

# Inspire. Imagine. Innovate.

ECA SPOTLIGHT Volume 4

December 2025



**aces ECA**  
Educational Center for the Arts

## December at ECA: Where Creativity Lights the Way”

Stefanie Savo, Principal  
Amy Christman, Assistant Principal  
Julie Massaro, School Counselor  
Marsha Guglielmino, School Nurse  
Seth Harris, Technical Director  
Ashley Hernandez, Secretary  
Nazorine Paglia, Dance Interim  
Ingrid Schaeffer, Theatre  
Saul Fussiner, Creative Writing  
Johanna Bresnick, Visual Arts  
Amy Christman, Music

November seemed to fly by, and what a month it was!

Our five departments, once again, showed the heart, talent, and dedication that make ECA such a special place. From performances and gallery moments to rehearsals, critiques, and collaborative projects, our students filled the month with creativity, curiosity, and connection.

We also hosted an amazing Open House for prospective students and families, and the turnout was truly incredible. The energy in the building, the pride in our students, and the way each department came together to welcome future artists made it a night to remember.

Throughout November, students continued to push themselves artistically, support one another, and grow as thinkers, seekers, and creators. Their artistry and energy remind us daily of why ECA is such a vibrant and inspiring community.

Now, as we step into December, we look forward to a month filled with performances, showcases, recitals, and the beautiful momentum that carries us into the winter season. There is so much to celebrate and even more to anticipate.

Wishing you warmth, gratitude, and all the cozy December vibes,  
Stefanie

**HAPPY**  
**HOLIDAYS**



## December Highlights

**Tuesday- December 4, Theatre: As You Like It 6:30PM**

**Monday & Tuesday- December 8 & 9 Theatre: Acting I Sharing 6:30PM**

**Tuesday- December 9  
PACE Meeting - 6PM (Zoom)**

**Wednesday & Thursday- December 10 & 11  
Dance: Rough Edges 6:30PM**

**Thursday- December 18 Theatre: Acting II Sharing**

**Sunday, December 21 “A Child’s Christmas In Wales”  
5pm Little Theatre**

**ECA Winter Break: No School: December 22-Jan 2**

**Classes resume Monday January 5**



## **ATTENDANCE & DISMISSAL REMINDERS**

A few quick housekeeping notes as we move into November!

If your student will be absent, arriving late, or leaving early, please call or email the ECA Main Office as early as possible that day. This helps us track attendance accurately and communicate with teachers quickly.

We kindly ask that any dismissal changes or early pick-up requests be made no later than 3:15 PM. our staff, classes, and students are often spread across multiple locations at that time, and therefore we need adequate notice to locate students and minimize classroom interruptions.

When home districts have days off and transportation is not provided, students are still welcome and encouraged to attend ECA. If transportation challenges prevent attendance, the absence will be excused for that day.

Thank you for helping us keep our afternoons safe, and organized for our staff and students!

Your ECA Office Team



# Creative Writing News



In the Creative Writing department, students are starting to select what their best work has been, with an eye toward the Scholastic Writing Awards submissions and to be considered for the Winter Readings at the end of this quarter.

Grayson Andrews  
An Ode To Dr. Manhattan

Have you ever looked at a baby and thought 'that kid remembers nine-eleven?'  
Ever loved someone so much you sang to them and they cried?  
You ever stick rusty nails right side up,  
lay them across basement stairs in hopes your brother will slip,  
stab his foot & tumble to the ground  
so you won't have to go to swim practice?  
Do you ever walk past peers and think of all the ways you don't  
talk to them anymore? Think of the tall nights spent playing Uno or,  
cafe convos that almost always ended in  
badminton matches where  
nobody really won,  
It's over. Over like memories-never-worn over. They say  
those who know death recognise the tumor  
but your justice can freeze beer,  
plastic beer you keep in the fridge and fetch  
your children for. A precious poke to the ribs  
And you pop like a pimple, puss your way  
to the floor and let it weave between your feet  
like mud seeps in the dirt, let it dry.  
Let it anneal in your spit, but never swallow.  
Let it swim on your tongue and taste its tang.  
Let it twirl down your throat and feel its weight linger because  
you are more plastic than water.  
You are more callus than flesh.  
You are the difference between cattle and man  
and I hope I choke on that mass.



