

CENTER STAGE

Spring 2014

whbpac.org

Greetings from the Executive Director

I am thrilled to be the new Executive Director of the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center and to take the helm of an established organization with such a storied history.

What most impresses and excites me about the Center is the wonderful story of how it was born through the efforts of the community itself. The fact that residents, business owners and local officials saw the promise in converting an abandoned movie theatre into a thriving cultural meeting point for the entire village and the surrounding region is a truly inspiring narrative. And the depth of the Center's connection with the community has been tangible to me from my first day on the job.



WHBPAC Executive Director
James Burke

To have the chance to lead the Center into its next era is an extremely enticing opportunity and challenge. True to our mission, I will be working with the entire staff to reinvigorate and expand our relationships within the community and strengthen the bonds that are at the theatre's very core. Our goal is to ensure that the full range of local residents are being welcomed into the theatre and to maximize the positive cultural and economic impact for businesses up and down Main Street.

Of course, if community is at the core of Westhampton Beach PAC, so too is the art itself. I believe that the performing arts are an integral component to us all and fundamental to us as engaged citizens. Creating and producing high caliber programs that serve the community in all of its diversity is the best way to create a vibrant and engaging cultural meeting space, a space in which we can all come together in a spirit of celebration for the performing arts. It is my sincere hope to maintain the trust of our most devoted patrons and to encourage new audiences to join the WHBPAC family.

I'd like to thank the WHBPAC Board of Directors, the entire staff, our dedicated volunteers, the Advisory Council, the Arts Education Advisory Council, and the Parents Advisory Council for their support and encouragement as we embark on a new era.

I would also like to thank everyone in the community I have had the pleasure of meeting during the long winter season. I appreciate the warm reception that has made my wife and young family feel right at home on the East End. I truly look forward to getting to know all of you personally and to growing deep roots in my new community, so please be sure to say hello when we meet in the Center's lobby or on Main Street.

Welcome to your 2014 Summer Season at WHBPAC!

Arts Education Program Celebrates 15 Years

Educated. Cultured. Worldly. Influential. These qualities are rarely attributed to a 15 year old. However, WHBPAC's Nancy and Frederick DeMatteis Arts Education Program is no ordinary teenager. What began in 1999 with an unwavering passion to provide the East End community with greater arts appreciation through education has matured into a multi-faceted academic destination for children, adults and seniors alike.



Nancy DeMatteis and Director of Arts Education, Joanna Ferraro-Levy

When the DeMatteis Family Charitable Trust committed to a multi-year grant of half a million dollars in 2010, the education offerings were officially named The Nancy & Frederick DeMatteis Arts Education Program, in honor of Nancy's unwavering belief that all children should have access to high caliber artistic experiences, both as audience members and engaged students of the performing arts.

In 1999, the Arts Education Program kicked off with a series of Family Friendly Performances. Joanna Ferraro-Levy, Director of Arts Education, quickly realized that there was an opportunity to bring high quality performances to an even wider audience of children, including the many that might not otherwise have easy access to the arts. And so the Center launched the School Day Performances Program, comprised of high-quality, curriculum-based, live performances for students in grades pre-K through 12 throughout the school year.

In 2001, the Center took its next major leap in launching the first Performing Arts Camps, giving youngsters invaluable, immersive and hands-on exposure and training in musical theatre, ballet, Shakespeare, Broadway, music composition, playwriting and more.

By 2007, arts education programs were bursting at the seams. The Center's summer camps had become so popular that we were in desperate need of additional classroom and rehearsal space. Thanks to a generous lead gift of \$500,000 from Nancy and Frederick DeMatteis through the DeMatteis Family Charitable Trust, WHBPAC was empowered to secure additional funds from Board Members and other key supporters to acquire and renovate properties behind the auditorium. These properties were converted into a new educational space (now known as Auer Studio), administrative offices, and even outdoor areas for still more student programs.

