



inspires his peers with his absolute commitment to 'his pursuit of equality.' He began undergraduate studies at Howard University this year.

Outstanding Youth Awards were given to **Ashley Marino, Darragh Clarke, and Marissa Cappel.** Ashley Marino is 17 years old and a student at the Susan E. Wagner High School on Staten Island. As a peer-to-peer conflict resolution leader, Ms. Marino alone is responsible for successfully negotiating over fifty student conflicts at the school. She coordinated the Staten Island chapter and serves as a team leader for the American Civil Rights Educational Services (A.C.R.E.S.) program. Ms. Marino is described by one of her teachers as a person, "who has stood for those who stand alone and has given her voice to those whose voices have been denied."

Darragh Clarke is a senior at Hastings High School and a resident of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. He is an active member of the Diversity Club and co-president of Project S.H.A.R.E., and described as an outstanding contributing member of the Peer Leadership and Model United Nations programs. Mr. Clarke was among the first students to volunteer to help the school community process an act of bias by running workshops to raise awareness among faculty and students, and the first student ever to enroll in Hastings High School new elective course on Reading Race and Gender.

Marissa Cappel is a 16 year old student from Brooklyn, N.Y. where she attends New Utrecht High School. Its Peer Mediation program is a pilot program in this NYC school which has 3000 students representing 30 different cultures, religions, and languages. Ms.

Cappel is described as one of the school's finest mediators with an established track record of mediating upwards of 150 student conflicts. She is a conflict resolution leader who has contributed in full measure to keeping New Utrecht in the top 2% of the safest schools citywide. Her teachers describe her as a leader who believes that tolerance and mutual respect should be safeguarded, one who strives to make the world a better place.

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**Ms. Marino "has stood for those who stand alone and has given her voice to those whose voices have been denied."**



AFC-USA Board member Sam Fredman and Spirit Award winner Seamus Hodgkinson



Spirit Award winner Ashley Marino

## Sneak Peek

The **Eleventh** annual Spirit of Anne Frank Awards will be presented on June 12, 2007, in the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center (pictured left). Nominations will be accepted between September, 2006 and January 31, 2007. The nomination form is downloadable from [www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com); bios of honorees from previous years are on our web site.



# At the Center

## On Site Events 2006

Spring 2006 was an extremely successful beginning to our on-site programming year. A fresh coat of paint and the installation of *Anne Frank: A Family Photo Album* served as a draw for a number of public programs. The Hella de Jonge book presentation on April 17, sponsored by the

**"This experience is one that will remain with my students, and I am hopeful that they will challenge themselves to appreciate the freedom of living an 'abundant life.'"**

Netherlands Consulate General, lead off the programming season with a lovely reception and presentation by the author, who was interviewed by husband Freek de Jonge. Jack Polak and Ina Soep's touching remembrance of their shared past during a book signing for their Dutch version of *Steal a Pencil For Me* (Tussen de Barakken) on May 17 drew over 30 guests. On May 20, a private performance of *Being Frank*, written and performed by Kevin Babbitt, and directed by Heather Carver attracted about 50 guests. The play was adapted from an unpublished interview with Otto Frank conducted by New York journalist Arthur Unger. Mr. Unger was a 1948 graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism and the University sponsored the event.

School visits to the Center increased dramatically with a total of 13 classes and more than 300 students taking part in a newly developed 90-minute education program. The new program focuses students on in-depth observation and inquiry using the exhibit photographs as well as the documentary *The Short Life of Anne Frank*. In a program evaluation one high school teacher from the Bronx wrote the following:

"Having read *Night* by Elie Weisel, I really wanted my students to step out of the memoir for a tangible encounter with a Holocaust survivor. This experience is one that will remain with my students, and I am hopeful that they will challenge themselves to appreciate the freedom of living an 'abundant life.' Thank you [Hilary] and Mr. Jaap Polak for taking the time to enlighten my youngsters".



Jack Polak's and Ina Soep's booksigning event



Yvonne Simons is the Executive Director of the AFC, having joined in December 2005, after a seven-year tenure at the South Street Seaport Museum, where she was the Deputy Executive Director. In that capacity she was responsible for \$2,000,000+ programming growth, development and grant writing, program conceptualization and implementation, as well as management of the educational and programming department. Her fund raising abilities will be a key factor in the AFC expansion of its programming base. In addition, she is a professional exhibiting painter and was program director for Studio in a School. She is a Fulbright recipient and holds an MFA equivalent from the Royal Art Academy in Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.



Maureen McNeil, the new Director of Education at AFC, is creating curriculum based on Anne Frank's diary and writing grants for educational purposes. She was previously the Director of The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, overseeing multiple programs, accreditation, certification with Homeland Security, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve Lee Strasberg's archives. In the 1990s Ms. McNeil worked in education and development at the South Street Seaport Museum. She has taught writing in New York Public Schools and has trained in the Department of Education Mentoring Program. Her short stories and poetry have been published in literary journals. She holds a B.A. in English literature from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.



