



TAPA Summer Camp Enriched All Of Us

By: Elizabeth Meyers

TWO SESSIONS of the TAPA summer camp were held this year. Through the gracious donation of his Theresa Foundation Award, New York State Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, known for his dedication to the special needs community, donated his gift to provide scholarships for Long Beach Public School students, to attend TAPA, thus enabling those students to attend who otherwise would have been unable.



This year, part of the “Virginia Delegation” of Theresa’s extended family (Aunt Beth, Uncle Art, and cousin Rebecca), participated as camp volunteers for the 2nd camp session. Going into this experience, the three of us had absolutely no idea what to expect or what we were to do – we were just three able and willing volunteers. Both Arthur and I work with a Geriatric population – talk about the “other end of the spectrum,” and Rebecca had the usual 16 year old baby sitting experiences – but when it came to working with children with “special needs” we were as they say, totally clueless. We had questions: Just what did “special needs” mean? How were we supposed to work with these kids with “special needs?” We were full of lots of questions and a lot of “what if’s” were discussed. However, the three of us were in agreement that in our opinion, everyone on earth has special needs of one kind or another so we figured that with a little experience and coaching from the other volunteers and teachers who knew what they were doing that we’d learn on the job.

Scouts Help Beautify the Theresa Building



Eagle Scout, William Misitano (second from left) made the Theresa Foundation his final project. William designed and built planters and benches for the Theresa Building in Lido Beach, New York, and designed and constructed a huge flower garden for the north side of the building. TAPA summer campers were able to enjoy the flowers and benches during camp this past summer. A BIG thanks goes out to William and his crew of fellow scouts for beautifying the Theresa Building and grounds!

As volunteers, we were matched with a child whom we mirrored in attending daily activities including, music, dance, art, drama, and yoga. For one week, we got to step into a completely different world from where we usually live. We were led by gifted teachers who sparked our imaginations! Their love of the Arts and of others was evident as they worked patiently and joyfully with all of us. Teachers, volunteers and campers alike all shared love, patience, compassion, selflessness and an unconditional acceptance and appreciation of one another's abilities as we spent quality time enjoying the Arts every day. At TAPA, there was no room or time for pity or sadness – instead we encountered lots of courage, positive spirits and inner strength mostly from the campers. Every day, we the volunteers, came away with the realization that God uses people with “special needs” to teach us all what life is really all about – Loving and helping one another through life on a daily basis. We marveled at the remarkable parents of these “special needs children” for they too had something very important to teach each of us – that there is value in each one of us – we're all endowed with special gifts that make us who we are and that every one of us is truly a special human being - we all have special needs!



The special session of African Drumming and dance with Guest Artist, Sidiki Conde and his talented assistant Ibraheima was an exhilarating and educational experience in music, dance and African Culture. A special presentation featuring African drumming and dance performed by campers, staff, volunteers and even some of the family members who came to watch was held for parents at the end of each week! The campers were beaming with pride as they all moved and drummed to the beautiful African rhythms! Smiles and laughter were everywhere and echoed throughout the building!



This summers' TAPA Camp Sessions were a great success and source of satisfaction for all who participated! My family agreed that we got

A BIG TAPA

Thanks To All Who Helped Make Our Academy Thrive In Our First Year

- **Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg** for providing camp scholarships for seven campers
- **Rebecca Kooper** for donating a keyboard for music classes
- **Dean Faragasso** for donating a karaoke machine to use in sharing time at camp
- **Centre Mill Hardware of Long Beach** for the donation of materials for our drumming class
- **Audrey Dreyfus and Family** for donating books and DVDs
- **Hedy and Eric Page & Family** for the donation of books and puzzles
- **Amy & Michael Fletcher** for donating a Faculty, Staff and Volunteers luncheon during camp
- **Michael Karchevsky** for his donation of painting TAPA studios after our renovation

Swingin' fore Theresa Golf Outing

far more from our experience than we gave. We gave our all and were rewarded with the realization that we too felt the love and acceptance from our "special needs" friends. They boldly showed us that we are all people who are just put together in different ways. Each of us, "children" of all ages and abilities, experienced first hand the magic, creativity and self expression that are the Arts. Indeed, TAPA brought out the best in all of us and it was one of those experiences that you just know you'll never forget! Will we do it again? Absolutely! Come and join us! I promise it will be one of the best gifts you've ever given to yourself or another person. "Theresa's" children and their families were cared for and enriched by this experience! Her spirit was present in every encounter – one the Meyers family will never forget!