# Music News

The music department kicked off concert season with a fabulous evening of solo and small ensemble music in our Fall for Music Recital. Congratulations to our vocal soloists Kiera, Ocean, Genesis, Amelia, June, Nora, Soleil, Scarlett, Matiya, & Sonjae, as well as Brooke (marimba) and Milo (trombone). Small ensembles included our Piano Quintet, a Guitar duet, Wind Studio class, Saxophone Studio Class, and three jazz/rock ensembles. Featured musicians included Noah, Cody, Logan, Sonjae, Jake, Theo, Claudia, Shai, Dontae, Drew, Akshay, & Linus. Students shared their artistry in compelling and creative performances, which ranged from Mozart to Hendrix, and included Musical Theatre, Jazz, and Art songs.

Congratulations to our Piano Quintet which was featured at the ECA Open House on November 18. This small ensemble, featuring Bernadette Sheehan, Matiya Kouassi, Eden Levy-Roginsky, Jason Thomas, Naruna Vora Camp, and James Hunter, performed Dvorak's intense and dramatic Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major. Many thanks to members of our Jazz Quartet (Claudia Persinger, Linus Tsang, Ben Sachar, & Dontae James) who also performed at the event, and to the many Tri-M Honor Society members who volunteered and shared their perspectives with prospective students.

Many congratulations to students who earned a spot in CMEA Southern Region Festival ensembles. We are so proud of you, and all who auditioned, for taking on the extra effort to prepare and put yourself out there.

- Jazz Ensemble: Dontae James (Alto Sax), Noah Terranova (Guitar), Theo North & Linus Tsang (Piano), and Ben Sachara (Drum Set)
- Orchestra: Matiya Kouassi (Violin), Audrey Holt (Viola), Claudia Persinger (Double Bass)
- Band: Akshay Dalal (Tuba), Ciaran Borné-Brennan (Alto Sax)
- Choir: Sonjae Kim, June Lanpher, Ocean Luft-Kean, Nora McDonough, Keira Meehan, Rheia Joy Sergentakis, Jane Sprengelmeyer, Amelia Tamborra-Walton, Scarlett Wyrzten, Matiya Kouassi, Zazie Gazzola, Rachel Milimoh, Genesis Torrealba, & Night Michaelson

We look ahead to sharing more performances in December, including daytime recitals on Wednesday, December 17 (2pm) and Monday, December 22.

Amy Lachance Christman  
Music Department Chair



# Theatre News

ECA Theatre Department Presents: WINTERFEST!

Our Theatre Department is thrilled to present WINTERFEST 2025, a magical series of performances that highlight the talent, dedication, and creativity of our incredible theatre students and faculty. From Shakespeare to improv, from intimate class moments to fully staged scene work, each performance offers a unique window into the artistry happening every day at ECA.

Join us at The Loffredo Stage (formerly The Little Theatre, 1 Lincoln Street) for an inspiring lineup of student work, including As You Like It, Moments From Class, Contemporary Scene Study, and Night at the Improv.

We hope you'll come celebrate the season with us and support our young artists!

THE ECA THEATRE DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS...

## WINTERFEST

All performances will take place on the Loffredo Stage at the Little Theatre, 1 Lincoln Street, New Haven.

Performance Title	Director	Date & Time	Price
William Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT	Directed by Benjamin Curns Choreography by Pamela Newell	Thursday, December 4th - 6:30 PM	\$15.00
MOMENTS FROM CLASS	Led by Ingrid Schaeffer & Liz Daingerfield	Monday, December 8th - 6:30 PM	\$10.00 Suggested Donation
CONTEMPORARY SCENE STUDY	Directed by Erin Gorski & Ruben Ortiz	Thursday, December 18th - 6:30 PM	\$10.00
Peter Loffredo's NIGHT AT THE IMPROV	Directed by Brett Epstein	Tuesday, January 20th - 6:30 PM	\$10.00

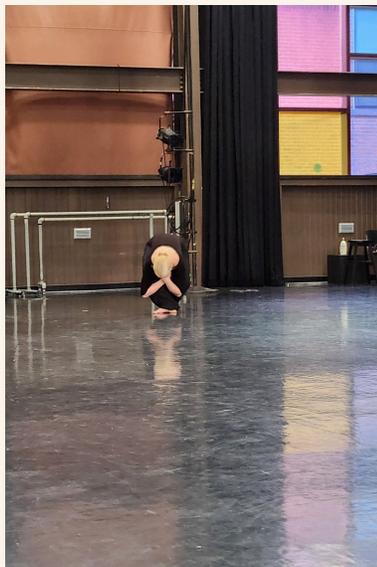
SCAN FOR TICKETS:

aces Educational Center for the Arts



# Dance News

The Dance Department is currently finishing its Rough Edges choreography, which will be presented next week on December 10th and 11th at 7 p.m. The photos of Christine Wirtz were taken during her senior solo rehearsal. We look forward to sharing all the work developed during the first semester.



