

Educate. Elevate. Illuminate.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME II

SEMESTER 2: WEEKS 3 & 4

aces

Educational Center for the Arts
203-777-5451

[Kevin Buno](#), Principal
[Amy Christman](#), Assistant Principal
[Julie Massaro](#), School Counselor
[Marsha Guglielmino](#), School Nurse
[Seth Harris](#), Technical Director
[Cynthia Cotto](#), Secretary
[Mariane Banar-Fountain](#), Dance
[Ingrid Schaeffer](#), Theater
[Saul Fussiner](#), Creative Writing
[Johanna Bresnick](#), Visual Arts



Dear ECA Community,

Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to honor and recognize the invaluable contributions of Black individuals throughout history. It is a time to reflect on the achievements, struggles, and triumphs of the Black community, and to deepen our understanding of the profound impact that Black culture has had on the fabric of our society.

During the month of February and beyond, we will be sharing highlights of Black artists who have played a pivotal role in paving the way for and informing our creative thinking. We are eager to showcase the stories and works of these artists through various platforms, such as our social media and daily messages. By highlighting the creativity, innovation, and resilience of these individuals, we aim to deepen our collective understanding of the impact Black artists have had on shaping cultural landscapes and influencing creative thought.

This is an opportunity for us to broaden our perspectives, celebrate diversity, and inspire one another through the lens of artistic expression. We encourage active participation and engagement from all members of our community as we embark on this journey of discovery and appreciation. We hope that this initiates further and deeper conversations beyond the month of February as we work to ensure that all students see their identity through the lens of our curricula and performances.

Sincerely,
Kevin & Amy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Enrollment Form Submission Deadline for 2024-2025 School Year is

Wednesday, February 14th In order for us to secure your students' seat for the next school year, we ask you fill out the enrollment form linked below. Doing so will also determine the number of available seats for newly enrolled students. This form was also published on Parent Square Thursday, January 24th and we share it with you here as a reminder. [Enrollment Form Link](#)

Please submit this form no later than February 14, 2024

Monday, February 19th
PRESIDENT'S DAY No School

ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

On Thursday, February 1st, a committee of volunteers met to discuss the initial planning of **ECA'S 50th Anniversary Celebration** which is scheduled for Saturday, June 1st and will take place on our ECA Campus.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Coordinator of Event
- AD Coordinator
- Food/Beverage Donations
- Decorations
- Ticket Sales
- Photographer/Photo Booth Coord.

Consider volunteering and express your interest by contacting any of the following:

[Amy Graver](#)
[Ali Parmelee](#)
[Kevin Buno](#)

On Tuesday, February 6th

ACES ECA continued their work with [IRIS](#). Students across our five disciplines developed engaging activities for elementary and middle school-aged students in an effort to increase connection through our universal arts language.

A special THANK YOU to Dance Department Chair, Mariane Banar-Fountain for facilitating this work with our students and to our Assistant Principal, Amy Christman, for initiating this partnership with IRIS which will continue through the spring semester.

On Thursday, February 8th

ECA Students & Staff gathered in the Arts Hall for an assembly on **Making Things Happen: A Conversation with Five Innovators**.

This assembly was made possible for our students through the generosity of Linda Lindroth, a local artist and organizer, who received a grant from the City of New Haven Department of Cultural Affairs/Arts Council of Greater New Haven.

The theme of the conversation allowed students an opportunity to ponder the concept of innovation and how it might inform current work and the next chapter of life. Students asked questions and explored ideas with our five presenters during the assembly. The panelists for this assembly were Kieran Coleman, President of Coleman, DFM. Laquita Joyneer-McGraw, Founder, Youth Entrepreneurs & Lecturer at Pompea, College of Business, UNH. Jeanne Criscola, Principal, Criscola Design & Associate Professor of Graphic/Information Design CCSU. Charlie Negaro, Jr., CEO, Atticus, Chabaso & Co-Founder of CT Launchpad.

Craig Newick, Newick Architects.

Thursday, February 8th

ECA students hosted their 2nd Coffee House which featured students across all departments showcasing their talents in a chosen art form. Congratulations to our students who performed and THANK YOU to our families and friends for attending.

Saturday, February 10th

Students of the Theatre Department wrote, directed, and performed five, ten-minute plays for the Staci Swedeen Quick Play Festival. Donations from the event helped to support this spring's upcoming productions. The Quick Play Festival is in honor of past playwriting teacher, Staci Swedeen and was guided by Theatre Instructors, Brett Epstein and Peter Loffredo. BRAVI!

Our Jazz Ensemble and Studio Singers traveled to Philadelphia, PA for the National Jazz Festival where high schools and middle schools from across the nation came together at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to showcase the talents of their jazz musicians, experience a full day of jazz, and attend educational clinics. Constructive verbal feedback was given following the performances. Each ensemble had the opportunity to perform in either a competitive or non-competitive class.

