



Tools for Tomorrow

Nonprofit after school program - grades K through 5
WRITING * ART * MUSIC * DRAMA

Volume 6 Issue 1

SPRING, 2006

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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED



Ed DiNicola has come out of retirement to assume the position of Executive Director of TFT. DiNicola's impressive thirty-eight year career in education includes positions as a high school teacher of English and Theatre, assistant superintendent for Human Resources and Negotiations and elementary school principal of a 750 student Title 1 elementary school for at-risk children in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He has also produced and directed numerous musicals and plays and taught poetry, expository and creative writing and comparative arts.

Ed DiNicola's rich background and commitment to children and the arts is already taking Tools For Tomorrow to a new and exciting level.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tools For Tomorrow has reached a new stage in its development and growth. To that end I was hired in January as Executive Director to oversee the program and take it in new and innovative directions with an eye toward reaching more at risk children in the Coachella Valley. This past year enrollment has continued to grow, with even more children on the waiting list. In January we implemented a Native American unit that integrated Native American gourd painting, music and symbol writing to tell original stories created by the children. We got amazing results.

In my short time with TFT there have been many success stories but perhaps the most significant for me personally occurred while I was teaching a creative writing class at Cahuilla elementary in Palm Springs.



Continued on next page

TFT RECEIVES \$100,000 BEQUEST

Pasadena philanthropist, Noël W. Bryant, mother of founder of Tools For Tomorrow, Rachel Bryant Druten, bequeathed \$100,000 to be added to the endowment trust she established in 2004.

The income from the Noël W. Bryant endowment trust pays the program's overhead expenses, enabling all grants and donations to go directly to serving the children.



JUNIOR LEAGUE PARTNERS WITH TFT

The Junior League has chosen Tools For Tomorrow for their "Yours For A Year" project. They will participate in all aspects of the program: as classroom volunteers and teachers, and in fundraising and administrative activities. We are proud and pleased to have the opportunity to draw on the wellspring of ideas, energy, and enthusiasm of this effective group of young woman.

MISSION STATEMENT: To make available free, on-site, after school literacy enrichment programs that integrate writing, drama, and and music for Coachella Valley elementary school children.

The Tools For Tomorrow program is designed to supplement the children's daily educational experience, nurture their creativity, enhance their self-esteem, build character, and expand their intellectual and cultural horizons, giving them a vision of what their lives can become.

Check out our website: www.afterschooltools.org

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Rachel Druten, President and Founder of TFT, has often said "the Lord will provide", as the Board faced funding and staffing problems. And well He did in guiding Ed DiNicola to join our staff as Executive Director. Ed is an experienced educator and administrator who adds just the right touch of knowledge and leadership at a time when we are consolidating our gains and striving to expand our reach to provide after school literacy enrichment for Coachella Valley elementary school children. Ed's boundless enthusiasm inspires us all. With his dedication and your continued support we'll achieve our goals. How blessed we are indeed!

Jim Reed, Chairman Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report continued

A fourth grade boy with reading, writing and spelling problems (he had difficulty spelling his own name) panicked when he realized he would have to write a story based on a choice of pictures and captions the class had been presented. I asked him if he could make up a story if he didn't have to write it down. He nodded and proceeded to tell an imaginative and interesting narrative based on his perception of the material, and obviously reflecting his own home life. Together, he and I went step by step through the process of his putting his tale on paper. The spelling was not perfect, the letters were scrambled, but his story made sense, was very original and profoundly moving. Most important, he felt the pride of his accomplishment.

When his mother arrived to take him home and found that he was in a creative writing class, she was obviously deeply concerned. "What did my son do? He hasn't written a thing in four years of school."

Proudly the boy showed his mother what he had written. As she read her eyes filled with tears. "Don't be sad." He wrapped his arms around her. "Some day I think I will write a whole book!"

It is moments like these that make Tools For Tomorrow such an important part of the lives of these socially, economically, and educationally at risk children that we serve here in our Coachella Valley. The Tools for

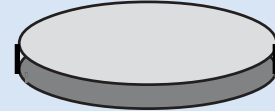
Tomorrow program provides them with a "tool for tomorrow," a coping mechanism for their often troubled lives and a vision for their futures .

I am proud and happy to be involved in this important mission.

Ed DiNicola

WHERE YOUR GIFTS GO!

100% - Direct Services to Children



Expenses covered by income from Noel W. Bryant endowment trust



Some writers take a break for the camera

SNIPS and SNAILS

TFT has an office:

777 E. Tahquitz Canyon Drive, Suite 20048
Palm Springs, CA 92262
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Email:efdinicolaTFT@dc.rr.com

TFT Board Changes:

Kimberly Klink, local realtor and civic leader, joins the Board of Directors.