# Visual Arts News

We are thrilled to announce that ECA Visual Arts students will be featured in *Soft Systems*, a stunning exhibition hosted at City Gallery in New Haven. This show highlights innovative textile-based and tactile work created by our talented artists, exploring texture, form, and the beauty of handcrafted design.

The exhibition runs December 5, 2025 – January 2, 2026, with a Public Reception on December 7 from 1:00–3:00 PM. We invite families, friends, and our entire ECA community to come celebrate the incredible creativity of our Visual Arts department and support our student artists in this professional gallery setting.



**SOFT SYSTEMS**

**ECA AT  
CITY GALLERY**

**DECEMBER 5, 2025  
JANUARY 2, 2026**

**PUBLIC RECEPTION  
DEC. 7, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

**994 STATE STREET, NEW  
HAVEN, CT 06511**

BY NATALIA ALVARADO

# Tech News

Over the previous month, the ECA production team provided design and production services for the Yaledancers, Yale's oldest dance company. [Image 1] Construction and painting work was completed for scenic elements for the Theatre Department production of As You Like It [Image 2], and the tech rehearsal process is underway [Image 3] in preparation for the December 4<sup>th</sup> opening night.





PACE (Parents for Arts Centered Education) is gearing up for The Great Give, our biggest fundraiser of the year – and we could really use your help! Whether you can spare an hour, join a small planning task, or offer support on the day of the event, every bit makes a meaningful difference for our students. The funds we raise directly support field trips, senior celebrations, classroom needs, performances, yearbook expenses, prom, and so much more.

There are also plenty of ways to get involved throughout the year – from teacher appreciation efforts to helping at performances to joining our fun, welcoming board. No pressure, no judgment – just a community of parents coming together to lift-up our young artists. If you're interested in joining us, please reach out anytime: Ppace.eca@gmail.com.

Ali & Amy, PACE Co-Presidents

 [PACE Website](#)

 [PACE on Facebook](#)

 **Upcoming Tuesday Meeting Dates and zoom link : [Click Here To Join!](#)**

- **December 9, 2025**
- **January 13, 2026**
- **February 10, 2026**
- **March 10, 2026**
- **April 14, 2026**
- **May 12, 2026**
- **June 9, 2026**