There were no ratings; however at the end of the evening the top 4 ensembles in each division were announced at the Award Ceremony. A full recap sheet of competitive groups will be released at the end of the festival. ***NB this newsletter was printed prior to the event. Additional details on this event, including pictures, will be shared in our next newsletter.**



ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Creative Writing

As the writers settle into the new semester and their new groupings, many of them are trying things for the first time: writing in screenplay format, considering the rhythm of line breaks in their poetry for the first time, or breaking away from nonfictional writing and starting to build a fictional world. In many of our classes, pairings between experienced students and new students are helping to ease this transition while building community and allowing students to hear individual feedback away from the larger group.

Saul Fussiner, Department Chair

Dance

It was an exciting week in the dance department!

On Monday and Wednesday, underclassmen dancers participated in West African dance technique workshops taught by faculty member Seny Camara, accompanied by our dance musicians, Joseph Getter and Michaela Coppola.

Senior dancers presented their choreography project proposals. During their presentations seniors detailed their choreographic journey at ECA and shared ideas for their senior project. It was amazing to hear how articulate, passionate and sophisticated these dancers have become throughout their years at ECA. At the end of the month seniors will lead a workshop 'audition' for dancers and begin to choose casts for rehearsals that will lead to the 2024 Senior Choreography Showcase in early June.

The dance department also conducted a master class at the IRIS's (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) after school program. Seniors Sophia Perrone and Alondra Perez enthusiastically lead students through a number of dance activities. We all had a blast with the energetic and creative students at IRIS.

Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair

Music

The ECA Music Department congratulates our ECA Music students for their hard work and accomplishments these past few weeks.

This includes...



...our fourteen Music Students who auditioned for the CT All State Festival on Saturday, February 3rd at North Haven High School - BRAVI!

...our Music Students who performed on Thursday, February 8th, at the second Coffee House of the school year - BRAVI!

...our Jazz Ensemble and Studio Singers who traveled to Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, February 10th, for the National Jazz Festival. There, each ensemble had the opportunity to perform in either a competitive or non-competitive class.

Coming Up for the Music Department

On Monday, February 26th, the Music Department looks forward to welcoming visiting artist, Olga Kirpicheva (piano), who will perform for the department!

Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs

Theatre

This Saturday, February 10th, students of the Theatre Department will write, direct, and perform five ten-minute plays. Performance of the Staci Swedeen Quick Play Festival will begin at 6:30 PM at the Little Theatre.

Suggested donation is \$10.00 to help support this spring's upcoming productions. The Quick Play Festival is in honor of past playwriting teacher, Staci Swedeen. The evening of work will be guided by Theatre faculty Brett Epstein and Peter Loffredo. Come one and all!

Our second semester classes are underway and going strong. This year's spring productions include Chamber Music by Arthur Kopit, The Labor Project, Dreamscape and Theatre for Social Change alongside our technical theatre class. All performances will take place this spring beginning in April. Please check the ECA calendar for specific dates and times.

MORE on The Staci Swedeen QUICK Play Festival

Staci Anne Swedeen, also known as Staci Anne Swedeen-Skelly, beloved by many, passed away on December 20th, 2019, at her home in Knoxville, TN. Staci was a playwright, an actress, a creative soul, a helper and friend to a thousand persons. She taught for many years here at the Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) in New Haven, Connecticut, where she helped to launch many extra-talented young actors and writers into their own careers. As our colleague at ECA, Staci taught playwriting, fractured fairy tales, helped developed Death Dances the Tarantella, our first murder mystery performance, wrote Drink the Wild Air specifically for our students, initiated our Quick Play Festival, and performed her one woman show, Pardon Me for Living, based on her recovery from a bite from a rabid racoon. Her generosity of spirit touched people's hearts, and inspired their minds to think, and dream, and feel, and wonder. It is impossible to say how much she will be missed by all of those who knew her. We are proud to name the ECA Theatre Department's Staci Swedeen Quick Play Festival in her honor and in the memory of our dear friend and colleague.

Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair

Visual Arts

The third quarter is off to a great start!

Our Visual Arts students are settled into their new classes and look forward to showcasing their new learning in the coming weeks.

Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair

ACES ECA SOCIAL MEDIA

ACES ECA continues to celebrate accomplishments, provide information on upcoming events, and promote educational opportunities through our Facebook Page. We want to remind all who follow our social media that this is a platform used for informational purposes only. If there are any concerns, social media related or otherwise, we encourage you to reach out to Principal Kevin Buno via email (KBuno@aces.org) or phone 203-777-5451 at any time.

Our door is always open!

