



Newsletter 2016



Island Students Explore National Parks in the Southwest

You'll want to pack a bag and head west for a week (or two) after hearing about James Theinert's extraordinary trip to the Southwest, which he took this summer with a group of students from Shelter Island High School.

Over six days, Mr. Theinert, his wife Mary, and 13 teenagers hiked the narrows of Zion National Park in Utah, floated down the Colorado River on a pontoon boat, and trekked down the winding South Kaibab Trail of the Grand Canyon. What a way for island kids to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service!

Following is an excerpt of Mr. Theinert's detailed account of this remarkable adventure, which can be found in its entirety at ShelterIslandEdFoundation.org/recent-grants/.

On the fourth day, as we visited the south rim, we began our proper exploration of the Grand Canyon. Shane and Ashley were excellent guides. They suggested we ask the students to cover their eyes so they could experience their first view of the canyon together. That will be a lasting memory they can carry with them always. As a chaperone of this group, every hope I had of them gaining a greater appreciation for not just their home country, but the world in general, was completely verified at this moment. Senior Olivia Yeaman had told me prior to our visit that someone in her family had said, "Visiting the Grand Canyon was like a religious experience for me." Olivia repeatedly asked, "Mr. Theinert, is it going to be like that for me? Am I going to feel moved? Am I going to feel changed?" By the look on her face, and everyone else's in the group, I can safely say they were changed people when they opened their eyes.



"I am so thankful to the Shelter Island Educational Foundation for helping to make this trip happen for so many of our students. When we want to expand students' horizons, sometimes the best and simplest way is to take them to new horizons, and let them see for themselves what is out there. This Grand Canyon adventure did exactly that, and it would not have been possible without the generosity of the Foundation. Thank you!"

JAMES THEINERT, SIHS MATH TEACHER



For over 20 years, the Shelter Island Educational Foundation has been inspiring children and young adults on the Island. Over the last two decades the Foundation has

awarded hundreds of individual and institutional grants that have enhanced their lives.

I am forever grateful to you, our supporters, who have made these endeavors a reality. It is because of you the world beyond Shelter Island has been opened to our children and in turn, our community enriched.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of our past grant recipients. Now and in the future, we charge Shelter Island students, teachers and community members to dream, explore and be bold when envisioning educational experiences, and let us help make them possible.

Sincerely,

Christine Gallagher

Christine Gallagher, President

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Let's Take it from the Top!

Classical music fills the school auditorium

Made possible by a grant from the SIEF, four alumni from the Perlman Music Program came to the Shelter Island School to perform, inspire and have fun. Students from the high school orchestra received special playing tips from the extraordinary musicians. For many of the younger children, it was their first live classical music experience.

The interactive recital, which included guest conductors from the student audience, was extremely well received. Kindergartner Christopher Ward, pictured here, waved his arms brilliantly to the Mendelssohn Quartet in F Minor!

Thank you to Shelley Gross of PMP for opening the students' eyes and ears to such beautiful music.

School Newspaper Team Gets "Zippy"

During the 2015-16 school year, SIEF granted a MacBook computer to the Shelter Island School newspaper, *The Inlet*. "Zippy," as it's affectionately called, has the software the editor and staff can now use to format the newspaper completely independently. This year's editor, Lindsey Gallagher and *Inlet* contributor Henry Binder (pictured here) are delighted about the new Mac.



"We so appreciate the opportunity the Educational Foundation afforded The Inlet, and look forward to producing many more issues in the 2016-17 school year with 'Zippy's' help."

DEVON TREHARNE,
 ENGLISH TEACHER AND ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Students: This is Your Life, on Video

Living History Project at Shelter Island Historical Society

When our friends at the Shelter Island Historical Society launched a program called the Living History Project—an expansion of its Oral History Project—the Ed Foundation wanted to help.

The program's objective is to compile a series of video interviews of individual Shelter Island High School students, which will be conducted by senior Julia Labrozzi, pictured here. Interviews, which began this summer, document topics such as favorite activities, current studies, future goals, and how living on Shelter Island has affected and influenced the teens.



Tim Purtell/Photo

More students will be interviewed this year, and as part of the long-term plan for the Living History Project, those same students will be interviewed again at various milestones, such as graduation, college,

their first job, and marriage. The interviews will be made part of the Historical Society's collection and undoubtedly will prove to be even more interesting and entertaining when viewed in the future!

"History is in the making everyday. The Living History Project captures the thoughts and ideas of the Island's young people, and builds the Shelter Island Historical Society's archives for future generations. With the students learning professional, hands-on interviewing and editing skills, our goal is for them to manage the project completely on their own. We are thankful to the Shelter Island Education Foundation for investing in our Island's youth."