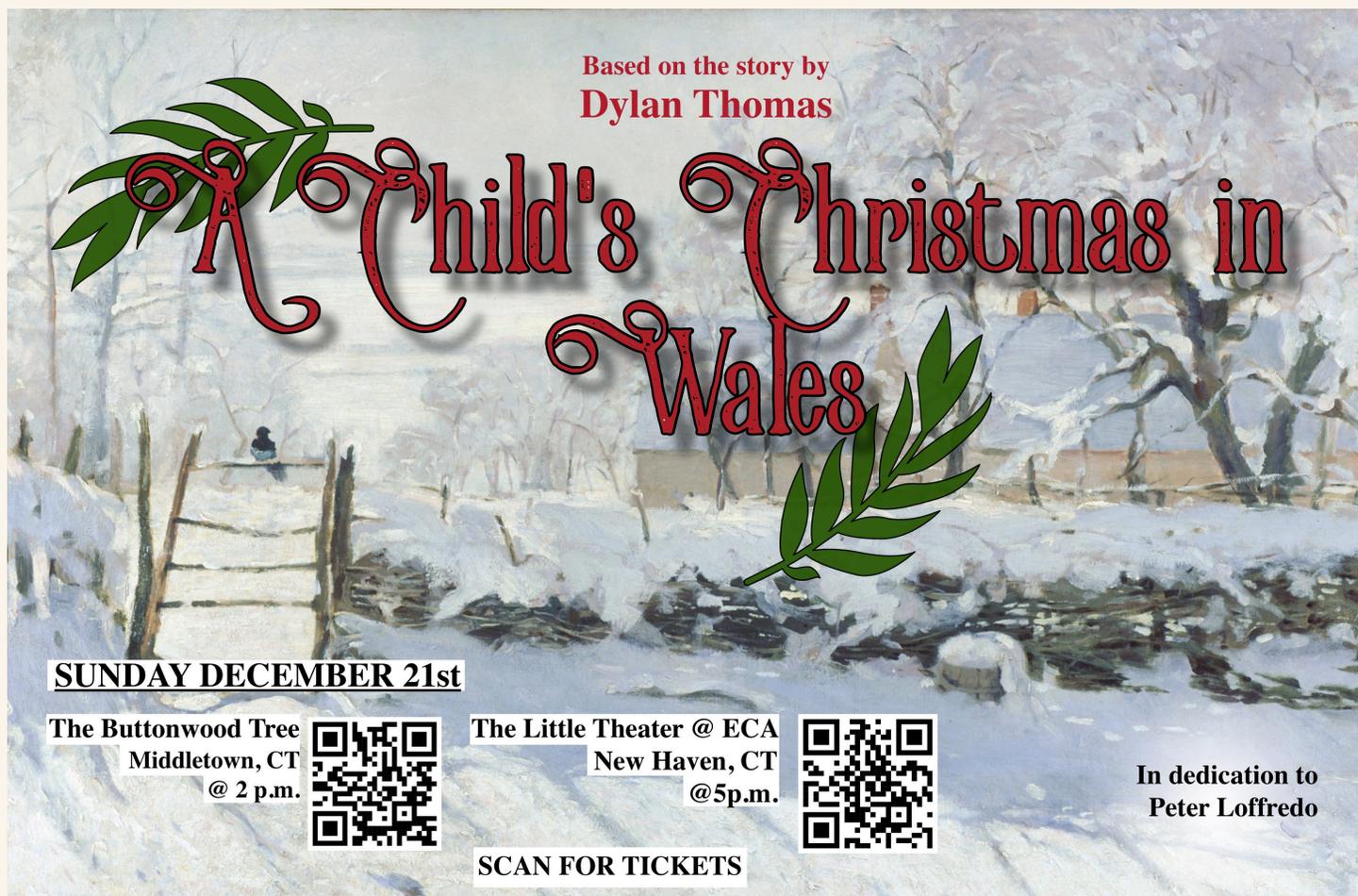
Please join us online on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 PM for our next parent Zoom meeting!

A Child's Christmas in Wales, Dylan Thomas's holiday reminiscence, returns this winter to Connecticut.

In the memory of beloved actor and educator, Peter Loffredo, A Child's Christmas in Wales is presented by a cast of former students and colleagues. Drawing on Peter's inspiration of over 20 years of performing this Christmas classic, the ensemble cast shares the stories of winter's past and a life remembered.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. Tickets can be reserved here: [A Child's Christmas in Wales](#).

December 21, 2025 5pm



Based on the story by  
**Dylan Thomas**

# A Child's Christmas in Wales

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st**

**The Buttonwood Tree**  
Middletown, CT  
@ 2 p.m.



**The Little Theater @ ECA**  
New Haven, CT  
@ 5p.m.



In dedication to  
Peter Loffredo

**SCAN FOR TICKETS**



This fall, our students participated in the ACES School Climate Survey (October 20–31, 2025). Overall, students reported a positive experience at ECA, with an average score of 3.5 out of 4 across all areas. At-a-Glance Results (1 = Strongly Disagree, 4 = Strongly Agree)  
Area Average Score

Survey Category	Average Score
School Connectedness	3.23
Peer Social Support	3.55
Adult Social Support	3.54
Cultural Acceptance	3.49
Social/Civic Learning	3.76
Physical Environment	3.33
School Safety*	3.73
Order & Discipline	3.36
<b>OVERALL AVERAGE</b>	<b>3.50</b>

\*Higher scores indicate stronger feelings of safety.

Key strengths students highlighted include:

- Positive relationships with peers
- Feeling respected by teachers and adults
- Strong values around fairness, helping others, and being open to different perspectives

We also see opportunities to grow in:

- Helping all students feel even more connected and excited to come to school
- Continuing to improve shared spaces and recognition for positive behavior and achievement

We will be using this feedback with staff and students to guide our next steps in strengthening community, connection, and support at ECA.