FINALLY, we encourage you to keep scrolling down to review community resources shared by the office of **ACES Family and Community Engagement**

Thank You

PACE
Parents for Arts-Centered Education

ACES ECA PACE (Parents for Arts-Centered Education) held its third hybrid meeting on Wednesday, December 13th. Our families meet with administrators to continue conversations on their vision for the school and opportunities to support our students in their artistic endeavors. Please consider joining this wonderful organization which provides immense support to the ongoing needs of our school. PACE is in the process of organizing sub-committees to help support the school’s forthcoming endeavors. To indicate your interest in PACE and to join the mailing list, we invite all ECA families to complete [this short form](#). The officers of PACE for the 23-24 school year are:

- *Sara Armstrong, president (parent of ECA visual arts student ‘24 & theatre alumnus ‘21)*
- *Kitty Clemens, vice president (parent of ECA music student ‘25)*
- *Nick Perrone, secretary (parent of ECA dance student ‘24)*
- *Lisa Leamon, treasurer (parent of ECA creative writing student ‘25 & theatre alumna ‘23)*

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- **Wed., Feb 21 at 6:30PM**
- **Wed., Mar 20 at 6:30PM**
- **Wed., April 24 at 6:30PM**
- **Wed., May 15 at 6:30PM**

All meetings will be HYBRID, meeting in person at ECA with online access as well. There will also be an ECA administrator at each meeting to report to the ECA family community about current happenings. PACE relies upon the involvement of our many families to support these and future events. To learn more about the organization and becoming involved, please email PACE at pace.eca@gmail.com



20 Years
of making more possible
SAVE THE DATE
for our 20th
Annual Gala on
March 21, 2024 at
Anthony's Ocean View



Celebrating the 21st year of the ACES Education Foundation

**Please join us at our 20th Annual Gala
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Anthony's Ocean View
280 Lighthouse Road, New Haven**

Thank you in advance for your support of ACES students and clients. To learn more about the Foundation or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Janice Saunders at jsaunders@aces.org.

ACES Education Foundation, P.O. Box 577, Wallingford, CT 06492
<https://www.aces.org/our-agency/education-foundation>

EAT 
WINGS
RAISE
FUNDS

Join Dr. Lashondra da Cruz to
raise money for Holistic
Behavioral Health & Wellness
Center

**FRIDAY
MARCH 1ST
3-9 PM**

350 Universal Dr North
North Haven // 203-234-9453

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THE HAMDEN MOBILE *Food Pantry*

FREE FOR EVERYONE

2024 DATES



**Jan 3, 17, 31 | Feb 14, 28 | Mar 13, 27
Apr 10, 24 | May 8, 22 | Jun 5 | Jul 3, 17, 31**

Every other Wednesday

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM / 306 Circular Ave.

St. Paul's Parish Parking Lot

For the full schedule visit www.ctfoodshare.org

Park/Walk-up - In parking lot across from Saporì



**Don't forget
to bring bags!**



**Bake
Goods**

Shirts

Coats and Jackets



Pants

Little Girl Dresses

**Ladies T-Shirts
And more....**

My Portion Inc. Food Pantry Plus

Pop Up Pantry

Feb. 17, 2024 & March 16, 2024

10:30am - 4:30pm

FREE new and gently used clothing for those
in our New Britain and surrounding Communities.
Food pantry items also available.

FOLLOW US



MyPortion INC

Scan the QR
code

**New Britain Library
Community Room
20 High Street
New Britain, CT
06051**

How you can help....CASH APP
\$URPortion

A 501C3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

More information
Contact Tarsha
4myportion@gmail.com
Ph. 959-529-7667
135 Chestnut
Street Suite 2661
New Britain CT
06050

GRUPO DE APOYO PARA SOBREVIVIENTES DE ASALTO SEXUAL

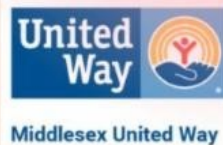
4:30 PM | LUNES 4 DE MARZO

CONTACTE A KAYLA O ANALAURA PARA MÁS
INFORMACIÓN

KCRUZ@WOMENFAMILIES.ORG O (860)740-8101
AGONZALEZ@WOMENFAMILIES.ORG O (860)740-8102



142 TEMPLE ST, NEW HAVEN, CT
CADA LUNES A LAS 4:30 PM



ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[Home](#) [Welcome](#) [Outreach](#) [Guilds/Ministries](#) [St. Luke's Partners](#) [Preserve our Parish](#) [Follow Us!](#)



St. Luke's Services, Inc. (SLSI) has as its mission: a) the provision of wholesome and appealing meals, in a cheerful, no-questions-asked setting where men, women and children in need are welcomed; and b) the offering of varied additional support services to guests who choose to utilize them. In a land of great plenty for some and demeaning poverty for others, we believe that providing food for the hungry is a compelling necessity, but that meals alone constitute a "band aid" measure. We therefore feel responsible for addressing some of the causes of dysfunctional living as well, by making available a range of life enhancing opportunities.

