivor.

ERGO TABLE TOP DESKS

Alyce Smith, Mary Pettitt

Frank P. Long Intermediate School • \$1,199.50

One classroom at FPL will receive 25 Ergo Table Top Desks to be used virtually to improve working on their computers at a more ergonomic level as well as choose to sit or stand behind their desk while working by adjusting the desktop to a comfort level. These table top desks remain in school and they will become the property of the South Country Central School District.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

MICHAEL CHIARAMONTE

Michael Chiaramonte has been a professional software engineer and architect for over 20 years. He is currently a full-stack developer at Haven Life in New York City after a 5 year period as Chief Technology Officer at Brainworks Software in Sayville, NY. Michael is a self-taught computer programmer who received his Bachelor of the Arts with Honors in both Computer Science and Music from NYU. He continued his studies in technology at NYU and holds his Masters of Professional Studies in Interactive Telecommunications.



His passion for software development and music led him to create a candid “learning how to code” YouTube channel. He is currently working on tutorials specializing in developing a Nintendo Entertainment System video game. He produces all of the music utilizing orchestral software as well as his own piano and guitar recordings. His love of learning and problem solving has allowed many of his online viewers the opportunity to design and create their own ideas.

SUZETTE EMMA-UZZI

Born and raised in East Patchogue, NY, Suzette Emma-Uzzi is a lifelong member of the South Country community. She is an artist, educator and small business owner. After graduating from Bellport High School, Suzette attended Rochester Institute of Technology where she studied Photography and Graphic Design. She pursued her MS in Education at Dowling College and started teaching in the South Country School District in 1986. During her time in South Country, Suzette had the opportunity to teach Art at every level K-12. She had spent the last 12 years of her teaching career at Bellport High School where she served as the Department Chairperson of Fine Arts and led the department to numerous awards and accolades.



In addition to her contributions to the Visual Arts program, Suzette had the good fortune to oversee the Theater Program at BHS/BMS as the Director/Advisor to the program for the past 25 years. Ms. Emma-Uzzi and her team were able to create a premier program amongst Long Island High Schools. She retired in 2020 from the South Country School District after 34 years of teaching and is looking forward to her new business venture working with her sisters as coowners of Island Picnic Co. Suzette has been involved with South Country Education Foundation since 2006 when she worked with Gene Westhoff and Dava Stravinsky to create Students 4 Art, a division of the South Country Education Foundation. S4Art provides enrichment opportunities in the visual arts for the students of the South Country School District.

Ms. Emma-Uzzi is looking forward to being part of SCEF and continuing the tradition of supporting the South Country community.

BHS GRADUATE NEWS

MATEO ASKARIPOUR

We solicited this article from Bellport High School graduate Mateo Askaripour. He recently published the well-received novel, “Black Buck.” A signed copy of his book will be offered at the auction.

It was my first time on national television. The Today Show with Jenna Bush-Hager and Hoda Kotb. A member of the audience, a woman named Erica, asked, “A main theme in your novel is to lift up others when we move up in life, why was it important for you to include that in your novel?” My answer, which I’ll get to, was one that took me years to learn.

Though I have a loving and supportive family, from a young age I felt like I had to do everything on my own. I remember being in fourth grade, in Mr. Stephani’s class at Frank P. Long, learning about the concept of independence. I felt proud that while I depended on my family for food and clothing, I relied on them for little else. My imagination, desire to one

day be great, and self-belief were all I thought I needed to get to where I wanted to be.

This almost maniacal focus on “making it,” which I spent years cultivating, helped me in many ways—I graduated from Bellport High School a year early, gained entry to a top private university, traveled the world, and, at the age of twenty-four, had money, status, and power. But when I became disillusioned with my job in 2016 and left, I didn’t know who I was. Anxiety. Doubt. Fear. All of that, and more, plagued my waking life.

I moved out of my New York City apartment and returned to my parents’ home in Long Island. There I found my family—mother, father, and brothers—and it was them, along with close friends, who put me back together by helping me reclaim the better parts of who I was and working through my flaws. It was from this place of unyielding love that I was able to persist despite all of the rejections I would receive on my journey from writer to New York Times best selling author.