Thank you to all who participated in our Fall 2025 Family Climate Survey. Your feedback is essential in helping us understand what is working well and where we can continue to grow. We are grateful for your partnership and commitment to our school community.

This year, families reported a positive overall experience at ECA, with an average rating of 3.43 out of 4 across all survey areas.

Survey Category	Average Score
Teaching & Learning	3.57
School Safety	3.52
Interpersonal Relationships	3.44
Institutional Environment	3.53
Parental Involvement	3.00
OVERALL AVERAGE	3.43

### Key Strengths Identified by Families

- High-Quality Teaching & Learning (3.57): Families feel our teachers hold high expectations, work hard to support student success, and promote academic achievement for all learners.
- Strong Sense of Safety (3.52): Families shared that students feel safe at school and on their way to and from school, and that school rules are generally fair.
- Positive Interpersonal Relationships (3.44): Families report that students feel successful, are welcomed, and that teachers treat students with respect.
- Well-Maintained School Environment (3.53): The building, classrooms, and instructional materials are seen as clean, organized, and in good condition.

### Areas for Continued Growth

- Parental Involvement (3.0): Families expressed a desire for more opportunities to engage, volunteer, and participate in school activities. This feedback is incredibly helpful, and we will be exploring additional ways to invite and involve families throughout the year.

We truly value your voice and appreciate the time you take to provide feedback. Your perceptions help guide our decisions as we continue building a warm, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment for all ECA students.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall 2025 School Personnel Climate Survey. Your feedback gives us valuable insight into how we can continue strengthening our work environment, collaboration, and schoolwide systems.

This year's results show overall positive staff perceptions, with an average rating of 3.50 out of 4.

Survey Category	Average Score
Staff Connectedness	3.56
Structure for Learning	3.73
School Safety	3.67
Physical Environment	2.99
Peer/Adult Relations	3.68
Parental Involvement	3.03
<b>OVERALL AVERAGE</b>	<b>3.50</b>

#### Key Strengths Identified by Staff

- Strong Staff Connectedness (3.56): Staff report feeling supported by colleagues, fitting in well with peers, and enjoying team collaboration.
- High Quality of Teaching & Learning (3.73): Staff feel we have high standards, promote success for all students, treat students fairly, and work hard to support growth.
- Positive Peer/Adult Relations (3.68): Staff note strong student relationships, fairness across student groups, and positive interactions among students.
- School Safety (3.67): Staff feel safe at school, safe entering and leaving the building, and confident that reported concerns will be addressed.

#### Areas for Continued Growth

- Physical Environment (2.99): The building, cleanliness, and instructional materials scored lowest, signaling this is an area we must prioritize and improve.
- Parental Involvement (3.03): Staff report lower levels of parent engagement and volunteer participation—aligning with our student/family survey results.
- Teacher Connectedness (3.33 within the Connectedness scale): Some staff would like stronger cross-department connection and collaboration.

We will use this feedback to guide our next steps in strengthening staff support, communication, and continued improvement of our physical environment.



# Brown Girls Bloom Empowerment Program



## What is Brown Girls Bloom?

Brown Girl Bloom is a 12-week empowering mentoring, mental health, and wellness program for Black and Brown girls in Connecticut. It is designed to nurture identity development, emotional healing, and personal empowerment motivating each girl to discover her strength, embrace her voice, and blossom into her fullest potential.

## Girls are grouped by age for developmentally appropriate care:

- Blossoming Roots: Ages 12-14
- Rising Bloom: Ages 15-16
- Full Bloom: Ages 17-18

## Programs include:

- Weekly 60-minute sessions, all held in person.
- Creative expression, identity mapping, and vision

## Who can refer youth?

- Schools
- DCF
- Court/Probation Programs
- Community-Based Organizations

## Contact us

+1(475)302-1557

Shatteringglassceilings94@gmail.com



**Valerie Quarles, PhD, LCSW**  
**Tonya Irby-Langley, MSW, LMSW**



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To learn more and enroll, please contact us:

[www.matchct.org](http://www.matchct.org)

475-33-MATCH

hello@matchct.org

THIS PROJECT IS PART SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY FEDERAL AWARDS NUMBER 152202000010018 AWARDED TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT UNDER THE WORKING CONNECTICUT ACT BY THE U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

# Farnam Food Distribution



## Farnam

162 Fillmore Street, New Haven, CT 06513

Every other Thursday  
9:15am - 10am

**Free packaged food, produce, snacks and more for children and families in our community. Everyone is welcome!**

Farnam, a program of Clifford Beers, is a pre-school and recreational community center with martial arts, basketball, homework help, and more! To learn about our programs, please visit: <https://cliffordbeersccc.org/farnam-neighborhood-house/> or contact Shubhra Gupta at [sgupta@cliffordbeers.org](mailto:sgupta@cliffordbeers.org).