The sustaining philosophy of our work is the time-honored belief that there is God in every man, woman and child. Translated into soup kitchen terms, this challenges us to share respect consistently among lunch guests, paid and volunteer staff, and professionals. Not always an easy task where intensely difficult life issues often make for a precarious balance of tempers. However, respect works! Women express their appreciation for the special St. Luke's atmosphere, and - very importantly- give us their trust, thus enabling us to assist them with services which range from pastoral counseling to children's programs.

It has been 22 years since St. Luke's Services fed its first six luncheon guests. The lunchroom doors were opened June 1989 and a full course meal was prepared by the late William Johnson. In 1994 St. Luke's Services, Inc., was incorporated as a non-profit organization, governed by its own board of directors and separate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The two maintain an active and valued relationship by parishioners who continue

to serve on the Board.

In 2010 St. Luke's Services distributed 2,531 meals in our friendly "no questions asked" environment. The mutual respect found in this lunchroom opens opportunity to lend a hand in a variety of ways. By that, St. Luke's Services operates a food pantry, diaper bank and clothes closet. Each year, students of the Hopkins School assist "Santa" by sharing their bounty with families from St. Luke's Services along with the parish of St. George Catholic Church in Guilford, Connecticut. Thanksgiving baskets are provided to needy families. The items included assure a full thanksgiving meal with the trimmings. We are grateful to St. George Catholic Church which continues to provide generous support in this area.

Submitted by Yvette Barnard, SLSI Secretary/Treasurer

St. Luke's Services Weekly Operations:

Diaper Bank: every First Tuesday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

Women & Children Lunch Program: 12 noon -1p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays

Wednesday Breakfast Program: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Clothes Closet: Thursdays 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Food Pantry: every First and Third Friday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

POWERED BY

EAST ROCK RANGER PROGRAMS 2024

CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Get outdoor lessons and programming that support new CT state mandates for climate education in K-12 public schools (HB 5282)
- Understand the ecological and social issues that cause climate change & how New Haven will be affected
- Including...
 - Social Justice
 - Indigenous History & Knowledge

RECREATION

- Promote physical health by having fun in the outdoors!
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change by engaging in active transportation
- Including...
 - Biking
 - Nature Hikes
 - Snow shoeing

HEALING ACTIVITIES

- It is proven that spending time outdoors improves mental health & wellbeing
- Build stronger relationships with the outdoors & your community by participating in...
 - Mindfulness Hikes
 - Recovery Yoga
 - Support Groups

*Programs can be tailored towards the needs and interests of the group participating.

VOLUNTEER/INTERN

- Need to complete community service hours or hands-on projects? Join us at the park as we take care of our ecosystems, remove invasive species, and maintain our trails!



**RANGER
SYDNEY**

**Please Contact to
Schedule: (475) 306-4804
scollins@newhavenct.gov**



HOLISTIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LLC

IN-HOME THERAPY

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Accepted Referrals

- Children 6 yrs and older
- Families
- Adults with Disabilities

Services Location

Hamden, New Haven,
& West Haven, CT



HEALTH INSURANCE

Husky, Aetna, Anthem, & Cigna

To Enroll Contact: Karina Cordaro
203-604-9009 ext: 402
Email: Kcordaro@holisticbhwc.org

Question's about the program
contact Dr. La'Shondra da Cruz at
Ldacruz@holisticbhwc.org

www.holisticbhllc.com



Announcing the Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund Providers!

**Do you know a family that needs financial assistance to pay for
mental health and/or substance use intervention, treatment, or
medication for their child(ren) ages 0-18?**

For a limited time, funding assistance is available for those that qualify*.

Completed referrals can be sent to:

The Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund
FAX: 833-370-8773 or E-mail to FASD@carelon.com

Funding may be accessed for services rendered for a child, ages 0 up to 18,
needing:

- ✓ Mental health and/or substance use treatment or prescribed medications
- ✓ Adolescent psychiatric services, intensive in-home or intensive outpatient or
other recommended community-based service

AND

The family has been unable to access that care because:

- ✓ The family has sought but been denied coverage or reimbursement by their
health carrier or have exhausted their benefits,
- ✓ The family is unable to bear the cost of the intervention due to financial
hardship.
- ✓ The family has encountered barriers based on social determinants of health
such as discrimination, poverty, housing or food insecurity,
unemployment/underemployment, adverse early life experiences, or other
social determinants related to mental health.

QUESTIONS? Contact Carelon Behavioral Health at: FASD@carelon.com

*Funds are made available for a limited time by the CT Department of Children and Families through the American Recovery
Plan Act. Funds may apply for services rendered up to 120 days prior to the date of the request.