Once the campus had been expanded, the programming grew at a rapid pace. In recent years we've successfully introduced several exciting initiatives, including:

- A *Teen Theatre Troupe*, producing three large-scale shows every year, both musicals and straight plays
- A Year-Round *Ballet Program*, producing three ballets a year, including the ever popular *Nutcracker* "Sweet"
- Our very own a cappella group, *The Hamptones*
- And our nationally recognized Life-Long Learning Program for seniors: *Melodies & Memories*

In celebration of all that we've achieved in the past fifteen years, we are poised to present our biggest and brightest Summer Season yet, including:

- **Five (!) Musical Theatre Camps**
- The new **Tween Theatre Troupe**, inspired by the success of our returning **Teen Theatre Troupe**
- A new **A Cappella Intensive**
- Another original **Ballet Camp**

It is never too early or too late to deepen your love of the performing arts, so please join us in our 15th anniversary celebration by enrolling the young people in your life in one of our many summer 2014 camps!

See Back Page for Camps Schedule

A New Board Chairperson for a New Era

The Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center Board of Directors has elected Board member Dr. Stanley Zinberg to serve as the organization's next Chairperson. Stan is well positioned to take on the leadership role as the Center enters a new era, having served with distinction as a director on the Board for seven years. He was the chair of the Building and Grounds Committee during the recent renovation of the Center's auditorium, which was completed in February of 2013. And he has served as chair of the Golf Committee since 2007, having helped to grow the Annual Golf Tournament and Cocktail Party into the organization's most important fundraising event.

I am honored to be elected to the position of chairperson and will make every effort to ensure a continuation of the remarkable success of our theater.

Dr. Stanley Zinberg

"The Performing Arts Center is the jewel of the Westhampton Beach community," stated Dr. Zinberg. "I am honored to be elected to the position of chairperson and will make every effort to ensure a continuation of the remarkable success of our theater."

Outside of the WHBPAC family, Dr. Zinberg is a distinguished obstetrician/gynecologist who served as Deputy Executive Vice President and Vice President of Practice Activities for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in Washington, D.C. For fourteen years, until his retirement in 2007, he oversaw the College's standard-setting activities. Dr. Zinberg was in clinical practice in New York City for twenty-seven years and for the past twelve years he directed the obstetrics and gynecology program at New York Downtown Hospital.

He received a Master of Science degree from the Wagner School of Public Administration at New York University, with a major in not-for-profit finance. He is past president of the New York Obstetrical Society and a former examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has held faculty appointments at NYU School of Medicine, Cornell University College of Medicine and Georgetown University School of Medicine. In addition, he is the author of numerous editorials and scientific papers.

Dr. Zinberg is on the Board of Directors of the Cooper Companies and is also a member of the New York State Board for

Professional Medical Conduct, the Board of Ethics for the Town of Southampton, and the Peconic Bay Medical Center Board. He and his wife Peggy will serve as Community Honorees at the PBMC Health's Candlelight Ball on May 31, 2014.



New Board Chairperson Dr. Stanley Zinberg

WHBPAC Welcomes New Board Directors

To be elected to the Westhampton Beach Board of Directors, one must possess a love of the arts, a dedication to service, and a desire to improve the cultural well-being of all East Enders. We are honored to welcome our newest directors to the family:

Esen Edip

Esen Edip comes to the Center as an established entrepreneur. After obtaining an M.B.A. and B.A. in Psychology, Esen demonstrated the depth of her business aptitude by growing a four-person real estate law firm into a thirty-three person company with annual revenues exceeding \$2.5 million. In 2007, Esen set out on her own and founded Titles of New York, growing the company into a successful business throughout the tough years of the economic downturn.

Esen is a recipient of the Mann Award for Best in Residential Title Insurance and is a member of several prestigious professional organizations, including the Real Estate Board of New York, Women in Housing and Finance, New York Commercial Real Estate Women and the Women Presidents Organization. She is also a generous supporter of the Tick-Borne Disease Alliance.

Esen's focus, passion and entrepreneurial spirit will help to guide the Center into the next era as she chairs the newly created Marketing Committee, tasked with expanding the theatre's reach among the diverse communities throughout the region.

"I'm thrilled to take on the challenge of developing new ideas that will refine and strengthen WHBPAC's marketing initiatives and will go the extra mile to help the Center increase its demographic and reach untapped markets."



