

SHELTER ISLAND

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT · AUGUST 31, 2013



Out to Sea...No Technology!

By Bianca Evangelista and Sarah Lewis, Shelter Island School, Class of 2018

Shelter Island School's own 7th grade had a great opportunity this June of 2013. Our class took the chance to live on the *Alabama*, an old-fashioned Gloucester fishing schooner from 1926. We got to meet and room with seven other kids from Fisher's Island, making new friends that we still interact with today.

Weeks before, many of our classmates anticipated the trip. We started a daily countdown from 79 days to one hour, growing more excited each day. Our biggest worry was not showering for five days, but that was not an enormous concern when chaperone Keri Knipfing tightly braided every girl's hair. Ian Kanarvogel also chap-

eroned on the schooner for his third year, having his own experiences and memories made.

On the first morning, most of us jolted awake to the sound of the boat's generator. We learned to "rise and shine" to the sound of this in the morning, as the first mate "Bear" taught us. At 7AM sharp, we washed the deck with salt water and polished the brass aboard the ship. After the morning routine, we ate a delicious breakfast (ladies first!). During our days on the schooner, we raised and furled the sails, learned to tie knots, coiled ropes, and applied basic math, science and social studies skills. We also had time to relax, play games and bond with everyone aboard.

By the end of the week, we almost weren't ready to go home. We had become close with our classmates, the crew, the chaperones, and the Fisher's Island kids. The schooner trip was certainly what past adventurers in higher grades had described it to be. We will never forget the experiences that we had on this trip, and we hope that kids will continue to go on the schooner, as it is a wonderful addition to their memories from school. ✂





Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Look at this fabulous list. If you supported the Shelter Island Educational Foundation in 2012-13, you helped enrich the lives of school children and young adults in these ways:

- Sixteen tenth-graders were dazzled by *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera House.
- An eleventh-grader sang her heart out at a four-week choral camp.
- Fifth- and sixth-grade Girl Scouts walked in the founders' footsteps in Philadelphia.
- Thirty-seven students examined Sylvester Manor historic artifacts at an NYU exhibition.
- An eleventh-grader flew to Cambodia on a community service project.
- A sixth-grader kayaked at a Minnesota Y Camp.
- Two sixth-graders studied space exploration at the Alabama Space Camp.
- An eighth-grader and a sixth-grader performed at Camp Quinipet's Show Kids.
- Forty-five music students applauded at a performance of the Broadway hit *Once*.
- Middle and high school sailors practiced in Dering Harbor and raced competitively.
- Twenty-one eighth-graders were dazzled by *The Nutcracker* ballet at Lincoln Center.
- Ten third- and fourth-graders wrote prose and poetry with community mentors.
- A dozen high school students competed in a statewide Battle of the Books.
- Nineteen budding playwrights wrote and performed at Young American Writers.
- Seventeen seventh-graders shipped out on the schooner *Alabama* for a week of seafaring.

With your help, this is what we do: The Shelter Island Educational Foundation sponsors programs that keep young lives happy, productive, safe, and interesting. Consider making a generous gift now.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Olton
Interim President

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The mission of the Shelter Island Educational Foundation is to pursue, create and provide excellent educational opportunities that enhance, inspire and broaden the horizons of our children and the community.

The Foundation seeks to go beyond the boundaries of local school district budgetary obligations and geographic isolation, augmenting the resources of individual teachers, family and community, and nourishing our unique island heritage.



Sailing Club ...*Donors Help Keep Sailors in Sails*

The school sailing club had an active spring season with Olympic sailor Amanda Clark coaching many of the practices. We had eight high school students on the team plus two middle school students. The high school team once again qualified for the New York State Championship, which was sailed in May in Port Jefferson Harbor, with Shelter Island placing eleventh at the event. There are over forty schools in New York with registered sailing teams, so it was a great showing for the Island sailors to both qualify and compete in the Championship.

We have been using well-worn sails from Connecticut College that were donated to us at the startup of the sailing club in 2008. They have served us well, but were at the end of their useful life. Six Shelter Island businesses made donations to the Ed Foundation, enabling the club to purchase new sets of sails that should last us another eight years or more, a gift that

the team members truly appreciate. Each set has the donor's business name emblazoned across the foot of the mainsail, a rather sporting looking. The following businesses deserve a special thank you for their generous contributions: Jack's Marine, Coecles Harbor Marina, Binder Pools, Picozzi's Propane, Wm. J. Mills & Co. and the South Ferry.

Ten students signed up for the fall season, and all are enjoying phenomenal weather and warm breezes. Island resident Lisa Krekeler has been volunteering her time to coach the team using skills she learned while sailing for the University of Rhode Island sailing team.