Hilary Eddy Stipelman joined the Anne Frank Center USA as the Programs Manager in January 2006. She has developed a new docent training protocol for use at traveling exhibit sites, and will focus on professional development for teachers and on-site school programs. Previously she worked for six years at South Street Seaport Museum and worked as well at the Brooklyn Historical Society, The Morgan Library, and the New Jersey Historical Society. Hilary serves as Treasurer on the Steering Committee of the New York City Museum Educator's Roundtable. She holds a B.A. in Art History from Smith College and an M.S.Ed. in Museum Education from Bank Street College.

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Greg Radicone, Exhibits Manager at the AFC for three years, has expanded the traveling exhibition program by developing multiple exhibition sites in the US, Bermuda and Canada. Greg negotiates contracts, shipping, maintenance and storage of panels and structures. He travels to each site to oversee set up and dismantling of all exhibits. His undergraduate degree is in English, which included studies abroad in Ireland.



Alan Mann, joined the AFC mid-October as the accountant. Alan started out on Wall Street and since 1989 has been responsible for the day to day accounting and employee benefits of various companies, including Nucleus Imaging, Inc. and Javelin Technologies, Inc. Mr. Mann has a B.A. from Union College in Schenectady, NY in Math/Economics.

# New Ideas

## A Student-Centered Approach to Teaching the AFC Exhibits

by Hilary Eddy Stipelman

Upon my arrival at The Anne Frank Center USA I was extremely excited to learn of the traveling exhibit program that reaches out to communities across North America by promoting Anne Frank's message of tolerance, hope, and empowerment. The people who volunteer their time to act as tour guides for our exhibits, known as docents, are an essential piece of a successful exhibition. These are the people we rely on to carry out the mission of the AFC after our own staff is no longer at the exhibit site. Without well-trained docents our exhibits would not reach nearly as many people, and group experiences would become mere walk-through tours rather than comprehensive educational programs. To learn more about this docent training program I began by reading through the AFC Docent Training Manual provided to each of our exhibit sites and by observing docent training workshops in Princeton, NJ and Poughkeepsie, NY. I immediately sensed a need for a restructuring of these workshops, and set to work creating a revised format that does much more than just teach docents the content necessary to give tours of our exhibits. I added a discussion format in which workshop participants view the documentary *The Short Life of Anne Frank* and then craft open-ended questions to encourage inquiry among students. Docents now receive a structured outline designed specifically for use in the exhibit they are learning, which is completed during the workshop itself rather than on their own time. In addition I take time to introduce basic concepts of museum education such as objective and subjective observation, essential questioning strategies, and choosing images that "speak."

After nine months with the AFC I am thrilled to say that I have given workshops at four locations to more than 130 volunteer docents and have received a great deal of positive feedback. Docents are leaving the training workshops with the framework for their tour already in place so that much less is left to chance. In addition docents who have little or no experience working with students are given specific tools to encourage inquiry amongst their school groups. This allows for a dynamic conversation to occur as part of each education program that is student-driven rather than docent-driven. Studies have shown that students who engage in active inquiry are more likely to retain what they learn in a museum setting. In moving from a traditional, narrative-style tour to an inquiry-based program I feel that students who participate in tours of the Anne Frank Center USA exhibits will not only remember what they see and discuss but will continue to think about the implications of it all long after they leave our exhibit. My next step is to design a teacher packet for use in the classroom both before and after visiting our exhibits to enrich and extend the learning that is already taking place. I'm looking forward to expanding these programs, and I hope that many of you will be able to observe these new programs first hand.

To receive additional information about our docent training please contact Hilary Eddy Stipelman at [hestipelman@annefrank.com](mailto:hstipelman@annefrank.com).

## Support the Legacy

The Anne Frank Center USA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit human rights organization with an educational mission to disseminate the lessons based on Anne Frank's life, her times, and her written works. Your support to maintain and expand the traveling exhibitions and programs will ensure that Anne Frank's legacy is an ongoing gift to future generations. Large and small donations are always welcome and extremely helpful. You may consider establishing and donating via a charitable trust. A bequest can be a specific gift of cash, or property; it may be in the form of stocks and bonds, or the percentage of the remainder of an estate. Your donation or bequest can be earmarked for general purpose or for a specific program. Please give generously.

# New Program

## The Art of Self-Discovery

The new team at Anne Frank Center is proud to announce an educational initiative called *The Art of Self Discovery*. Our goal is to help students in the greater New York metropolitan area and across the country become equipped to act as leaders in challenging discrimination, intolerance, and bias-related violence in a positive and constructive way.