## 2025 Schedule:

January | 2nd, 16th & 30th  
February | 13th & 27th  
March | 13th & 27th  
April | 10th & 24th  
May | 8th & 22nd  
June | 5th & 19th  
July | 3rd, 17th & 31st  
August | 14th & 28th  
September | 11th & 25th  
October | 9th & 23rd  
November | 6th & 20th  
December | 4th & 18th

\*\*\*Dates are subject to change\*\*\*



## Gender Affirming Care: Overview and Recommendations for Providers

This webinar is designed to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide supportive and inclusive care for transgender and non-binary individuals. The training takes a comprehensive approach, emphasizing foundational gender identity and expression terminology, the use of respectful communication practices, and the incorporation of proper pronoun usage and inclusive language.

## Objectives:

- define foundational gender identity and expression terminology while demonstrating respectful, affirming, communication practices with trans and gender diverse clients
- identify common experiences and barriers faced by transgender and nonbinary individuals in healthcare and mental health settings, including stigma, discrimination, and minority stress
- develop action steps and practical strategies for integrating best practices into clinical work

## Your Presenter:



Robin P. McHaelen, MSW is the founder and former Executive Director of True Colors, Inc. The recipient of numerous State and National awards, Robin has co-authored two books, a book chapter, several articles on LGBTQ+ youth and is considered a nationally recognized thought leader. She has provided interactive, universally well-received training to more than 30,000 teachers, administrators, child welfare professionals, health care providers, corporations, and various non-profit organizations over the past 25 years. She is an adjunct professor at Central Connecticut State University, teaching Intergroup Communications, Human Sexuality and Social Work with LGBTQ+ Clients. She is an appointed member of Connecticut's Hate Crimes Commission and is Secretary of the LGBTQ Justice and Opportunity Network.

For additional information, please contact:  
[Amanda.Kriz@carelon.com](mailto:Amanda.Kriz@carelon.com) or [ctbhp@carelon.com](http://ctbhp@carelon.com)



REGISTER  
HERE

Tuesday,  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025  
1 pm - 3 pm  
Virtual, Webex

This event is pending approval for two (2) CT NASW continuing education credits (CECs). Carelon Behavioral Health is an approved trainer for the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB).

# HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP



Clifford Beers  
Community Care Center  
A Clifford Beers Community Health Partner

## DETAILS

- **Wednesdays** 5:30-6:30PM
- **Oct 8<sup>th</sup> - Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**
- **Ages:** 14-18 (grades 9-12)
- **In-Person:** 93 Edwards St

## CO-FACILITATORS

**Jasmine Martier, LMSW**  
jmartier@cliffordbeers.org

**Marina Pappas, MSW Intern**  
mpappas@cliffordbeers.org

## A SAFE SPACE FOR TEENS TO...

- Be yourself without judgment
- Connect with peers who get it

## POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- High school life & academics
- Friendships, dating & family dynamics
- Emotional health: stress, anxiety, depression, anger & more
- Fear of judgment & learning self-acceptance
- Sex & relationships: trust, intimacy, safety, consent, condoms/birth control
- Rewriting personal stories & healing from tough experiences



## TAKE WHAT YOU NEED LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

Little Free Pantries available at all Hamden Libraries

## Little Free Pantries

All three Hamden Library branches are now home to Little Free Pantries! Please feel free to visit and help yourself to anything you need or leave any non-perishable items you are willing to donate.

Spread the word and visit any of our branches to donate to or use a Little Free Pantry.

[hamdenlibrary.org](http://hamdenlibrary.org)

# SIBshop at WHINC WORKSHOP

FREE bilingual workshop (English & Spanish) designed for WH children (ages 5-14) who have siblings with special needs.

Gingerbread house building

Saturday, Dec. 6th | WH Public Library  
10 AM to 12 PM | 300 Elm St., WH

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED



Only 10 spots available. Registration will close when spots are filled. Email [ccolon@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:ccolon@westhaven-ct.gov) to join the waitlist.



