



SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Newsire

Winter 2007

www.sefny.org

NEW GRANTS AWARDED

In 2006, SEF awarded a dozen grants to the Somers Central School District totaling nearly \$50,000. SEF has distributed more than 150 grants and 75 scholarships totaling over \$250,000 since being founded in 1994. Here are the latest grants approved in Fall 2006 (applicants are teachers unless noted):

Somers Intermediate School

Responding to a request from **Terry Reynolds**, director of the bands and strings programs, SEF approved funding for 10 musical instrument rental scholarships to students who would have otherwise been unable to participate.

Somers Middle School

Meghan Gioffe and Gary Wanderlingh received a grant to fund “artist in residence” Cliff Mendelson, a professional potter. His “Day in Clay” program will give nearly all SMS students the opportunity to learn various facets of pottery,

including “handbuilding” and wheel techniques. They will also create class projects.

Each year, SEF awards monetary certificates to graduating SMS 8th graders for outstanding achievement. Last spring’s winners included **Emily Davey, Jonathon Falco, Julie Haracz, Samantha Levine, Kelly Oliverio, Albert Tumas, Laura Welby and Katie Yum**. Congratulations!

Somers High School

Susan Reilly received a grant to fund the production of an educational video/DVD focused on the Angle Fly Preserve in Somers. The project, to be produced by a professional documentary maker, will involve students and help educate them on the history and ongoing preservation of this local area.

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

SEF EVENTS RECAP

GOLF: AN ACE, AGAIN

SEF raised a record \$27,000 at its sixth golf outing on September 19 held at Anglebrook Golf Club in Lincolnale. Nearly 50 golfers braved the sometimes-rainy elements on the very challenging but extremely 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 the event. 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.



A golfer smiles after finishing a hole at the SEF Outing.

“SUBS AND SOUNDS”

MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE

After 11 years of its traditional spaghetti dinner, SEF decided to try something a little different this year by featuring submarine sandwiches (plus salads, cake and beverages) at this November 10 event. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Many teachers, students and administrators assisted the SHS cafeteria staff in serving. Members of the Leo Club and National Honor Society helped with setup and cleanup. Musical entertainment for both seatings was once again provided by the SMS Band, under the direction of **Steve Chetcuti**. More than \$1,000 was raised to help SEF’s grantmaking activities, yet this is an event that has always been more about bringing the community together than the money raised. We thank everyone for supporting this event and welcome your suggestions to make this event even better in 2007.



The SEF Subs and Sounds dinner provided smiles to all.

WINE TASTING: ALWAYS A PALATE PLEASER

Nearly 90 people attended the SEF's fall wine tasting party held November 29 at Traditions Restaurant in Granite Springs. They enjoyed a variety of red and white wine specialties and learned a great deal thanks to the expertise provided by **Steve Morrison** and staff of Sterling Cellars, located on Route 6 in Mahopac. Raffles were also held and folks got an early start on their holiday shopping. Thanks to everyone who supported this event and to Traditions owner **Lisa Lubeck** for providing the warm setting and delicious food.

COMMERCE CHAMBER DONATES TO SEF

SEF is grateful to the Somers Chamber of Commerce, which recently donated \$1,500 from a silent auction held as part of the Chamber's 50th anniversary dinner. This donation will go directly toward our grantmaking activities. Thank you!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS DONATE

SEF appreciates the generous support it continues to receive from many local businesses, which helps fund the innovative

grants we award teachers and students. We welcome those who would like to join our more than 75 community partners.

Interested businesses can make donations to fund specific grants or to support the general grant fund.

For more information on becoming a community partner, contact Community Liaison **Marilyn Foley** or visit www.sefnv.org.

CLASS OF 2007 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 longtime district instrumental music teacher **Steve Chetcuti** and **Jonas and Sharon Weiner**, longtime Somers residents who have donated their time and finances to numerous school and community activities over many years.



The SMS Band, under the direction of Steve Chetcuti, performed at the Subs and Sounds dinner.

They will be formally honored and inducted at the SEF's annual Gala Dinner and Auction, scheduled for April 28, 2007 at Pinnacle Restaurant in Somers.

Steve Chetcuti has taught instrumental music for 23 years. He began in Somers in 1987, and has been at SMS since 1991. He has brought a lot of innovation and creativity to his job, which has enhanced his students' experience. While Steve is a professional musician and plays the saxophone and bassoon with several groups, he savors his time in the classroom, getting great satisfaction as he watches his students gain self-confidence and mature as they learn their instruments. "It's wonderful to watch them bloom like flowers as they get comfortable and then master their instruments and music," Chetcuti said.