To this end, schools may purchase one, two or three ten-week units for five thousand dollars each. Schools select the units: Diary Writing, Drama, Self Portrait, Journal Making, Digital Photography, Clay Sculpting, Leadership for Young Women and Conflict Resolution. The AFC hires artists; provides professional development to teachers; a class trip to the Anne Frank Center, if local; eight in-school lessons; and a copy of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* for each student.

In order to reach the underserved middle schools in the greater New York Metropolitan area, we are writing grants to foundations and corporations. Sixty thousand dollars enables us to hire nine artists and service twenty-seven classrooms in three schools. This size of grant includes a small exhibit for each school.

Anne Frank's own words are used in each of the Self Discovery lessons. Individual empowerment and personal choice are the themes. Literacy, perceptions of personal identity, life-affirming qualities of creativity and expression in a non-competitive environment—these are the skills students need to help create a world based on mutual respect.

To receive additional information about The Art of Self Discovery please contact Maureen McNeil at [mmcneil@annefrank.com](mailto:mmcneil@annefrank.com).

**Individual empowerment and personal choice are the themes.**

## Changes to the Board

On behalf of the entire Board and staff of The Anne Frank Center, USA, it is with great pleasure that we welcomed **Fred Polak** to the Board, and **Hyman Enzer** to the Advisory Board. Both nominations were accepted unanimously on January 31 and September 12, respectively.

Fred Polak supervises Post, Polak, Goodsell, MacNeill & Strauchler's litigation practice. He spent the first six years of his professional life with the U.S. Department of Justice, including over three years with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. We also know him, of course, as the son of AFC Chairman Emeritus, Jack Polak.

Together with his late wife Sandra Solotaroff Enzer, Hyman Enzer edited *Anne Frank: Reflections of Her Life and Legacy*, a collection of articles and essays that identify representative qualities and experiences of Anne Frank. This work has been used in many schools and colleges and is considered by some the most definitive treatment of the life and diary of Anne Frank. Currently Mr. Enzer is editing a memoir of a survivor of the Kindertransport, Kurt Fuchel.

In 2006, Advisory Board member, **Melissa Bennett**, resigned for rebuilding efforts in her home city of New Orleans, which she felt would hinder her ability to be a productive member of the board this year. Long time Board member **Shabtay Levy** moved to the Advisory Board.

## Anne Frank Center Exhibits, 2006

Anne Frank Center USA exhibits travelled to 27 different communities this year throughout the US and Canada, including human rights organizations, universities, museums, theatres, and even an army base!

*Anne Frank: A History for Today* was shown to great acclaim at the Spertus Museum in Chicago, IL, the Chestnut Tree Bookstore in Princeton, NJ, where it was sponsored by the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education, and The Washoe County Public Library in Reno, NV. Dr. Viktoria Hertling, Director of The Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Peace Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, wrote, "The Exhibit was exceedingly well-received by the community... over 10,000 North-ern Nevadans, as well as visitors from California, Arizona, Utah and abroad were able to experience this Exhibit. To our culturally

diverse participants we were able to convey the impact violence and intolerance has on our lives to this day."

*Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945* was on exhibit at Locust Grove, in Poughkeepsie, NY, where a dedicated

**"Thank you so much...for giving us an extraordinary experience that will last us a lifetime."**

staff led by Executive Director Ray Armiter worked closely with the Hudson Valley Coalition to Promote Tolerance, led by Elaine Blum, to bring the exhibit and accompanying programs to the Hudson Valley region. Ann Pinna, Visitor Services Coordinator at Locust Grove and Co-Chair of the Anne Frank exhibit writes, "Thank you so much...for giving us an extraordinary experience that will last us a lifetime." AFW is currently on display at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for three months, following a one month run at Victoria Park, a military base in Sydney, Nova Scotia, where the exhibit drew over 11,000 people, about 30% of that city's population.

*Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album* was shown alongside a wonderful production of the *Diary of Anne Frank* at Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn, NJ, in January. The Paper Mill gallery received more visitors than ever before during the exhibition stay. The same was true for the exhibits in Reno and Poughkeepsie. Currently the photo exhibit is on display at the Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d'Alene, ID after a month-long exhibition at Boise State University in partnership with the Idaho Human Rights Education Center.

The *Anne Frank Story* circulated widely throughout the US this year, often appearing alongside productions of the play, in Michigan, West Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio and Alabama.

To receive additional information about our travelling exhibits please visit our website, [www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com), or send an email to [exhibits@annefrank.com](mailto:exhibits@annefrank.com).