Friends teed up for a great day of fun and support helping to make this year's Swingin' fore Theresa Golf Outing on June 24th at the North Hills Country Club a complete success!

Avid golfers and novices' alike brought their "A-game" to the fundraiser and had a great time while supporting a great foundation.

Make sure you Save the Date for the 2011 Swingin' fore Theresa Golf Outing: June 30, 2011

The Theresa Foundation was established in 1992, in memory of Theresa Alessandra Russo, and grants funds for arts, music, dance and recreational programs to assist children with special needs to achieve the highest possible level of educational, artistic, emotional, physical and intellectual achievement possible. In September 2009 the Theresa Foundation celebrated the Opening of Theresa Academy for Performing Arts (TAPA). TAPA embraces all of the performing arts. Students are able to take classes in a safe, non-judgmental environment, and create and explore the arts at their own pace to the best of their abilities.

For more information, visit:
www.TheresaFoundation.org

Susan Russo Honored by The C.A.R.E. Center

In 1991, Susan Russo, together with a group of family and friends established the Theresa Foundation in honor of her daughter, Theresa



Alessandra. Theresa loved movement and sound, and the Foundation took as its mission to support music, dance, art and recreation programs locally and across the country. Susan has been the President of the Foundation since its inception.

Susan Russo's vision of the Theresa Academy of Performing Arts (TAPA) became a reality in the fall of 2009. Today, children with special needs have the opportunity to take dance, music, art and drama classes, and parents can enjoy a respite program on Saturday mornings, at the Theresa Building in Lido Beach, New York. Join us, along with The C.A.R.E. Center, South Shore Child Guidance Center in honoring her dedication.

The C.A.R.E. Center South Shore Child Guidance Center

25 Years of "C.A.R.E."ing

Honoring

Susan Russo

Theresa Foundation

*Please join us for a wonderful evening of
Fine Food, Fun, Karaoke, Vegas Style Games*

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Jericho Terrace

249 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY

6:30PM-10:30PM

\$95.00 per person

Cocktail Hour • Buffet • Open Bar

To purchase Tickets, a Journal Advertisement or to obtain an Auction-Raffle Donation Form, go to

www.southshorechildguidance.org/calendar/index.html

Save the Date! *Mark Those Calendars*



The 17th Annual
**Theresa Awards
Dinner**
will be held on
May 6, 2011

**Swingin' fore
Theresa
Golf Outing
June 30, 2011**

Theresa Foundation Comedy Club Fundraiser!



Laughter is food for the soul and on July 18, 2010 a packed club of Theresa supporters got their fill thanks to the hilarity of several gifted comics who preformed exclusively at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown to help raise money for the Foundation. Our comedy night was a roaring success – 108 attendees and a total of \$2,795 was raised from ticket and raffle sales and donations!

Once again we want to thank all of our friends, families and supports including Governor's Comedy Club for all of their support and accommodations.

FALL SESSION



for Children with Special Needs

Providing Children with Differing Abilities and Their Siblings with Quality Extracurricular Classes in the Performing Arts



**Register
Today!**

(ROLLING
ENROLLMENT)

THERESA'S Fun Day!

On October 2nd the lanes at Farmingdale Lanes were on fire for Theresa's Fun Day with more bowlers than ever! It was an afternoon filled with family fun, prizes and of course, strikes!! We would like to give a huge thank you to John LaSpina and his family and Jim Santora at Farmingdale Lanes who went out of his way to make sure our afternoon was a hit. We would like to give an extra special thank you to Judy Murdaugh Jackson, Theresa Foundation Board Member, for co-chairing this awesome event. Also, to all of our supporters who baked goods, donated raffles, sponsored lanes, and came out to bowl.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT ANY TIME

CLASS OFFERINGS:

- ◆ Dance ◆ Drama
- ◆ Art ◆ Tap ◆ Ballet ◆ Music
- ◆ Jazz ◆ Hip-Hop ◆ Creative
- ◆ Baby, Crawler and Toddler Classes
- ◆ Modern Educational Dance
- ◆ Pre-School Dance

For more information or to request a registration form please contact:
Susan Russo at

516-432-0200 or visit
www.TheresaFoundation.org

250 Lido Blvd., Lido Beach, NY 11561 516.432.0200

