

SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Newsire

Winter 2010

www.sefny.org

NEW GRANTS AWARDED

During calendar year 2009, SEF awarded 15 grants to the Somers Central School District totaling more than \$60,000. SEF has distributed more than 190 grants and 105 scholarships totaling \$575,000 since being founded in 1994. Here are the latest grants to be approved :

Somers Middle School

Bill Wienecke, who advises the Living History Program, received a grant to purchase Civil War hats and coats for student members, who are now wearing them in parades and other related events, making history “come alive” for them beyond the pages of a textbook.

Jeff Getman and **Jean Schult** were awarded a grant to purchase t-shirts for the 8th grade class and SHS peer leaders as part of the TUSKER program, which promotes respect and responsibility. The

shirts will provide a striking visual and a sense of unity as the work continues on this important topic.

Somers High School

Anna Maggio and the **SHS Diversity Committee** received a grant to help fund the follow-on to the *Rachel's Challenge* program, featuring an assembly program entitled *Rachel's Legacy* that was given for both students and parents. *Rachel's Challenge* is a program designed to inspire, equip and empower students at every level to make a difference in their world. The challenge is named after Rachel Scott, who was killed in the Colombine High School shootings in 1999.

Rachel Glum was awarded a grant to fund the Model United Nations Club's registration fees to participate in the Boston Invitational Model UN Conference, where they will learn more of the interworkings of the UN and debate other teams on world issues.

Ryan Kanner received a grant to help purchase a bass drum and a marimba for the Marching Band. The **Patty Cass Foundation**, which supports academic, music & the arts, and physical education programs, funded the drum portion of the grant, in memory of 1999 SHS graduate **Patrick Casabono**.

Somers Education Foundation welcomes grant applications at anytime. Applications are available at www.sefny.org or at the district office.

SEF EVENTS RECAP

GOLF: WELL ABOVE PAR!

SEF raised more than \$14,000 at its ninth golf outing held September 24 at Anglebrook Golf Club. Nearly 50 golfers enjoyed the warm and nearly-perfect early autumn day weather on the challenging but scenic and enjoyable course. Also included were a barbecue lunch, reception, dinner and prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin and best foursome score. Thanks to all who participated in this event and especially to chairman **Bill Faulkner**. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity will help SEF tremendously in its grantmaking activities. A list of all sponsors can be found in this issue.



Golfers look to score a birdie on the green during the SEF Golf Outing at scenic Anglebrook Golf Club.

WINE TASTING PARTY

Nearly 50 people attended the SEF's annual holiday wine tasting event held December 2 at Traditions Restaurant. They enjoyed a variety of red and white wine specialties and learned a great deal how wine is made and categorized thanks to the expertise provided by Somers Discount Wine & Spirits in Somers Towne

Center, owned by **Louis & Mary Ann Arlia**. A Chinese-style auction was held (thanks to all who donated prizes) as was a 50-50 raffle drawing, and folks got an early start on their holiday shopping. Thanks to Traditions owners **Lisa & Michael Lubic** for providing the warm setting and food. More than \$2,500 was raised.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

DRAWS BIG CROWD

SEF's 14th annual spaghetti social was held on November 13 at SHS. More than 150 people attended the two seatings, which also included meatballs, garlic bread, salad, cake and beverages. Many students assisted the SHS cafeteria staff, led by **Norma Zeller**, in serving the dinner. Members of the Leos Club helped with setup and cleanup.



Families enjoy the food and fun at the spaghetti dinner.

Musical entertainment for both seatings was provided by the SMS Jazz Band, under the direction of **Steve Chetcuti**, as well as the SHS Marching Band, which made a very well-received appearance. This fundraiser always helps our grantmaking efforts, but it is more important for the sense of community it always delivers.

THANKS, SOMERS MOBIL!

Thanks to the generosity of Somers Mobil owners **Paul and Juliette Sussman**, and your support, SEF received more than \$5,000 in 2009. Somers Mobil donated 2 cents to SEF for every gallon of gasoline sold on Saturdays at the station. Thank you so much!

SALUTING TWO SEF LEADERS

SEF says a deeply appreciative farewell to two retiring officers and trustees, **Kay Staplin** and **Susan Kolar**, both of whom have donated their time, talent, energy and enthusiasm to help the children of Somers. Staplin, who taught at SIS for 34 years, co-founded SEF and served as vice president, grants liaison, co-chair of our Spaghetti and Gala Dinners and was the true "arms and legs" behind so many of our initiatives. Kolar was SEF treasurer for more than seven years and brought a wealth of experience, energy and professionalism to the operations of SEF. She co-chaired many events and worked tirelessly on projects.

Beyond their work, we will miss their camaraderie, spirit of volunteerism and unwavering support for SEF goals. Best wishes to both of them. They have served the SEF, and the Somers community, very well.

--Written by Sarena Meyer

CLASS OF 2010 HALL OF FAMERS ANNOUNCED

SEF is very pleased to name three distinguished individuals as the newest members-elect of its Hall of Fame. They include community leader **Carol Ciriaco**, local business owner and Somers Chamber of Commerce President **Corinne Procopis**, and longtime SIS instrumental music teacher **Terry Reynolds**. All have given tirelessly of themselves to enrich the lives of our children.

They will be formally inducted at the SEF's annual Gala Dinner and Auction, scheduled for April 24 at Villa Barone Restaurant in Mahopac.

Ciriaco has been a Somers resident for 25 years. She has been president of both the SMS and SHS PTA, has advised the Somers Leo's Club, and is active in many civic groups.