NANETTE BREINER LAWRENSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WANT TO APPLY FOR A GRANT? PLEASE DO!
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT SHELTERISLAND.EDFOUNDATION.ORG



Not Your Average Summer Camp

Lily Garrison embraces the challenge

Sophomore Lily Garrison was awarded a grant from SIEF to attend the Extreme Military Challenge Camp in Alabama. The youngest of five siblings, Lily enjoys being put to the test—and succeeding. Here is her account of an arduous fortnight this past summer.



"Thank you to the Shelter Island Educational Foundation for this awesome opportunity!"

LILY GARRISON, SHELTER ISLAND H.S. SOPHOMORE

When my two weeks of Extreme Military Challenge began, I honestly thought I was ready, both physically and mentally. I realized I was wrong the first day I was there. As soon as you're ushered off the bus, you're instantly screamed at. They don't care what age you are, what gender you are, nothing. That doesn't matter in the military. My first two days, I hated it. I'll be honest, I cried many times and wished I were home with my mom and dad and siblings. But after the third day, something clicked, and I was over the moon. I got in trouble every day for either smiling or laughing, because I was ecstatic to be there. I loved the screaming and the way they pushed us beyond our limits, and how they just didn't care if you were tired or sore. They were terrifying. I knew that they had gone through exactly what we went through, and I respected them so much. I wish I could explain everything we did there, but it would take too long. If you're thinking of doing something like this, don't be scared. Just get over your fears and do it. It's so worth it in the end, trust me.



Beverlea Walz Photos

SIEF's Most Successful Porch Party

Susan and Darrin Binder, thank you for hosting!

Over July 4th weekend, 150 people lounged on the Binders' lawn, partied on their porch and delighted in the view from their dock on West Neck Harbor. It was a Binder Bash, indeed!

Many thanks to our sponsors, raffle donors, volunteers and everyone who supported our most important fundraiser. Special thanks go to Captain Rob Spitzenberg, who donated a spectacular day of fishing aboard his boat, Longevity.

Susan and Darrin, thank you again for all you did to make the Porch Party a colossal success. Proceeds from the event are used to provide educational grants and programs that inspire and allow Shelter Island students to explore beyond our shores.



THANK YOU TO OUR PORCH PARTY SPONSORS!

VALEDICTORIAN : *The Chequit* • *Fokine Construction* • *Jernick Moving & Storage*

HONOR ROLL : *Coecles Harbor Marina* • *Cut & Trim Professional Lawn Care* • *Dandy Liquors*
Dan's Carting & Recycling • *Daniel Gale Sotheby's* • *J.W. Piccozzi Fuel Oil* • *Marie Eiffel*

Grant Awards Celebration - *New Venue!*

Sunday, November 20, 4-5:30pm at the Shelter Island Public Library

Please join us for our favorite day! This is our annual meeting and when grant recipients tell about their educational adventures and how their lives have been impacted. Open to the public. Tea and Cookies will be served.



OUR MISSION: To pursue, create and provide excellent educational opportunities that enhance, inspire and broaden the horizons of our children and the community.

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Founded in 1995, the SIEF is a not-for-profit organization established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. An all-volunteer organization, we rely solely on the generosity of our community for funding, which comes from individuals, companies, foundations and other charitable organizations.

With your generous support, the Foundation provided these programs and grants in 2015-16:

PROGRAMS

- Broadway production of *The Crucible* for high school students
- Dress rehearsal production of *Die Fledermaus* at the Metropolitan Opera for high school students
- The Nutcracker ballet at Lincoln Center for eighth graders
- Guidance Department and DECA Club trip to the New York Stock Exchange
- Broadway 101 Workshop and performance of *Wicked* for high school music students
- 7th Grade Schooner Trip
- YAWP (Young Artists and Writers Project) at Stony Brook/Southampton for eighth graders

GRANTS

- Ten students in grades 10-12: National Parks trip of the American Southwest
- A seventh grader: Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.
- Girl Scout trip to the Bronx Zoo
- Cub Scout trip to the Museum of Natural History in New York City
- Perlman Music Program for expanded outreach to the Shelter Island School
- Shelter Island Library for the 2Rs4Fun reading and writing program
- A tenth grader: Extreme Military Challenge Camp in Alabama
- Shelter Island Historical Society for the Oral History Project
- Shelter Island Yacht Club Scholarship to a student

**WANT TO APPLY FOR A GRANT?
PLEASE DO!**

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT
SHELTERISLANDEDFOUNDATION.ORG

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