



tra-Curricular

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE South Country Education Foundation

From the Helm



Once again, I am pleased to report on our activities over the last few months. They have been very busy months as we continue to seek to enrich the education of our children by supporting programs which we feel will improve their educational experience.

We have given over \$20,000 in innovative grants, have supported a pilot program for high school students taking courses at Suffolk Community College, and have funded and helped to realize the new swim program for all 5th graders at Frank P Long Intermediate School. The Clipper Classic Race and Fun Walk celebrated its twentieth anniversary. It was well attended and because of that, we were able to award scholarships to 16 graduating seniors. The Annual Cocktail Party and Auction was a great success and raised a significant amount of our funding, in addition to being a truly enjoyable day. Additionally the Becker/Gambles Music Fund gave out over \$4,000 in scholarships for summer study, presented a wonderful concert in October and is planning the return of the Daedalus Quartet for a concert on May 15.

All these activities require a great deal of work by loyal, dedicated, hard working volunteers and rely on the generosity of our supporters. Many community members have supported our efforts over the years and enabled the foundation to be a success. Thank you all.

The core of the organization is the Board of Directors. The following members have left the board: Steve Laird, Art Cooley, Kathie Dallin, Terry Young and Vinny Lynch. We all thank you for your hard work, we miss you, but we know that you will continue to support our work. Barbara Knowles and Margaret Montemagno have joined the board. We welcome them and know that they are both hard working, talented individuals who will contribute immensely.

The education of our youth is one of the most important, yet difficult activities that a community must accomplish. The demands of today's world require that students know more and perform better than at any time in our his-

tory. The schools face financial challenges that make supporting programs that show promise very difficult. Truly, it takes all of us to educate our children, now more than ever.

Our focus continues to be on improving the educational opportunities for the students in the district by working with teachers and administrators, community organizations, community residents and by supporting efforts that are promising.

A donation form is on the back page of this newsletter, for your convenience we now accept credit cards. Please consider making a donation and/or volunteering to help out at one of our events.

—GENE WESTHOFF, *President*

SCEF Cocktail Party

On July 12, Robin and Pete Roe graciously opened their home for the fifth consecutive year to host the annual South Country Educational Foundation Cocktail and Auction. We were able to raise over 25 thousand dollars for the Foundation. Once again, local artists, business and residents generously donated talents and services to the live and silent auctions. Local restaurants complimented the evening with samples of fine hors d'oeuvres. A tremendous thank you to all who donated their time and talent as we could never achieve our goals without everyone's support.

Auctioneer John Stravinsky kept the crowd bidding as Mindy Smith kept track



Just a reminder, it is never too early to start thinking about next year's auction. If you have an item of interest, or can donate a service, craft, vacation spot or tickets, we are always looking for new donations. If you have supported us throughout the years, we thank you again. Any questions, suggestions or donations, please call Mindy Smith at (631) 286-6474. We encourage you to visit our website to see a complete list of this year's auction items at:

<http://www.scefonline.org>

—ELENA BRODIE-KUSA

Clipper Classic Celebrates 20 Years!

The twentieth annual Clipper Classic was run on July 13, 2003 and saw a new Clipper Classic course record set by Anthony Famiglietti, who crossed the finish line at 14:32:72. The Overall Female Winner was Barbara Gubbins, who came in at 19:02:88. In total, 448 runners and 61 walkers crossed the finish line.

Each year, medals are presented to the first three finishers in each category. This year, to commemorate the 20th Anniversary, a \$20 cash award was presented to the first place finisher in each category. In addition, \$20 was presented to the runner who came in twentieth, as well as the runner who came in closest to 20 minutes. An added award was an offer of \$250, for any male or female who broke the course record. Overall Male Winner Anthony Famiglietti did just that.

Congratulations to all participants!

At press time, we need to pay a nod to many of the dedicated people who have been coordinating the race for many years and who will be leaving this year. We thank

them, especially Lori Klamut, for raising many thousands of dollars for scholarships for BHS seniors. The Clipper Classic has been an important event for our community for the race participants, scholarship winners, race organizers and many volunteers as well as for the area residents who look forward each year to their role as cheering spectators. If the Clipper Classic is going to continue, we will need volunteers to take on leadership roles on the race committee. Those who are interested in continuing the Clipper Classic and would like to volunteer are asked to call Mary Jane Cullen at 286-3485.

—MARY JANE CULLEN

This Year's SCEF Grant Winners

The South Country Education Foundation is pleased to introduce its educational grant winners for 2003. Sixteen grants to fund innovative programs and projects of benefits to students in the South Country School District were awarded. The grants, totaling over twenty thousand dollars will fund educational initiatives both in the district schools and in the surrounding community. These funds have been raised by generous donations to the foundation from community members, alumni, and local nonprofit organizations and all donations are tax deductible. SCEF board members Mary Jane Cullen, Fran Tabone, Dr. Vincent Lynch, and Robert T. Young served on the Grant Review Committee. Congratulations to all recipients!

g This year's grant recipients are:

"Zip Code: I-R-E-A-D" at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, sponsored by Frances Cornacchiolo, Julia Salembier and JoAnn Tomaszewski. This project is to alleviate the regression that often occurs in academic skill over the summer.

