



SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Newsire

Spring 2009

www.sefny.org

NEW GRANTS AWARDED

During calendar year 2008, SEF awarded 13 grants to the Somers Central School District totaling more than \$70,000. SEF has distributed more than 175 grants and 95 scholarships totaling nearly \$400,000 since being founded in 1994. Here are the latest grants to be approved :

Somers Middle School

A group of teachers, including **Janet Antonucci, Andrea Hayden, Robert Heller, Danyelle Ostrye, Jenna Schettino** and **Dawn Stanczuk**, received a grant to fund a “SNAP” project in which students used photography as well as essays and poetry to highlight issues related to sustainability and diversity. The project was also partially funded through Assemblyman Greg Ball and a New York State education grant. The students’ work was featured at a “SNAP” expo.

Each year, SEF awards monetary certificates to graduating SMS 8th graders for outstanding achievement. Last spring’s winners included **Rachel Calutti, Tara Coogan, Joe Esposito, Dan Ishoo, Fred Park, Melissa Rush, Billy Sheehan** and **Jenny Sprance**.

Congratulations!

Somers High School

Michael Fry and **Dames Boire**, together with members of the Green Power Club, received a grant to design, construct and maintain an electric-powered vehicle, which they will race this spring in the national “Electrathon” competition. In this era of global warming concerns, the more than 200 students who worked on this project said they learned a great deal about alternatively-fueled vehicles through this experience.

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

SEF EVENTS RECAP

GOLF: HOLE IN ONE

SEF raised more than \$20,000 at its eighth golf outing held October 6 at a new location—Mahopac Golf Club. Nearly 50 golfers enjoyed the cool and sometimes breezy weather on the challenging but scenic and enjoyable course. Also included

were a barbecue lunch, reception, dinner and prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin. Thanks to all who participated in this event and especially to chairman **Mark Rossiter**. 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 practice their putting before heading out on the Mahopac Golf Club course October 6.

WINE TASTING FUN

Nearly 50 people attended the SEF’s annual holiday wine tasting party held December 3 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 Route 6 Wine & Liquor in Somers Commons, owned by **Frank & Anthony Bueti**. A Chinese-style auction was held as was a 50-50 raffle drawing, and folks got an early start on their holiday shopping. Thanks to everyone who supported this festive event and to Traditions owners **Lisa & Michael Lubic** for providing the warm setting and delicious food. More than \$2,500 was raised for SEF’s grantmaking activities.

SPAGHETTI DINNER DRAWS BIG CROWD

SEF's traditional spaghetti dinner was held on November 14 at SHS. More than 150 people attended the two seatings, which also included meatballs, garlic bread, salad, cake and beverages. Many teachers and students assisted the SHS cafeteria staff, led by **Norma Zeller**, in serving the dinner. Members of the Leos Club and the National Honor Society helped with setup and cleanup. Raffles were held for IPOD nanos and for 50/50 cash payouts. Musical entertainment for both seatings was provided by the SMS Jazz Band, under the direction of **Steve Chetcuti**, as well the SHS Marching Band, which made a very well-received appearance. More than \$2,500 was raised to help SEF's grantmaking efforts, yet this event, in its 13th year, has always been more about bringing the community together than the money raised.



Families enjoy the food and fun at the spaghetti dinner.

IN MEMORIAM: LYNN ADAMS

Lynn Bennett Adams, a tireless volunteer inducted into the SEF Hall of Fame last April, died on November 26, 2008 after battling cancer for more than 14

months. The Somers community knew Lynn as a leader of PTA and Girl Scouts, a coach for AYSO soccer and Destination Imagination, an instructor of Parks & Recreation and Summer Camp programs, and a loved substitute teacher.



Lynn Adams is shown accepting her induction into the SEF Hall of Fame.

Lynn volunteered her time, energy and enthusiasm, and she did so with grace, poise and an uncanny ability to make it all look effortless. While we live in a time when volunteerism plummets toward crisis levels, Lynn's contributions will be sorely missed. Yet, there could be no more beautiful way to remember and honor Lynn's memory than to give just a little more time, energy and enthusiasm to "pick up where Lynn left off" and make a commitment to volunteer for just one more activity. Get your children involved, and teach them the value and self-satisfaction that comes from giving their time and energy.

May we all remember Lynn for even more than all of her volunteer contributions. She was also a caring friend and colleague and a loving wife and mother. SEF wishes peace to Lynn's husband, Jonathan Adams and her loving children Zachary, Sarah and Joshua.

--Written by Sarena Meyer

CLASS OF 2009 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 **Dr. Richard Bridgham**, local business owner **Steven Delzio**, and SIS aide **Maddy Manzella**. All have given tirelessly of themselves to enrich the lives of our children.

They will be formally honored and inducted at the SEF's annual Gala Dinner and Auction, scheduled for April 18 at Pinnacle Restaurant.

Bridgham has been a Somers resident and local orthodontist for many years. He is president of the Somers Lions Club and actively involved in many community organizations, including AYSO and Cub Scouts.

Delzio, a lifelong Somers resident, has owned the Mexican Shack on Route 100 for 33 years. He is on the board of the Somers Chamber of Commerce and is active with the Historical Society.

Manzella is well-known for her work with a generation of SIS students. Many students and parents have acknowledged her positive nature and impact over the years. SIS colleagues continually praise her helpfulness and can-do style.

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 2009 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. 9, Mar. 16, Apr. 21, May 20 and June 23 in the SIS Library. Please join us—we have public meetings and are always looking for new Trustees as well as those who would like to specifically work on our events and other initiatives!

We welcome new SEF trustee Mike McDermott! We also thank departing trustees Shari Caponera and Mary Dolce for their service.

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

We are thankful to all sponsors who supported our annual golf outing at Mahopac Golf Club. They are listed here:

Alimar Antipasti
Astoria Federal Savings
Bennett Kielson Storch Desantis
Best Roofing Burke Heat
Christine/Doug MacDonald
Clark Funeral Home Corstar Comms.
Crystal Clear Pools
Damiano Basile Engineers
Documentary Designs Domino's Pizza
Dr. Sandra Tarasvich/OmniVision
Eric J. Fecci, CPA Gary Lerman, CPA
Gregg Cavaliere, MD
Griffin Organics Houlihan Lawrence
Hudson Valley Roofing & Sheet Metal
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Richard Weissman
Rossiter Financial Group
Sammel Architecture
School Construction Consulting
Steve, Sue, Carolyn & Drew Clayton
Triton Construction Company
Weathershield
Zachary Family
Zangrilli Engineering

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 \$25,000 that will go directly toward our grantmaking activities. Most of our funding

is derived from these events,, so we appreciate your generosity.

There's such great enthusiasm and talent in this district. I see it in every meeting I have and every event I attend. It's my privilege to be serving as president of the SEF for another year. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the SEF trustees and the district.

We are in a very fortunate position to help this great school district. We have a substantial amount of dollars to award. Now we need more grant applications. Anyone can submit a grant request--teachers, administrators, students, parents and community members at large. We have not seen many grant application submissions this school year. I know everyone is busy, but we have simplified the process and made it user-friendly. All the details, including criteria and the forms are on our website, **www.sefnny.org**. They are also available in the schools and at the district office.

We all know there's a lot of creativity and innovation out there. We've seen it continually in the hundreds of grants we've awarded over 14 years. In uncertain economic times and with education budget cutbacks, I believe the SEF is uniquely positioned to assist in delivering the best education we can to our children. We look forward to seeing grant applications and your continued support.

-Steve Rolando