Over 11,000 visitors came to see *Anne Frank in the World*, exhibited at Victoria Park in Sydney, Nova Scotia in September 2006

## AFC Exhibit Touring Schedule

### *Anne Frank Story*

Greenbriar Valley Theatre, Morgantown, WV  
Macomb Community College, Warren, MI  
Westfield Atheneum, Westfield, MA  
Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

Oct. 8–Oct. 31, 2006  
March 1–April 30, 2007  
May 15–June 15, 2007  
Oct.–Dec., 2007

### *Anne Frank: A History for Today*

National WW II Museum, New Orleans, LA  
Bosque Redondo Memorial, Fort Sumner, NM  
Minnetrasta, Muncie, IN  
Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

Jan. 27–March 29, 2007  
April 6–May 10, 2007  
Oct. 2007–Jan. 2008  
Sep. 29–Dec. 23, 2007

### *Anne Frank: A History for Today, Mini*

Osceola, FL

March 28–April 30, 2007

### *Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945*

Natural History Museum, Halifax, NS  
Old Courthouse on the Square, Decatur, GA

Oct. 24, 2006–Jan. 31, 2007  
beginning December 2006

### *Anne Frank: A History for Today Mezzo*

Chattanooga, TN

March 21–April 21, 2007

Next Door Inc., Hood River, OR

April 30–May 4, 2007

Sullivan Community Theatre, Sullivan, MS

May 15–June 15, 2007

### *Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album*

Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

Sep. 29–Dec. 23, 2007

## Spirit Awards *(continued)*

Outstanding Educator Awards were presented to **Fred Whittaker, Seamus Hodgkinson** and **Janice Katz**. Fred Whittaker heads the middle school science department at St. Francis of Assisi School in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his colleagues introduced peace education initiatives to the school in order to teach the heart as well as the mind; he was instrumental in launching the *Familiae Pacis* program, the only school within the state to offer the program which is built on the tenets of compassionate listening, and service to encourage the participants to act with moral courage.



Board member Michiel Schuit with Benefit Committee Hostess Marjorie Morris

Seamus Hodgkinson is a Belfast native whose personal experiences growing up in Northern Ireland became an integral focus of his upper school religion students at the Doane Stuart School, an interfaith school that was created 25 years ago in Albany, New York; it is America's only successfully merged Protestant-Catholic School, and Mr. Hodgkinson is a founding faculty member. His experiences of religious hatred in Belfast informed the context of his profession. He is a role model for inclusion, peace, and harmony.

Janice Katz teaches Holocaust studies and introduces Holocaust literature to her English classes at Susan E. Wagner High School on Staten Island. Ms. Katz teaches students to connect with the holocaust so they understand the implications of its lessons in relationship to their own history and humanity with the goal of creating compassionate and caring communities.



Albert E. Moses, Consul General of the Netherlands in Eastern Canada, with Spirit Award winner Janice Katz



## *From the desk of the Executive Director*

This past year has been a rewarding experience for me. Having been charged with giving The Anne Frank Center, USA a new direction and renewed energy, many things have happened, as you will read about in this Newsletter. The Gala on June 12th was a huge success. We had a compelling evening with a preview of Richard LaGravenese's *Freedom Writers*, which

will open in January, 2007. We increased the number of people attending, and significantly exceeded previous revenues, which, in turn, will help underwrite educational programs. On June 12th, 2007 our 11th Annual *Spirit of Anne Frank Awards* will take place in the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center. Mr. Seth Glickenhaus has graciously accepted to be one of the main Awardees.

One of the most exciting initiatives is a series of innovative, educational programs that enable us to seek new revenue streams. In September, we were awarded significant grants from the US Department of Education. We intend to service the New York City public school system, as well as the Illinois public school system, before the end of this calendar year.

On-site programs have been ongoing, both at night for the general public, as well as during the day with school groups. We started advertising our exhibitions in professional magazines and periodicals. This past month 300 New York City Empowerment schools received an in-depth package of our educational programs. 2007 Gala packages have gone out to over 100 corporations.

The AFC staff has undergone significant changes. Please read the professional bios of our current staff members. Maureen McNeil and Hilary Eddy Stipelman both bring extensive knowledge about the educational system with

***Our mission to educate young people on the consequences of intolerance, and the need to identify and challenge prejudice is exceedingly important.***

them at a time when new initiatives will be our main focus. Greg Radicone continues to market and install exhibitions across the country as we are expanding that market.

It is of great importance that you remain involved with The Anne Frank Center, USA. You can help and support us in many ways, including helping underwrite our educational programs, or putting us in touch with a foundation or corporation that wants to support our mission. The world has become an increasingly tough place for children and the adults that care for them. Our mission to educate young people on the consequences of intolerance, and the need to identify and challenge prejudice is exceedingly important. I hope you will support us by donating in the spirit of Anne Frank, and help us inspire and empower the next generation to build a world based on mutual respect.

—Yvonne Simons