Clipper Classic Runners enjoying refreshments provided by King Kullen





SCEF Grant recipients at Mary Jane Cullen's home on June 12, 2003.

g *"The Literacy Backpack Program"* at Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Stephanie Miller, Victoria Suarez and Mary Pettit. This project will provide collections of books to students grade level K-3 with parents involved.

g *"Garden Club"* at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, sponsored by Peter Cisek. This ongoing project teaches students about soil makeup, composting, watering, and the enjoyment a garden has to offer. Two more gardens are planned.

g *"Project Earth, Woodworker Club"* at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, sponsored by Peter Cisek. This program teaches skills of measurement, mathematics, hand manipulations, etc. through the building of wood projects.

g *"Reading Buddies"* at Bellport High School, sponsored by Loraine K. McCray, ESL teacher, for the Shared Decision Making HS Team. This project is for freshman students to be matched up with honors students for homework help.

g *"BHS Step Squad"* at Bellport High School, sponsored by Loraine K. McCray. The grant will provide audio equipment for this community-minded organization.

g *"Hands-on Math Manipulatives"* at the Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Nancy Paradise. This "hands-on" project for Kindergarten students is to be integrated with existing literacy and language manipulatives.

g *"Power Hour"* at Boys and Girls Club, submitted by John D. Norris, Executive Director. The club will be instituting a Tutorial/Homework Program to encourage young people to become self-directed learners and assume responsibility for their educational success or failure.

g *"Snuggle up and Read"* evening at Verne W. Critz Elementary School, sponsored by Lorrie D. Collichio, PTA President. Students in grades K-3 will enjoy an evening of storytelling, using decorated classrooms, creating books, while wearing comfy clothes.

g *"BHS Gospel Chorale"* at Bellport High School is sponsored by Margaret Bullock. Students in grades 9-12 who participate in the Chorale will learn the proper singing techniques which will enable them to prepare for choir competition.

g *"East Asian Brush Painting"* at Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Michelle Procida. Sung Sook Setton, a Korean brush artist will give third grade classes instruction in East Asian brush painting. Students will learn about Asia through many activities in art as well as through folk tales, music and much more.

g *"Renaissance Programs"* at Bellport Middle School, sponsored by Susan Peters. This very successful program is designed to motivate and encourage students in grades 6-8 to recognize academic achievements and behavior.

g *"National SADD Convention"* at Bellport High School, sponsored by Kathleen Saladino. Two high-school students will be able to attend the 2004 Students Against Drunk Driving convention which includes workshops teaching leadership skills, making good decisions, etc and bringing this information back to their peers.

g *"KEEP Book Project"* at Brookhaven Elementary School. This home/school program for Kindergarten students sponsored by Brenda Hernandez provides books for use at home. Parents are encouraged to participate in the program.

g *"Make and Take Workshops"* at Kreamer Street Elementary School, sponsored by Dawn Baynon and Susan Mineo. This program develops literacy skills and fosters a home/school connection.

g *"Super Summer Readers"* at Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Karen Hollowell. This project, for grades 1 and 2, will foster summer reading using books at the students' present level and their next level. A writing journal will be supplied to include a writing component for assessment.

Winners of the Summer 2003 Music Scholarships

The following individuals were selected as recipients of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund's (South Country Education Foundation, Inc.) summer music scholarship program. As winners, the students received four free summer music lessons with any teacher participating in the South Country music department's summer lesson program. Six scholarships each were awarded at Frank P. Long Intermediate School and Bellport Middle School respectively, two in each of the performing disciplines (band, chorus, orchestra). Six Bellport High School Music Scholarships were awarded.

We salute these fine musicians:

g Frank P Long School: Javon Bullock, Anjali Kapur, Brittany Miller, Shalimar Scribner, Anthony Cimino, Tejumade Robinson

g Bellport Middle School: Krystal Lane, Sean Norris, Michael Celentano, Devon Nelson, Arielle Rivera, Ruth Williams

g Bellport High School: Jessie Biele, Peter Fehn, Chelsea Mojallali, LeAnthony Taylor, Erin Uhl, Rachel Warshaw

—DARYL JORDAN

Performance Benefits the SCEF Music Program

The latest benefactor of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund is Hwasoon Mullaney of Bellport. Mullaney, a mezzo soprano, along with Sue Jerema, Nick Sana and Greg Sixt, recently performed two concerts—one at the library in Connetquot and the other at the South Country Library.