When I peer into my past, I realize that though I always thought myself to be independent, there were people—teachers, friends, and family—along every step of the way, fueling my self-confidence with their own unwavering belief that I would be successful, however I defined it.

And so when I answered that woman’s question on national television, what I said to her was something I say to myself every day, which I now say to you: “No one goes it alone. None of us can do it alone. I believe that the idea of the self-made woman, man, or person is a myth. And that it’s important when we achieve success to help others also through the door, or else it doesn’t mean all that much.”



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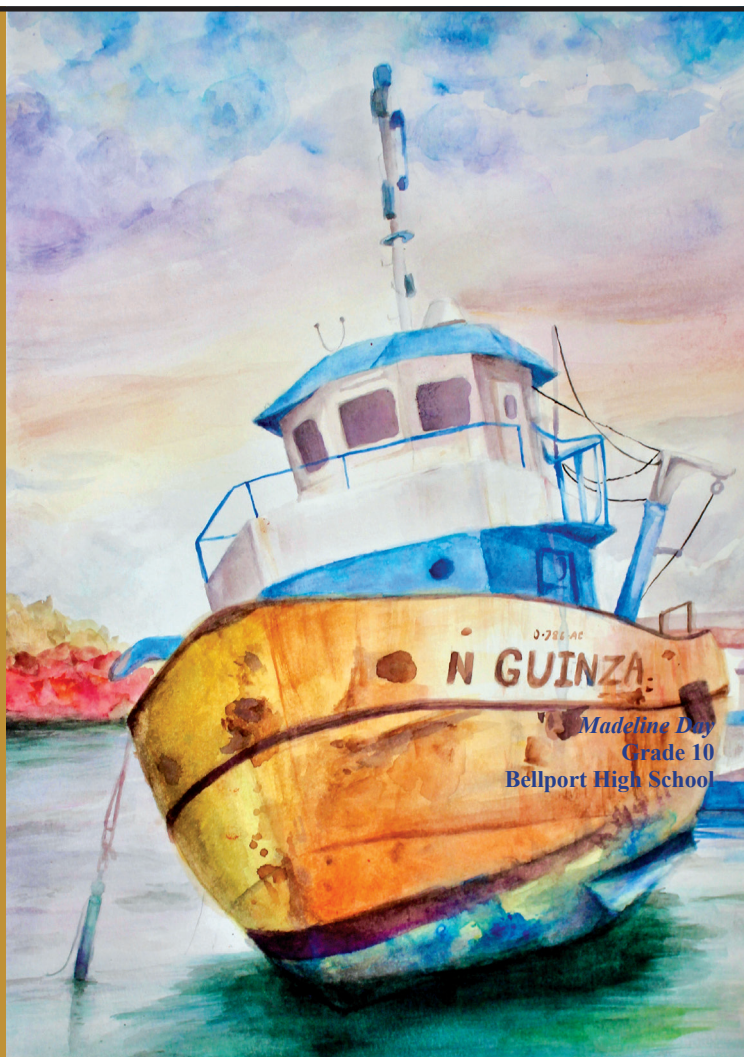
MEET US BY THE BAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021
4:30 – 7:00 PM

SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S
**23RD ANNUAL
COCKTAIL BENEFIT & AUCTION**

At the home of
Chantal and Richard Berman located at
40 ACADEMY LANE • BELLPORT, NY 11713

\$100 per person.
Pre-registration encouraged.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKET PURCHASE VISIT SCEFONLINE.ORG

I'm meeting you **AT THE BAY!**

The South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
Cocktail Benefit & Auction Saturday, August 14, 2021

Tickets:

\$300 Benefactor X _____ = _____

\$200 Benefactor X _____ = _____

\$100 Benefactor X _____ = _____

Please respond by August 4, 2021. Tickets will be held at the door.

I cannot attend but wish to make the following donation:

\$ _____

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All donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent of the law. Please make checks payable to South Country Education Foundation, Inc. For more information, please call Diane Zanazzi at (631) 286-2852.

SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 512, BELLPORT, NEW YORK 11713-1502

WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

The foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to improving opportunities for all students in the South Country School District. Its mission is to promote educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that fall outside of the District budget.

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

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We will post updates concerning Covid-19 restrictions on our website if the state issues additional updates. Get information at scefonline.com.

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\$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$

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