Jean Daman will no longer serve on the Board, but continues to support as an Affiliate.

TFT Supporters honored:

Jane Foster, Friends founder, was presented an award by the Palm Desert Historical Society for her charitable contributions to the community.

Jean Ann Hirschi, TFT Affiliate, will be honored as Samaritan of the Year, November 19, 2006. (For information call 760-837-9066)
Affiliate, Jean Daman was a past recipient.

Most recent Media Support

Kate Porter featured TFT on her wonderful program TIME WARNER CARES, Channel 10.

Mindy Watkins keeps the community up to date with TFT in her up-beat "Good Things Happening" in the DESERT SUN.

Dessa Reed, Poetry Editor of the DESERT WOMAN, featured TFT and our children's poetry.

Joey English lets the community know what's up with TFT on the her radio show.

TFT is grateful for all their continuing support.

Business Support

WELBURN GOURD FARM

40635-D De Luz Road
Fallbrook, CA 92028
Phone: 760-728-42-71 Fax:760-728-3965
Email: info@welburngourdfarm.com





ARTISTS AND POETS GALLERY

P.O. Box 11557, Palm Desert, CA 92255 - Phone: 760-674-2188 - www.afterschooltools.org

Why I played your X Box 360

Your shiny X Box 360
 How shiny it was
 Your games were incredible
 I couldn't stop looking at it
 So I started playing King & Kong
 I got to the tenth level
 ... the points scored up
 ...I killed the dinosaurs and defended mankind
 while you were in the bathroom.

Juan, age 9



PAPER SCULPTURE



INSPIRED BY KANDENSKY

Green elms in the woods
 Some old, some new, but still
 Standing tall and proud

Daniella, age 13

Flowers on a hill
 The petals bend to earth
 Home, where they belong.

Amanda, age 11

Spring time when leaves fall
 The petals bend to earth
 Rising again when the wind blows.

Daniella, age 13

SAME SUBJECT: RIGHT & LEFT HAND DRAWINGS



Artist: Yesenia, age 9

TORN PAPER COLLAGE



Artist: Rachel, age 11



Artist: April, age 11



Artist: Marian, age 9



Artist: Yolanda, age 8

With my third eye.....

I see the rain pouring outside.
 I smell the salty smell of the rain.
 I hear the thunder pounding
 I feel the moist wetness of the rag I left outside.
 I see the steam coming out of my hot soup
 I taste hot soup in my mouth.

Kately D., age 10

SELF PORTRAITS (colored pencil)



Artist: Anica, age 10



Artist: Diego, age 8

I was born 1995 when disco was around.
My name was John Cena.
I was a famous dancer and wrestler.
I won billions of dollars a year.
Then Curt Angal stole my thunder.
He stole my championship.

Daniel G., age 10

INSPIRED BY ANDY WARHOL (torn paper collage)



Artist: Anica, age 10



ASSIGNMENT: Create a character for a play

My name is Artemis Stone.

I am 14 years old and have a gift; I can become a shadow.

I attend a boarding school for other teens like me.

You can usually see me in my black sundress and flip-flops, my white short hair blowing in the breeze.

I don't usually act perky or preppy; I'm extremely shy.

When I fall asleep I turn into a silver puddle.

I don't like people who talk 5 million words a minute, who wear nothing but pink, and "super-sweets." I like dark chocolate, people who talk little enough, and people who don't get in your face.

Jordan B., age 10

Julia Cuttingham

She has black hair and she is 24.

She has a husband who is 37.

At first she had such a good life until she got to know him.

She worked at a medical center.

They moved into a mansion and he convinced her to quit her job. You know what they say, even though you are rich, you're not necessarily happy. As was this girl.

That is the story.

Her man is a jerk. The Jerk's name is Johnny. She left him at last.

Gennifer M., age 10

INSPIRED BY FRANK STELLA'S "BROOKLYN BRIDGE (watercolor)



Artist: Jardiel, age 9

EIGHT TFT STUDENTS RECEIVE SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS

TFT teachers and school administrators select students who have demonstrated maturity, responsibility and commitment to the arts and to the TFT program, their outstanding work and need--according to how they might benefit from receiving a scholarship. The following students have received scholarships:

Idyllwild Arts Academy Summer Program - two week sessions: Whisper Stahl, Araceli Barrientos, Jordan Bagg, Priscilla Villareal

Palm Springs Art Museum - one week sessions: Abigail Babasa, Gabriel Babasa, Arielle Bilonac, Lucy Rodriguez

TFT is grateful to the Arts Academy and the Museum for providing this opportunity for these deserving students.