Her gift will go far to support our program of summer music lessons and grants to students to study at summer music camps.

Many thanks to Hwasoon for her generous support

—DAVA STRAVINSKY

July 14, 2003

Dear Mr. Hogan and The South Country Educational Foundation,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for providing me with the funding to attend the Fredonia Summer Band Camp during the week of June 29, 2003. While on the SUNY Fredonia campus, I was able to attend classes taught by skilled counselors and professors and I performed in the concert band headed by Mr. Raymond Stewart, who has excellent credentials. I also attended flute-oriented master classes instructed by Dr. Susan Royal, a longtime member of the National Flute Association and a well-loved and respected professor at SUNY Fredonia. In attending these sessions taught by college professors, I learned more about the study of music and I even received personalized critiques by Dr. Royal on improving my style and technique in playing the flute. Thus, I was able to hone my technical and performance skills as a flautist.

Mr. Benjamin Schneider, head of the SUNY Fredonia summer band camp, often reminded us (campers) that we are "America's Future" and that we should also spread the knowledge that we acquired during the week in order to educate and instill a nuance of appreciation for music in others. I am confident that I will return to school in September a better, more educated music student and I will be open to helping others in appreciating the gift of music. It is only with excellent educators and mentors that one learns to appreciate music and its many rewards.

I would like to thank you for supporting me in my musical endeavors. By making the dream of attending the Fredonia Band Camp a reality for me, you have helped me to further reach my goal of being a musician.

Sincerely

Jessie A. Biele

A letter from High School Music Scholarship recipient
Jessie A. Biele, who attended the Fredonia Summer Band Camp

Calico Winds in Concert

The Becker/Gambles Music Fund was pleased to have presented Calico Winds in concert on Wednesday, October 8. The evening was special, as this group presented music that spanned the time from Bach to the present. As their

Did you know that SCEF makes project grants to not-for-profit institutions, and individual grants to students and professional staff? We do. The grants can be given in the arts and sciences, the humanities, technology, career and personal development as well as professional development. Want to apply? Visit our website at <http://www.scefonline.org>



The Calico Winds Quintet
 Left to right: Eileen Holt Helwig, flute
 Rong-Huey Liu, oboe
 Kathryn Nevin, clarinet
 Theresa Treuenfels, bassoon
 Rachel Berry, horn

Photo courtesy of Gary Silk ©2003

name implies, the group presented music of many colors and textures.

The evening was entertaining, thought-provoking and just plain fun. The five women who comprise the group are all talented musicians and charming people. They enjoyed meeting members of the community, especially students, during the reception which followed the concert.

Our second concert of the year will be presented on Saturday, May 15 when the Daedalus Quartet will return for their second concert for us. Last year's performance was electrifying, be sure to mark you calendar so you do not miss this upcoming event.

—GENE WESTHOFF

Swim Program for Frank P. Long Fifth Grade Students

Diane Zanazzi came to the foundation a couple of years ago with a folder of newspaper clippings on youth drownings here on Long Island.

She said, "I was shocked and saddened to see stories every summer on the deaths of Long Island children who had died because they had not received basic swimming instruction. I thought that a swim program might qualify for a grant given the foundation's mission of expanding educational opportunities to the students in our district."

After discussion, the board of the foundation did indeed agree to set aside \$10,000 for a pilot program to give swimming lessons to every child in one grade of the district. A committee of Zanazzi, Mary Jane Cullen and Dava Stravinsky met with Frank P. Long Intermediate School principal Annette Maillard, the school's physical education teacher Bonnie Newcomb and parent Angela Kawajrol to formulate a plan to make this idea a reality. The idea was presented to Dr. Michael LaFever whose support gave the group the encouragement to continue the project.

After working out objectives for the program and securing the pool at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, the

committee received approval from the district's Board of Education to go forward. The district enabled the program to use two minibuses to transport the students from the school to the college. Louise Colletti, director of transportation for the district, kindly assisted by calculating travel times and organizing the use of the buses and drivers.

Scheduling the classes (there are a total of 15 classes with approximately 25 students in each class) was a major undertaking and Gary Dabrusky, assistant principal at F.P. Long, was the key to the successful organization of the program. In addition to the rental of the pool and instructors' fees, the budget for the program included the hiring of two teaching assistants, Darlene Hernandez and Joel Gray. They assist in the locker rooms, with the loading and unloading of students from the minibuses, and at poolside. Parent and community volunteers organized by Gail Glover, president of the F.P. Long PTA, have been present for each day and their service has been so appreciated.