Esen Edip

Lou Scotto

Longtime supporters and friends of the theatre, Lou Scotto and his wife, Geri, own a home in Westhampton Beach and are passionate patrons of the performing arts. For several years, the Scottos have been sponsors and participants in the Center's Annual Golf Tournament. In fact, Lou was the 2011 Golf Outing Honoree, and helped to make the event one of the most successful fundraisers in the Center's history. Lou is a driving force in fundraising because of the importance of what WHBPAC represents for the village, and the need to ensure that it remains a thriving destination for both residents and visitors.

"I've long been an advocate for the best interests of Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center and am happy to join its distinguished Board. Its programming meets the different interests of the entire population, both young and old, and I want to do all I can to support this important institution that gives so much to the community."

Louis Scotto is responsible for BGC Partners' operations in North America. Mr. Scotto joined BGC Partners in early 2011 as Executive Managing Director for the Americas before assuming leadership of the North America business as General Manager. He works closely with BGC's executive management team to help define business strategy for new products development and to drive revenue growth. Lou has over thirty years of experience in the inter-dealer broking market and a distinguished reputation for excellence in serving clients and managing and growing businesses. Lou joined BGC from Tullett Prebon, where he was a consultant, following tenures as CEO of the Americas from 2007 to 2009 and Global CEO from 2004 to 2007.



Lou Scotto

Spotlight on Sponsors: The Kehoe Family

Five years ago, Anastasia Kehoe wanted to enroll her kids in a theatre camp. Like many of us, Anastasia grew up with a fear of public speaking. She wanted to spare her children that discomfort and get them used to being in front of an audience. The Kehoe Family had spent summers on Dune Road in Westhampton Beach for years and enjoyed many Main Stage programs, but they were unaware that WHBPAC offered exactly the kind of immersive, confidence-building youth theatre camps they were seeking.

"When we first visited the Center, I was amazed by how friendly, helpful and passionate everyone was. Julienne Penza [Managing Director of Arts Education] and the entire staff, they love what they do and it shows." Anastasia quickly enrolled her two youngest children in one of the Center's summer musical theatre programs, and within weeks they were walking the boards, showing off their new acting chops. Anastasia was astounded by the results. "It's ingenious how they do it. In one week of practice, the kids learn their lines and then at the end of the week, they put on a real show. It's no joke. I was amazed how professional the performance was!"

The following summer – after some initial resistance from her older children – Anastasia enrolled all four of her kids in the Center's various musical theatre camps. They each performed in multiple plays, including "Secret Garden," "Cinderella," and "Rumpelstiltskin." Again, Anastasia was blown away watching her children's transformation into joyful thespians. "It's learning wrapped in fun," she noted. "My kids garnered so much poise from the experience... My son, John, recently won a public speaking contest at his school and we really credit West-

hampton Beach Performing Arts Center with giving him that confidence." Now, when it comes to summer camp, there is no resistance from any of the Kehoe kids - they can't wait!

Last year, Anastasia wanted to recognize the Center for all it has done for her children, so she generously agreed to sponsor our "Princess and the Pea" Musical Theatre Camp. The Kehoe Family sees their sponsorship as a great way to "pay it forward" and make sure more of our community's children are exposed to arts education. "The Center's camps are a fun way to take kids out of their comfort zones. Performance inspires them with self-confidence, self-reliance and independence." To see the results, Anastasia looks no further than her own kids. "When they perform, they get such a sense of accomplishment... they're proud of themselves."

vous for them... I thought they'd forget their lines or where they were supposed to be on stage. But I am consistently shocked at how good they are. I'm so proud. I'm smiling ear-to-ear!"

Thanks to families like the Kehoes, we're smiling too!



The Kehoe Family

I was amazed how professional the performance was!

Anastasia Kehoe

Kids aren't the only ones having fun in WHBPAC's summer theatre programs. As a parent of four talented actors, Anastasia finds herself a frequent audience member. "At first, I was so ner-

Welcome to the WHBPAC Family: Introducing Morgan Duke Vaughn

We are proud to welcome our newest "cast member," Morgan Duke Vaughn, to WHBPAC. Morgan joined the team in November of 2013 as the organization's new Arts Education Associate. She comes to us from The Round Table Theatre Company in East Hampton, where she served as Producing Artistic Director. She also coordinated the Teeny Awards – the East End's take on the Tony Awards for excellence in High School Theatre. At the Teenies, Morgan first met WHBPAC's Arts Education staff, Joanna Ferraro-Levy and Julienne Penza. There was an instant simpatico. "I immediately felt Joanna and Julienne were on the same page as I was when it came to the importance of the arts, professionalism, and theatricality. When a job opened up at the Center, I jumped at the chance to work with such passionate, like-minded educators."