FRIENDS OF TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

"Friends" has enjoyed an active (and productive) season. Nelda Esmeralda, principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Palm Desert, spoke at our February meeting in Lee Broido's lovely home. She explained how the Tools For Tomorrow program is an important and integral part of her school's overall curriculum. (As many of you know, Lincoln Elementary won a national award of excellence this year.) At the May meeting, hosted by Jean and Art Daman, the Friends met Ed DiNicola, the new executive director of Tools For Tomorrow, who gave an inspiring overview of what Tools is accomplishing.



Approximately 125 players participated in our April 21 bridge tournament, realizing over \$9,000 for Tools For Tomorrow. Special thanks go to Sallie Bradshaw, Chair, ably assisted by Jane Foster. We are grateful to hostesses Sallie, Joni Maltzman, Mary Ellen Blanton, Marylynn Fraedrick, Nancy Hannah and Ginger Brooks.

A pleasant surprise was a \$3,000 donation from the Rancho Mirage Womens' Club, arranged by member, Mary Lynn Rose. Mary Lynn is chairman of our note card sales which have been a very popular moneymaker.

Save Sunday, November 5, for our "Fall Fete" in the beautiful home of Marylynn and Ron Fraedrick. It will be a wonderful way to introduce new friends to our program, greet old ones, and welcome in the season. Event chairman, Linda Thibault, could use your help in getting donations— especially from restaurants. Please call her at 341-2144. We are also hoping to have the cost of the catering and auction expenses underwritten. If you are able to make a donation, send your check to Linda, 44-189 Elba Court, Palm Desert, CA 92260, so we can put your name in the program.

Finally, we welcome the Junior League and look forward to a productive year as we work together in providing this important program for the children of our Coachella Valley.

Eddie Thoreson, Chairman

QUEENS OF HEARTS & JACKS OF DIAMONDS



AS AMBASSADORS OF TOOLS FOR TOMORROW, YOU CAN HELP...

- MARY LYNN ROSE sell note cards designed by the children
- GAIL REITZ stuff, stick, address and stamp
- LINDA THIBAULT, (Historian and Publicity Chairman) distribute TFT promotional material



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

NOVEMBER 5, 2006 - FALL FETE

Members and guests, in the home of Marylynn and Ron Fraedrick.

FEBRUARY 7, 2007 - GLITTER, GLITZ and GLAM

At Spencer's Restauraunt. Remembering the Chi Chi Club with members of the cast of the Senior Class.

APRIL 13, 2007 – BRIDGE TOURNAMENT AND LUNCHEON

In memorable homes throughout the Valley.



FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Tools For Tomorrow gratefully acknowledges the following Foundations for their generous support, past and present. Their Grants have made this program possible.

**Bob Hope Chrysler Classic
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Montgomery Family Trust
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Palms to Pines Rotary, Palm Desert
Regional Access Project Foundation
St. Margaret's Church
Target Stores**



WEARABLE ART

DONATIONS

12/2005 - 5/2006

We are grateful to all the following donors for their generous contributions

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IN HONOR

Molly Anderson
by Dorothy E. Anderson
The Dachis' 40th Anniversary
by Gary & Linda Nathanson
Rachel Druten
by Richard Bentley & Grahme Smith
Shirley Grief
Joni & Don Maltzman
by Phyllis Eisenberg
Bernard Mars
Robert & MaryJo Pomerantz
Betty Morgan
by Carolyn Cooke
Adelle Tavill
by Allen & Marilyn Eager

IN HONOR OF OUR STAFF AND TEACHERS

Who make this program happen

Ed Dinicola, Executive Director
Adelle Tavill, Administrator
Ellen Brenner
Terry Forrest
Billy Makuta
Donna Konstan
Sue Ann Young

IN MEMORY

John Adornato
by Ed & Adelle Tavill
Saul Ilson & Allan Blye
by The Junior League
Nancy Bliss
by Gina Rifenbark
Noel Walster Bryant
by Constance Abeel
Bruce & Linda Amsbaugh
Caroline Barry
Meredith Babeau Brucker
Kathleen Campbell
Ed DiNicola & Terry Forrest
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Leila Mishalany
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Sherwood & Jean Simpson
Ed & Adelle Tavill
Barbara & Myles Wilder
Ruth Alice Williams
Kristin Cheshire
by Ethel Goodman
Adelle Tavill
Olga Marcus
by Jane Foster
Carolyn Raney
by Beth Biggs
Rachel & Charles Druten
Ron & Marilyn Fraedrick



Please forgive any inaccuracies or omissions. If you let us know, they will be corrected in the next newsletter.

TOOLS FOR TOMORROW COLLABORATES WITH: The Unified School Districts of Palm Springs, Desert Sands and Coachella; The Palm Springs Art Museum; The Idyllwild Arts Academy; CSUSB, Palm Desert Campus; The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum; The Foundation for the Retarded; The Junior League.