Procopis is a Somers native and is the president of the Somers Chamber of Commerce. A publisher by profession, she is also a Girl Scout leader and a Cub Scout den mother.

Reynolds is the band director at SIS, and has taught in Somers for 21 years. He also served as band director for SMS and SHS. He has conducted the Westchester Elementary All-County band and directed bands at Manhattanville College.

Watch for details on the Gala Dinner and Auction and please join us to honor these outstanding individuals.

SUPPORT SEF

SEF, established in 1994, is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization comprised of parent, school representatives and community members. SEF supports Somers schools by raising funds for specific student and teacher-initiated projects that enrich the educational experience and are not funded by the district budget or by other school groups. Please consider making a donation to support our efforts. If your company has a matching grants or community support program, we can further leverage your donation. You may send to:

SEF

PO Box 401

Somers, NY 10589

YOUR 2010 RESOLUTION: JOIN THE FOUNDATION

Make your New Year's resolution to get involved and make a difference in the lives of our children! Regular SEF Board Meetings will be held at 7:30pm on Feb. 23, Mar. 22, Apr. 20, May 17 and June 22 in the SIS Library. Please join us—we are always looking for new Trustees as well as those who would like to specifically work on our events and other initiatives!

We thank departing trustee **Rosemary Raucci** for her service to SEF.

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

We are thankful to all sponsors who supported our annual golf

outing at Anglebrook Golf Club. They are listed here:

Alimar	All New York Title
Anglebrook G.C.	Anthony Raucci
Arthur Semetis	AYSO/New York Red Bulls
Bennett Kielson	Citibank
Corstar	DML Mortgage
Doug Goodfriend	Dr. Richard Bridgham
Dr. John Viscovich	Drysdale Wealth Mgmt
Ed Angelini	Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano
Gus Tzifas	Il Forno Trattoria
Jack Kearney	James & Eileen Farina
Jeff Feldman	Jodi Duerr
John Gregoras Painting	JVD Industries
Keane & Beane	Kevin Grehan
KG & D Architects	L&M Development
Larry Shaw	Law Office of Christopher Foley
Lynn Marschke	M&T Bank
Marchiano Family	Mark Rossiter
McDermott & McDermott Law Firm	
Northwoods Restaurant	
Putnam County Savings Bank	Rich Joline
Richard Pugni, John Sterachi, John Hsu, Anthony Dellorso	
Richard Weissman	Route 6 Liquors
Rudinger Heller CPA	Sammel Architecture
Saw Mill Health Club	Somers Democratic Club
Somers Discount Wine & Spirits	
Somers Pointe Golf Club	Somers Tavern
Traditions Restaurant	Triton Construction
Welby, Brady & Greenblatt Law Firm	

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We want to thank everyone who has supported our SEF events so far this year--the annual golf outing, the spaghetti dinner and the wine tasting. Combined, these events raised more than \$20,000 that will go directly toward our grantmaking activities (we've awarded five new grants recently).

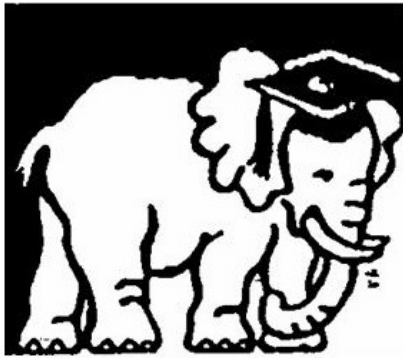
Most of our funding is derived from these events, so we appreciate your generosity .

We have six events each year and they have generally been well-supported, but we are now looking for new event ideas – and folks who would be willing to help take a leading role to make them happen. As a board, we have discussed some exciting new possibilities but I wanted to appeal to you, the Somers community, for your thoughts on events you would like to see happen and would enthusiastically support. I know there is a lot of talent and ideas out there and we want to hear them. Please e-mail me at president@sefny.org by logging on to our newly-renovated SEF website at www.sefny.org.

We are in a fortunate position to help this district. SEF is always interested in grant submissions that will enrich students' education. Anyone can submit a grant request--teachers, administrators, students, parents and community members at large. I know everyone is busy, but there's also a lot of innovation and creativity in the district. We have minimized the process and made it user-friendly. All the details, including criteria and the forms, are on our website. They are also available in the schools and at the district office.

I am privileged to be serving as SEF president for another year and am looking forward to seeing you at our board meetings and events. Best wishes for a wonderful 2010!

-Steve Rolando



SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Check out our newly refurbished and updated SEF website with news, photos, events, trustees, grants information and more! Please visit www.sefny.org.

SEF BOARD 2009-2010

President- Steve Rolando
 Vice President- Glenn Hintze
 Treasurer- Bill Faulkner
 Secretary- Sarena Meyer
 Community Liaison –
 Marilyn Foley
 School Liaison - Liz Olinto
 Grants Committee Co-Chairs –
 Jeff Feldman & Jud Siebert
 Public Relations – Glenn Hintze

Board of Trustees

Deborah Ashley
 Julie Gherardi Bruce Heller
 Jack Kearney Susan Kolar
 Mike McDermott
 Mark Rossiter Dave Sammel

Webmasters - Rick Dettwyler
 & Mel Reyes

www.sefny.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 5, 2010

Variety Show
 7:00pm
 SHS Auditorium

April 24, 2010

Gala Dinner & Auction
 7:00pm, Villa Barone

May 14, 2010

Harlem Wizards
 Basketball Game
 7:00pm, SHS

SEF
 PO Box 401
 Somers, NY 10589

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 NY 10610
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