## SAFE ALTERNATIVE TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR AGES 4-18

In the absence of a parent/guardian, schools can address student mental health/behavioral crises by sending the youth to the Urgent Crisis Center or by calling Mobile Crisis Intervention Service via 211.

### Mobile Crisis Intervention Services:

We come to you!

- Call 211 (Infoline) and press option 1 and then option 1 again to connect to a 211 staff person. They will connect you with a Wellmore clinician.
- Call the parent/guardian to let them know that you have asked for this assistance.
- A clinician will arrive at your school as soon as possible, but no later than 45 minutes.
- We will do follow up calls or home visits with the family to support the family after we leave.
- We will coordinate with current providers and provide referrals if additional support is needed.

### Urgent Crisis Center for Youth

You come to us!

- We are located at 141 East Main Street in Waterbury (across from Palace & next to UConn Waterbury).
- Our phone number is 203-580-4298.
- Families do not need an appointment—they can just show up when they need immediate access to mental health support.
- A parent/guardian must be present with the youth and participate in the assessment (a parent can give consent verbally if there is a trusted adult present and involved).
- We will coordinate with existing providers during our assessment (when possible) and make clinical and supportive referrals as indicated.

If a child is behaviorally escalated or out of control at school and you need to call 911, it is now possible to have the youth transported to the Urgent Crisis Center instead of the Emergency Room.

# ECA STAFF RECOGNITIONS

## **Benjamin Curns nominated by Ingrid Schaeffer:**



We would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary commitment and artistry of Benjamin Curns. Ben gives every ounce of his being—body, voice, heart, and intellect—to his students, his productions, and to the shared pursuit of theatrical truth. In the classroom, his energy is nothing short of electric. His enthusiasm is contagious, and his students rise to meet his high expectations with deep respect and unshakable trust. He makes every student feel like a star, not by lowering the bar, but by inspiring them to reach ever higher. He sees potential before the student even sees it themselves.

Ben has a remarkable gift for feedback. He'll pull a student aside, quietly, gently, with respect—and offer not just a critique, but a revelation. Each interaction is a moment of discovery, a step deeper into the creative unknown. Being in his class is like stepping into a realm of wonder—an imaginative landscape where the text is alive, the stakes are high, and every moment brims with possibility.

And then, as if channeling the Bard himself, he'll suddenly produce a guitar and begins to sing—his own composition, inspired by the play, the moment, the spirit of the scene. For Ben, music, movement, and metaphor are all tools of transformation.

His deep and abiding love of Shakespeare is evident in everything he touches. The plays are not dusty museum pieces to him—they are living, breathing organisms. As he stages *As You Like It*, the rehearsal room is a space of joy, curiosity, and rigorous play. His direction is bold, imaginative, and grounded in the actor's work. His stage pictures pulse with rhythm and emotion, always in service of story.

He prepares relentlessly. Even though he knows the canon backward and forward, he approaches each production—and each student—with fresh eyes. There is always more to discover, always another layer to uncover. Yet, even as he leads, he lets his students lead. He adapts, he listens, he invites choice.

In the words of Shakespeare, and most fittingly from *As You Like It*:  
"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

Ben Curns ensures that every player who steps onto that stage—classroom or theater—is seen, heard, and empowered to play their part fully.

We are honored to have him as a colleague, and we thank him for the passion, rigor, and joy he brings to our students and to our community.

## **Joseph Getter nominated by Nazorine Paglia:**



We would like to take a moment to recognize and sincerely thank Joseph for his longstanding dedication and outstanding contributions to our department. Joseph has been with us for many years, and throughout that time, he has continually gone above and beyond in service to our students and team.

He is one of the most observant and insightful individuals I've had the pleasure of working with. Always willing to share his knowledge, creativity, and wisdom, Joseph brings not only expertise but also a rare kindness that leaves a lasting impact. A recent example of his generosity was when he personally purchased snacks for our dancers, an act that reflects his constant support and deep care for our students' well-being. Despite being an expert in his field, Joseph remains incredibly flexible and collaborative. He has a remarkable ability to accompany classes in ways that are intuitive and responsive to the needs of the students. His thoughtful approach to producing music is always aligned with our educational goals, and his work enhances the learning environment in meaningful ways.