Morgan has spent her life in the arts, having held every job in theatre from acting, to directing, to costuming, to stage managing, to lighting. She has worked as an actress in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago - most recently touring the country as Patsy Cline in *Always, Patsy Cline* before returning to her East End community to start a family and impart her vast experience to children. "You can literally change a child's world through the arts," said



Morgan Duke Vaughn

Morgan. "Art is about so much more than just being on stage... it's about learning valuable life skills through theatre participation."

Contributing to the growth of our School Day Performances Program is something Morgan is especially looking forward to. She and her husband recently adopted a foster child and her perspective as a parent further inspires her work ethic. "I want to make sure arts education is an important part of children's lives outside of the public school setting...to help make sure they get all the opportunities and exposure they need to the performing arts."

We are so happy to have Morgan as a part of our team. The passion and diversity of experience she brings will help us continue to write new chapters in arts education for our community. It turns out Morgan's arrival is a reunion of sorts. In the 1970s, our very own Joanna Ferraro-Levy starred in a play written by Morgan's mother, Karen Sturges - *The Fools of Gotham*. Her co-star in that production? None other than 4-year-old Morgan Vaughn! Perhaps it is destiny that they are now colleagues. We look forward to the amazing results!



WHBPAC volunteers honor former Executive Director Clare Bisceglia with a stone on the Walk of Fame

New Gallery Exhibit Lenny Kislin

Assemblage Artist Lenny Kislin has been selling unusual antiques since 1973. In 1991, he began to physically join objects he's saved through the years into conceptual and narrative art pieces. Lenny's art exhibit will be on display in our Gallery Lounge throughout the 2014 Summer Season.



12th Annual Golf Tournament & Cocktail Party

**Save
the
Date!**

Breakfast
@ 9AM
Shotgun Start
@ 11 AM
Cocktail Reception
and Live Auction
@ 4 PM

**Monday
June 16, 2014**

**Westhampton
Country Club**

**Honoree:
Michael Thorne
General Manager
Westhampton Country Club**

Thanks to Our Confirmed Sponsors To-Date:

BGC Partners	Sylvia & Stan Epstein
Peggy & Stan Zinberg	SeaLevel Construction
Hallen Construction	Beach Electric
Geri & Lou Scotto	BMW/Porsche/Audi/ Mini of Southampton

Additional sponsorships available!

Contact Roberta Shoten
RobertaS@whbpac.org
or **631.288.2350, ext. 117**

*Future editions of Center Stage will be sent directly to your e-mail account so please make sure to submit your most current email address in the "Join Our Email List" box on our website: www.whbpac.org.

Summer Arts Education Programs



Teen Theatre Troupe
Ages 12-18
June 23-August 11, 5-8pm
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday



**The Pied Piper
Musical Theatre Camp**
Ages 6-16
July 7-July 11, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, July 11, 7pm



**The Secret Garden
Musical Theatre Camp**
Ages 6-16
July 14-July 18, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, July 18, 7pm



**Robin Hood
Musical Theatre Camp**
Ages 6-16
July 21-July 25, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, July 25, 7pm



A Cappella Intensive
Ages 12-18
July 28-August 1, 10am-2pm
Performance: Friday, August 1, Time TBD



Tween Theatre Troupe
Ages 9-11
July 28-August 1, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, August 1, Time TBD



**Aladdin
Musical Theatre Camp**
Ages 6-16
August 4-August 8, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, August 8, 7pm



**King Arthur's Quest
Musical Theatre Camp**
Ages 6-16
August 11-August 15, 10am-4pm
Performance: Friday, August 15, 7pm



**Beauty and the Beast
Ballet Camp**
Ages 5-17
August 18-August 22
Times vary according to grouping
Performance: Friday, August 22, 7pm

Register at whbpac.org (click on Arts Education) or call 631-288-2350

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