The Weiners have lived in Somers since 1992 and have seen their three children learn and grow through the Somers public schools. Sharon became involved with the Primrose and SIS PTAs and organized many activities. She continued her involvement with the SMS and SHS PTAs and served as president of the SHS PTA for two years. She implemented many new initiatives at SHS, including the driver safety program and a class parent committee. Jonas assisted her with many of these activities.

With their sons playing as SHS quarterbacks, the Weiners often offered their time and resources to the SHS Booster Club and the Touchdown Club. Last, but certainly not least, the Weiners have generously given their financial support to many district and community activities. "We have wanted to make a difference in the lives of

children in Somers, and have tried to create an environment that is better and healthier for all the children," Sharon Weiner said.

Watch for details of the Gala Dinner & Auction, and come out to support these deserving honorees!

SUPPORT SEF

SEF, established in 1994, is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization comprised of parents, 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 school budget or 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. Send to:

SEF
PO Box 620
Lincolndale, NY 10540

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: JOIN SEF!

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 Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28, Apr. 25, May 30 and June 13 in the SIS Library. Please join us—we have public meetings and are always looking for new Trustees!

Also, special thanks to **Noel Allen** for her many years of service as an SEF Trustee. We are grateful for her work and glad she will continue to be involved with our events.

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

We are thankful to all sponsors who supported our 2006 Golf Outing. They are listed here:

<i>ABG</i>	<i>Ace Fire Door</i>
<i>Akerman Senterfitt</i>	<i>All Phase Electric</i>
<i>Amen Rabadi</i>	<i>Andrew Samalin</i>
<i>AP Roofing</i>	<i>Arzees Roofing</i>
<i>Atlantic Express</i>	<i>Bennett, Kielson</i>
<i>Best Plumbing</i>	<i>Carey & Walsh</i>
<i>Chapin Hill</i>	<i>Charlie Gadino</i>
<i>Colonnade Properties</i>	<i>Copulos Advisors</i>
<i>Corstar</i>	<i>Cottam</i>
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Diggens Mechanical</i>
<i>Divney</i>	<i>DML Mortgage</i>
<i>Fidelity National Title</i>	<i>Gary Lerman</i>
<i>Giso Realty</i>	<i>Henry Hudson</i>
<i>Houihan Lawrence</i>	<i>Indy Mac</i>
<i>Jeff Flaxman</i>	<i>John Meyer Consulting</i>
<i>Kantor</i>	<i>Keane & Beane</i>
<i>Kevin Grehan</i>	<i>Land America</i>
<i>Naderman</i>	<i>Penserv</i>
<i>Putnam County Savings Bank</i>	
<i>Richard Bridgeham</i>	<i>Ron Bloch CPA</i>
<i>Sam Mounayar</i>	<i>Sammel Architecture</i>
<i>SmartChoice Insurance</i>	
<i>Somers Eye Center</i>	<i>State Farm</i>
<i>Stewart Title</i>	<i>Stillwell Stairs</i>
<i>Visitrak</i>	<i>Welby Brady</i>
<i>Wickes</i>	<i>Wiles & Wiles</i>
<i>William Scofield</i>	<i>Windowrama</i>
	<i>Yorktown Woodworking</i>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's been a very exciting first few months for me as the new president of SEF. Having the privilege to serve on the SEF Board for several years has given me the opportunity to see what a great school district Somers is and how the SEF is in the fortunate position to help it even more.

I have enjoyed meeting with administrators and teachers this fall, who are very enthusiastic and creative. They know we are

eager to work with them to achieve their goals of providing our children with terrific new experiences, whether it be working with an "artist in residence," using new technology like SmartBoards, or even traveling out of the country to perform music. We are getting some very interesting grant requests this year and I hope they keep coming in. We want to give grants that reward innovation and spur further learning for our students.

Most of the funding for the grants comes from our array of fundraising events through the year. I thank you for your support so far this year and look forward to seeing you at our 2007 fundraisers, including the student variety show, the spring gala dinner and auction and the always-popular Harlem Wizards basketball game.

We depend on the community's support for all our events to be successful, and Somers has never let us down. We are grateful that you are behind us as we continue our mission of assisting the district in giving our students the best possible education.

We have given out more than a quarter-million dollars in grants and scholarships in our 12 years of existence but we consider that just the beginning. With your support we plan to do much more. May 2007 be healthy and prosperous for everyone!

--Steve Rolando