Many thanks to all of the Educational Foundation contributors who have helped keep the school's youth sailing club a viable option for Island students.

By Peter Needham, Sailing Club advisor

Hasta Luego, Shelter Island!

By Erin Colligan,
Shelter Island School, Class of 2014



Shelter Island students take a break on the bridge at Plaza de España in Seville.

Once school ends in June, most kids hit the beach or work summer jobs. With the help of the Ed Foundation, eleven high school juniors instead travelled across the Atlantic to Spain to live with host families and work on their Spanish language skills. The students, along with chaperone Senorita Leever, spent eight days in Cadiz and Seville.

The idea for the trip came about from ten Shelter Island students who travelled to Madrid, Spain in 2011 with Senora Piccozzi. They returned with positive feedback and indispensable life experience. Senorita Leever wanted to chaperone students on another trip and again, with the help of grants from the Foundation, the trip came together. Senorita Leever said, “I wanted to do a similar trip with a home stay for students, but with a little more language and cultural instruction.” She decided on a language-intensive program, Centro Mundo Lengua, based in Cadiz, a coastal town in southern Spain.

Mrs. Judy Card and her daughter, Michelle, who graduated from Shelter Island High School in 2010, also attended. Students stayed with Spanish host families who live close to the Centro Mundo Lengua language school. Students attended classes for three hours a day, and had an “immersion experience,” meaning they lived and breathed the Spanish lifestyle.

The program hosted students from other U.S. schools, as well as schools across all of North America and Europe.

The school itself was an actual Spanish high school – a historic building with stone arches, marble floors, and Moorish tile work. Language classes took place entirely in Spanish and focused on vocabulary, grammar, and speaking. When the students were not taking Spanish classes, they learned about Spanish culture, including art and dancing, and even shopped in outdoor markets.

Since Cadiz sits right on the Atlantic, students enjoyed beach activities like surfing and beach volleyball. Social activities included scavenger hunts, dances, yoga, and night life. Students spent most of their time in Cadiz, a city of 130,000 people, surrounded on three sides by water. They also took an overnight excursion to Seville, a city of 700,000 residents. Students explored Moorish palaces and walked through gardens and down cobblestone streets.

Students were ecstatic to be a part of this once in a lifetime opportunity, and for most, this trip was their first overseas adventure. They soaked up the Cadiz sun because their summer jobs were waiting for them when they returned to the Island!





Lucia Mulligan and Francesca Frasco star in Madi Hallman's original play, "The Outsider?"

YAWP

Young Playwrights Shine

Every year, the Young American Writers Project (YAWP) places two of Stony Brook University's creative writing specialists into our 7th grade Language Arts classes. These dedicated experts work with our students on a whole-class, small-group, and one-to-one basis over the course of several weeks, during which they teach our students the basics of playwriting. By the program's conclusion, each student produces an original one-act play, and the ingenuity that the students display in their work is remarkable and inspiring. One play is eventually selected to be performed at Stony Brook's Avram Theater, which also hosts the winning entries culled from other East End schools.

In the final days of last year's program, YAWP judges selected the play they deemed most poignant and thought-provoking from amongst the work submitted by our students. The play selected was Madison Hallman's contemporary drama, *The Outsider?* Madison's play was wonderfully performed by classmates Lucia Mulligan and Francesca Frasco; Hayley Lowell-Liszanckie worked with Madison and the actresses to help with stage management, cueing, and costuming. The performances took place over the course of three days in the second week of April, and the students in the audience – including our own 7th graders – delighted in the productions.

— Jim Bocca, English teacher



SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER PHOTO

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Over the years, the Shelter Island Educational Foundation has provided many special opportunities to the students and staff members of our school. Through their generous donations and grants, our teachers and students have the opportunity to pursue exciting and educational projects that they otherwise may not have been able to experience.

It's amazing how the Educational Foundation gives so many people in our school community the opportunity to broaden their cultural background by taking trips and visiting exhibits that extend their off-island experiences, which in turn enriches their island life. In these difficult financial times, it is more important than ever to have the resources of the Educational Foundation to ensure our students continue to have these enriching experiences that spark their imaginations and help develop their creativity. The Educational Foundation has our gratitude for all that they make possible for our wonderful students. We look forward to our continued partnership and thank them for their leadership and friendship.

— Dr. Michael J. Hynes

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Ways to Give

Gifts to the Foundation can be made in a variety of ways that offer personal financial planning advantages; including income tax charitable deductions; reduction in capital gains taxes and estate tax benefits.

Gifts of Cash: contributions are tax-deductible and may qualify for corporate matching gifts.

Gifts of Securities: the Foundation maintains a brokerage account to accept gifts of securities held either in the owner's name or in: "street name".

