



YOUNG AUDIENCES of ROCHESTER GRANT

Long Ago and Far Away

Last October the ER Alumni Foundation received a grant request from the Elementary School's Cultural Arts Committee. Realizing the theater group they were interested in hosting was an award-winning national touring company, the team felt it best to apply for funding way ahead of time. The request was granted, and in May the Tanglewood Marionettes came to our school for two performances.

The play the troupe presented was a Chinese folktale called 'The Dragon King.' More than 20 marionettes were used, along with artistic styles of the Chinese culture. The children, rarely having a chance to view this type of puppetry, were entranced. The background scenery, a giant scroll painting, was about 60 feet long. The detail in costumes and scenery helped the children learn about another culture. The story's themes – the value of each of us and the need to persevere to achieve goals – were perfect lessons for the elementary audience.

Students and teachers alike highly praised the theater company. As third-grade teacher Ina Vento said, "Both students and staff were highly impressed by the work of the puppeteers, the story they shared, and the magic that happened before their eyes. We in the audience felt we were part of the story, from the movements of the marionettes and the beautiful scenery. As a third-grade teacher, what was even more exciting was watching students of all ages give a standing ovation at the end of the performance. In all my years as an ER student and then as a teacher, I don't remember students ever giving anyone a standing ovation."

The Alumni Foundation was proud to be able to provide funding for this unique program brought to the area under the auspices of Young Audiences of Rochester. Such arts-in-learning programs provide incomparable lessons of creativity for our students. We are very lucky to have an organization like Young Audiences of Rochester helping bring hundreds of artists to our area since 1962.

– Anita M. Mance

Photos from the 2012 Baccalaureate, at which numerous alumni participated in the traditional candle-lighting portion, are at www.tinyurl.com/br3vuyq. The ceremony was held the evening of Tuesday, June 19.

Alumni Spotlight: Mary Steigerwald Whittier, ERHS '83

As part of our ongoing effort to shine a light on East Rochester alumni who have done wonderful things in their adulthood, the ER Alumni Foundation is pleased to showcase **Mary Steigerwald Whittier**. A member of the class of 1983, Mary is the founder and executive director of the Bivona Child Advocacy Center in Rochester. Bivona's mission is to coordinate and provide services and support to meet the needs of child victims of physical or sexual abuse and their families at a single safe, child-friendly facility – a mission Mary holds very close to her heart.

Mary decided long ago she wanted to pursue a career in counseling, while helping children and families. After considering becoming a special-education teacher, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in social work. Prior to founding Bivona, Mary held positions at Hillside Children's Center, the Center for Youth Services, Child Protective Services, and Golisano Children's Hospital.

Mary serves on many committees in and around the Rochester area. She was named Social Worker of the Year for Program Innovation in 2000, and was the recipient of the Human Services Worker of the Year Award for the private sector in 2006. She is the only female recipient of the Carl S. Hallauer award (which she won in 2008), and was nominated for the ATHENA Award in 2011.

Mary's mother, Midge Ferri Steigerwald (class of 1957), and her brothers Tom ('81) and Tim ('86) are also ERHS alumni. Mary is proud of her ER roots, and we are proud of her and all the amazing things she and her organization have done for countless children in the Rochester community.



FROM THE ER ALUMNI FOUNDATION

THE ROAD TO BEING BETTER

Ever since the Alumni Foundation was founded, in 2005, we've been busy raising money and managing education-related grants in an effort to expand the learning and personal-growth opportunities available to ER students. Education-related grants are our primary concern and occupy most of our attention. The remainder of our attention and resources is balanced between fundraising, the provision of services to ER alumni, community-service projects, and the maintenance of our Website (www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm). Foundation activities that aren't grant-related are guided, and limited, by the remaining elements of our charter. These activities are required to be in pursuit of projects which "unite the school district, the community, and the students of today," "bring alumni together," and/or "help build a stronger school system, a stronger community, and a stronger future for all ER students."

As we move into our seventh year, the Alumni Foundation board members are anxious to identify ways we can better fulfill the non-grant related elements of our charter. While we think we're making a good-faith effort to determine what might be helpful, we'd very much like to hear your ideas about ways we can better meet the needs of our school, alumni, and village. Your suggestions needn't address major problems, nor be wildly creative or elegant! If you see a need we might be able to address or a way in which we can do things better or more efficiently, please share your ideas with us. We'll entertain any suggestion that comes our way and promise to respond to every one received, whether we're able to implement your idea or not.

Please share your thoughts with Carl Tobin via e-mail at ctobin@frontiernet.net or by regular mail addressed to 3331 County Road 20, Stanley, NY 14561. If you choose the e-mail option, please put "ERAF Suggestion" in your subject line.

We look forward to hearing from you!

ERAF CORDIALLY INVITES '12 GRADUATES TO BECOME ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

Each member of the class of 2012 received a special gift from the East Rochester Alumni Foundation: an ER mug, along with an invitation to join the ERAF as its newest members. The graduates were introduced to the organization at their graduation rehearsal, and encouraged to join. Carl Tobin, who spoke about the foundation, gave examples of ER alumni who have gone on to do great things while always remembering and supporting their hometown.

The mugs (\$5), as well as ER umbrellas (\$20) and stickers (\$1), are available for sale. Please contact Katie Connors DeVito at katie_devito@er.monroe.edu if you would like to place an order.



ERAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members: Denise Ash, John Baynes, Jim Burlingame, Jerry Cilento, Mary Hopkins Cooney, Katie Connors DeVito, Mary Burton Estey, Linda Forbes, Dr. Ray Giamartino, Jr. (ex-officio), John Griffith, Marilyn Tuttle Lopez, Anita Mance, David Morabito, Sam Morabito, Peter Obourn, Patty Pullano, Tom Quinzi, Carl Tobin, and Helen Tortorici

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