



# SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## *Newsire*

Fall 2003

### MISSION STATEMENT

Somers Education Foundation (SEF), established in 1994, is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization comprised of parents, school representatives and community members. SEF promotes community awareness and support for Somers schools by raising money for specific student and teacher-initiated projects that enrich the educational experience and are not funded by the school budget or school groups. SEF has raised more than \$140,000 from fundraising activities through individuals, businesses, and other foundations, supporting more than 130 projects covering all education disciplines.

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. Send your donation to:

Somers Education Foundation  
PO Box 610  
Lincolndale, NY 10540.

### SEF FUNDS 15 NEW PROJECTS, 8 AWARDS

SEF has kicked off the 2003-04 school year with approval of a grant for an outstanding literary program at **Primrose**. Thanks to the innovative ideas of **Julie Gherardi and the other 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers**, the budding writers in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be influenced by the creativity of Carolyn Lesser in January. This is an innovative program and will certainly benefit these early writers for years to come. During the 2002-03 school year, SEF awarded 14 additional grants, totaling more than \$28,000 and eight awards and scholarships of nearly \$7,000. These include:

#### *Somers Intermediate School*

**John Badini** purchased a microscope and videoscope to use as teaching and lab tools for studying and working with complex science information.

**Anne Callahan** received a grant to fund a music composition workshop with a professional composer.

**Kay Staplin** received funding for Author's Day speaker fees.



Author and  
illustrator  
Cedric Lucas  
discusses his  
work with SIS  
students during  
last spring's  
Author Day.

#### SIS Physical Education

**Department** received funding to implement a "trouble-free" recess program.

#### *Somers Middle School*

**Kathy Miller** received a grant for a three-week poetry-writing workshop for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### *Somers High School*

**Ken Crowley/Jim O'Brien** purchased a character generator for the television studio with funding from IBM.

**Greg Horrace** purchased a digital camera for use by SHS Science classes with funding from Sammel Architecture.

**Brian Hugick** purchased a Global Positioning System for use in science classes with funding from IBM.

**SHS Art Department** bought camera equipment for a photo portrait class with funding from Yorktown Woodworking.

**SHS Reading Club** received a grant, with funding from Aries Automotive, to purchase books for club discussion.

**SHS math/science teachers** purchased Eduware, a software game, which is used as a tool to study for Regents exams.

**SHS Physical Education Department** received a grant to implement fitness program upgrades, with funding from Pepsi Bottling Group.

**SHS Student Theater Group** purchased props and materials to get the SPASM group started.

**Tusker Tot students** received funding to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference.

The SEF welcomes grant applications throughout the school year. Applications are available on the website or in the district office. Instructions are included.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

Each spring SEF awards EXCEL scholarships to two graduating SHS seniors who demonstrate "excellent character and exemplary leadership", and four Gift Certificates to outstanding SMS graduates. For the Class of 2003, SEF was proud to award the EXCEL scholarships to **Jasmine Stine** and **Corinne Novell**, and book store gift certificates we awarded to **Fernando Almeida**, **Karie Asencio**, **Deborah Stromes & Lindsay Verraster**. Congratulations to all!

## CELEBRATING THREE

At last April's Gala Dinner, three new members were inducted into the SEF Hall of Fame for their efforts in supporting SEF and raising funds to benefit the children of the Somers school district. They are **Eadie Parody**, a local realtor and longtime SEF trustee; **Sandra Shute**, longtime SEF trustee and treasurer and coach of the SHS varsity field hockey team; and **Kay Staplin**, SIS teacher and a founding SEF trustee; who also serves as Gala co-chair.



Hall of Fame inductee Kay Staplin (second from left) and family celebrate at the Gala Dinner.

## WINNER AT WIZARDS

More than 700 SEF supporters had a great time watching the

antics of the Harlem Wizards as they played members of the Somers school faculty and student body last May. No one was more thrilled to attend the event than long-time SEF supporter, Juliette Sussman, whose winning Disney Raffle ticket was drawn during the game. She took home the \$4,000 cash prize alternative. Once again, the event was co-sponsored and SEF thanks the generous support of Citibank.

## GOLF OUTING HITS A HOLE IN ONE

The SEF raised more than \$15,000 at its third golf outing on September 15, held at the Salem Golf Club in North Salem. More than 80 golfers played through cloudy, and at times, rain-drenched skies to complete the challenging course. Participants enjoyed a barbeque lunch, dinner and prizes during the day-long event. Contact SEF if you wish to be a part of the SEF Golf Committee or to reserve your tee time for the next outing.

## SEF NEEDS LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

SEF continues to rely on the support of local companies to help students and teachers in their endeavors. SEF has current relationships with Aries Automotive (which donates \$1 for each oil change performed), along with IBM, Pepsi Bottling Group, Sammel Architecture and Yorktown Woodworking, which have all provided funds through product donations, grants and event scholarships. Interested businesses can make any size or type of donation, and SEF will collaborate on how to best apply the money,

whether it's to fund individual grants or projects, or to the general grant fund budget. "We appreciate the more than 75 businesses that have supported SEF. We know they share with us the pride we have in the efforts of our students and teachers," said Marilyn Foley, SEF Community Liaison. For information on becoming a community partner, please contact Marilyn Foley through the SEF website.

## SEF OFFICERS 2003-04

President - Sarena Meyer  
Vice President - Kay Staplin  
Treasurer - Susan Kolar  
Recording Secretary - Steve Rolando  
Corresponding Secretary - Neil Schreffler  
Community Liaison - Marilyn Foley  
School Liaison - Liz Olinto  
Grants Committee Co-Chairs - Jeff Feldman & Jud Siebert  
Public Relations - Glenn Hintze

## Board of Trustees

Noel Allen Eadie Parody  
Marj Lazzara Mark Rossiter  
Joanne Marien Dave Sammel

Webmaster - Rick Dettwyler

[www.sefny.org](http://www.sefny.org)

## HOLD THESE DATES!

**November 21, 2003**

9<sup>th</sup> annual Spaghetti Dinner  
SHS cafeteria - 5:30 & 7:00 pm

**January 30, 2004**

Variety Show - SHS 7:00 pm

**April 17, 2004**

4<sup>th</sup> annual SEF Gala Dinner  
Pinnacle Restaurant, 7:00 pm

**May 7, 2004**

Harlem Wizards Basketball  
SHS, 2 games! Times TBD