On the first day St. Joseph's Facilities Manager Priscilla Castellano welcomed all of the students to the college and outlined the rules of the pool. Instructors Ms. Newcomb, Lori Dow, and Elaine Messina assessed the students' skills enabling them to break the students into groups for individualized instruction. During the course, the students warmed up by bobbing and blowing bubbles, practiced floating, worked on the crawl and elementary backstrokes, and developed their breathing technique. The course culminated with safety drills; the use of personal flotation devices (PFDs), reaching assists, and introduction to diving. The program has been flexible and challenging enough for each child to improve his or her water skills. To date, five classes have successfully completed six lessons each in the pool. For many, this has been their first opportunity to have swimming lessons.

It has been so exciting to see the progress of the students thus far. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has participated and to the donors of the foundation for making this a reality.

—DAVA STRAVINSKY

Bellport Alumni Family Search

We asked, and you responded, for the largest family of BHS alumni. Here is what we received. Keep them coming! Please send your list of family members, with years graduated to SCEF, PO Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713.

g From Louisa Budiarjo: In about 1908, her grandfather, Ralph Mancuso, moved to Bellport. He had eight children who attended the Bellport School in the early 1900's. His many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren have attended Bellport schools and some are still in attendance here at Kreamer Street, Frank P. Long, Bellport Middle and Bellport High School.

Thanks Louisa for this submission:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. Rosemarie (Rignola) Mancuso | 1940 |
| 2. Felix Mancuso | 1948 |
| 3. Ralph Mancuso | 1951 |
| 4. Pete DiDio | 1961 |
| 5. Agnes Toronto | 1964 |
| 6. Louisa (Toronto) Budiarjo | 1968 |
| 7. Marie (Mancuso) Converse | 1974 |
| 8. Billy Briscoe | 1975 |
| 9. Cathy (Mancuso) Briscoe | 1975 |
| 10. Brenda (Satornino) Lariccio | 1975 |
| 11. Christine Toronto | 1977 |
| 12. Lori (Mancuso) Klaus | 1978 |
| 13. Brian Toronto | 1981 |
| 14. Lee Ann (Toronto) Guerrido | 1982 |
| 15. Vincent Toronto | 1984 |
| 16. Karen Toronto | 1986 |
| 17. Jessica Lennon | 1996 |
| 18. Michael Guarino | 1997 |
| 19. Billy Briscoe | 2000 |

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 20. Christian Budiarjo | 2001 |
| 21. Daniel Toronto | 2002 |
| 22. Karina Budiarjo | 2003 |
| 23. Greg DiDio | 2003 |
| 24. Michael Maluagno | 2003 |

And that's not all. There are two cousins not yet in High School, four cousins in BMS, two cousins in Frank P. Long, one cousin in Kreamer Elementary School and one in preschool!

g From Virginia Carroll Van Vessem: Her family has lived in the Bellport, Brookhaven area for over 53 years. Virginia is currently on the PTA council board, and on the board at the Bellport Middle School PTA. Virginia received a call from her brother, Jim, who resides in Montana and saw our newsletter and submitted the below.

Thanks to Virginia and Jim for this submission:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thomas Carroll Jr. | 1959 |
| 2. James Carroll | 1961 |
| 3. Nancy Radcliff Carroll | 1961 |
| 4. Susan Carroll Trapasso | 1966 |
| 5. Jeffrey Carroll | 1968 |
| 6. Laurie Fosdick Carroll Kozar | 1970 |
| 7. William Fosdick | 1973 |
| 8. Susan Fosdick Bandiera | 1975 |
| 9. Virginia Carroll Van Vessem | 1975 |
| 10. Thomas Carroll 3rd | 1980 (Salutatorian) |
| 11. Linda Carroll | 1982 |
| 12. David Carroll | 1992 |
| 13. Brian Carroll | 1996 |
| and Mariah Carroll Van Vessem | Class of 2009 |
| Alec Jeffrey Van Vessem | Class of 2012 |

—ELENA BRODIE-KUSA

2003/2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Look for earlier grant dates for 2004—late January for application availability with late March for submissions. Dates to be announced.

FRIDAY, MAY 14 / Daedalus Quartet visits the classrooms

SATURDAY, MAY 15 / Daedalus Quartet Concert Performed at BHS, Ebersole Auditorium, 7:30pm
(Contact Gene Westhoff at 325-8527 for tickets—\$5 for students, \$15 for adults)

SATURDAY, JULY 10 / Annual Cocktail Party and Auction (Contact Mindy Smith 286-6474)

SUNDAY, JULY 11 / Clipper Classic 5K Road Race & 1.5M Walk
(Contact <clipperclassic@scefonline.org>)

Donors to SCEF

The **South Country Education Foundation** would like to express its gratitude to all those individuals, couples, alumni, and corporations for their generous donations. We are especially pleased to see the widespread support for our effort to fund innovative programs to enrich the education of our South Country students. The following list reflects contributors from September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003 and includes those who donated items to our auction this year. We have made every effort to include everyone, and we regret if anyone has been omitted.

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South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713

SCEF Mission Statement

The 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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NEWSLETTER

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