Planned Gifts or Bequests: The Foundation can be included in a will (or other estate planning instrument) either at the time the will is drawn up or as a later codicil or amendment.

Life Insurance: the Foundation can be named beneficiary on most types of life insurance policies.

In Memoriam: gifts may be made to offer sympathy or pay tribute to a deceased individual.

In Recognition: contributions to honor a former teacher, administrator, alumni class, friend or family member.

Designated Gift: a gift may be given for a specific project, with Foundation approval.

Matching Gifts

Many companies support educational institutions through matching gift programs. You are encouraged to investigate your employer's policy on matching funds.

Copies of the Shelter Island Educational Foundation, Inc. financial statements are available by request to the Foundation at:

PO Box 1950

Shelter Island, NY 11964-1950



PHOTO CREDIT - Aaron Johnson, "Our Flag"

Shelter Island High School art students enjoyed the privilege of using five brand new Nikon Coolpix L810 digital cameras, thanks to a grant from the Foundation. Students completed their assignments with images that represented the basic elements and principles of design.

Girl Scouts Go to Jail!

Last November, the Shelter Island Girl Scouts and friends journeyed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, thanks to a grant from the Foundation. First on the agenda was a visit to the Eastern State Penitentiary, an 1820's prison. The site contained original cell blocks, Death Row, a few alleged ghosts, and was the temporary home of Al Capone, Willie Sutton and a dog. We visited the Comcast Center – an LEED building with a 2000 foot screen, a winter garden, and panoramic views of Philly, toured of the home of Betsy Ross, and participated in the DUCK Tour, a land/water adventure rolling the streets of historic Philly before dunking into the Potomac River.

—Janine Mahoney, advisor

2RS4FUN!

Creativity conducive to learning and a deeper sense of knowledge is the essence of the 2Rs4fun! mentor program. To me, the children writing for 2Rs show that in an environment where the constraints are practically nil, young writers are uninhibited enough to think and write out of the box: they experiment with both form and content, just as some of our best writers have always done.

When the students resort naturally to stream of consciousness and wordplay, while miscellaneous others use paradox, surrealistic imagery or the absurd in their writing, their inventiveness is just as much at play in poetry as in prose. Their full awareness of the power of form shows through in their use of fonts, graphic characters, layout and text/graphic collage.

So, what does that say to us, if not that feeling and thinking out of the box are prerequisites for knowledge acquisi-

tion, transfer and sharing. "There are things known and things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception." What Aldous Huxley meant by that, I believe, is that if you leave the doors open, if you keep the lid off the box, there is a chance that the things we don't know, whether we know we don't or not, can become known, which is what learning is all about.

Another objective of the program is to pair adult mentors with writing professional experience one-on-one with students in order to promote and develop literacy. Matching mentors to children makes for a good rapport; switching them around when necessary makes for an even better one.

One of our young students pretty much summarized what 2Rs4fun! is about when he wrote at the very last meeting of our Spring session that:

This year has been the best. I used not to be interested in writing but the first time I stepped into two hours for fun my opinion changed completely. I give thanks to my mentor Jean. I used to get so much stuff wrong in writing, but now I know what I did wrong: I didn't read carefully, I forgot letters and I wrote sloppily. I love 2 hours 4 fun and it is a bummer that I can't come next year. — Brandon Velasquez

In other words, learning can and should be also for fun. — Mary Dwyer, Coordinator

The Shelter Island Educational Foundation would like to sincerely thank all those who donated money, time and services to our organization. We are especially thankful to Donald D'Amato, our web guru, and to the Benacerraf and Skibelli/Kelly families, our Porch Party hosts. Special thanks also go to the Acriel Foundation and Mr. Jack Monahan for their generous support of our arts programs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2012-13, the Shelter Island Educational Foundation awarded \$31,500 in grants to students, teachers, and organizations that applied for them. In addition, the Foundation awarded, \$26,398 from funds designated by donors for specific programs. The Foundation distributed a total of \$57,898 in awards during 2012-13.

Despite continuing economic uncertainty in the American economy, and nation-wide downturns in contributions to non-profit charitable organizations, the Foundation's finances remain strong. Its assets as of August 31, 2013 are \$318,798. Of this, \$6,738 is unrestricted, \$143,164 is temporarily restricted (\$70,488 is designated for specific projects and \$72,676 represents accumulated interest and dividends.)

The Harman Hawkins Educational Endowment Fund, a segregated perpetual fund, has a historical value of \$168,896 and a current fair market value of \$257,612.

Contributions from donors, net proceeds of special fundraising events, interest, and dividends for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012 were \$81,565. General administrative expenses totaled \$10,809. Fundraising expenses, including the cost of special events, totaled \$6,904.