

Portals Of Wonder

Enter Your Imagination



Children born with AIDS enter a portal of magic, mystery and music.

The President's Report:

3,000 Children Served by 15 Artists in 2 Years

Dear Friends,

I want to express my appreciation for your loyalty and willingness to support our mission, which has made us one of the fastest-growing independent arts education programs.

In less than two years, we hired 15 artist educators, presented hundreds of workshops, staff development training programs, and performances. Our efforts have served over 3,000 children and hundreds of elderly throughout the New York Metropolitan area and through its satellite program in the lower Saxony region of Germany.

Portals Of Wonder has been privileged to deliver hundreds of public and private programs for community based organizations ranging from **Beth Israel Medical Center, Singer Division-Pediatrics, Tolstoy Foundation for Russian Orphans, the Children's Incarnation Center** (a hospice for children born with HIV/AIDS), **the New York City Department of Homeless Services, New York and New Jersey public schools,**

(Continued on page 2)

100% Success: Homelessness Prevention of Foster Youth -By Magic!

Portals Of Wonder was invited by **the Independent Living Resource Center, Hunter College School of Social Work** to deliver our pioneering design of Methods and Materials for the training of foster care professionals.

The staff from among 63 foster care agencies in the New York Metropolitan area were introduced to an exciting new approach that strengthens the bond *(Continued on page 3)*



Off-Broadway Vaudeville Theater for Children

Portals Of Wonder is entering an exciting phase in its development that will enable delivery of more extraordinary and in-depth programs. A two-part approach, it includes the production of an Off-Broadway magical, musical extravaganza in a vaudeville theater that will serve as a permanent home for Portals Of Wonder, and the restoration of elegant housing to serve as live-work space for homeless persons, low-income artists, individuals and families.

The vaudeville theater will house exciting performances, arts education programs, a community center, and other business and economic development projects. It will be a magnet for tens of thousands of children, youth and their families throughout New York City and become a tourist destination point. *(Continued on page 9)*

The President's Report

3000 Children Served...

(Continued from page 1)

The Thirteenth Street Theatre, The Art Lab at Snug Harbor National Cultural Center, The French Atelier, faith-based institutions such as the **Lincoln Square Synagogue,** residential centers for homeless elderly such as the **Bowery Residence Committee,** and educational learning communities such as the **City University of New York Graduate Center, Foundation for Mind Research** and the **Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York,** to name a few.

Often those who benefit from Portals Of Wonder programs are disenfranchised children and families facing enormous life challenges: AIDS, cancer, chemical addiction, and crises such as the World Trade Center tragedy, homelessness and poverty. Now we are developing an **Off-Broadway musical extravaganza** to bring hope, magic and wonder to over **4,000 disenfranchised children over the next two years.**

As Portals Of Wonder successfully moves into its fourth year since receiving our 501(c)(3), we remain dedicated to providing a warm, safe, creative and educational environment that encourages youth, professionals, artists and visionaries to delve into the depths of their work and participants' hearts. We strive to deepen the content and delivery of our programs in order to further strengthen community through the arts.

Included in this newsletter are recent improvements, short-term goals and developments. We remain proud of improvements in administrative efficiency and the delivery of programs designed to benefit the communities we serve.

Through your continued support, underprivileged individuals who would not have experienced the inspiration and hope that music, mime, myth, magic and wonder bring, can now enjoy a better quality of life. It has been our honor to fulfill the mission of Portals Of Wonder: to invoke hope, inspiration and wonder in the world.

Thank you.

Irving Laurice Mintz, M.S.W.
President & Artistic Director

Serving Victims of the World Trade Center Tragedy

In the aftermath of the events of September 11th, Portals Of Wonder found its arts education and performance funding and programs abruptly ended. Programs that took four years of hard work to develop were gone.

Despite the closure, senior staff provided mentoring services through the arts for those who were personally affected by the 9/11 disaster and sought solace.

Little by little, while rebuilding its infrastructure, Board members and senior staff also served on the **Federal Emergency Management Agency NYCVOAD Task Forces** for Mental Health and Spiritual Care, and the Committee on Community.

Following the disaster, a young man in his late teens came into the theater downtown and spoke with senior staff about the heart wrenching loss of his brother.

A mother and father who had lost their family home inquired about a safe haven in the new arts program for their children suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome. Portals Of Wonder's commitment remains strong for those who are in need of hope and wonder. □□



Pioneering Arts Educators: A Centuries' Old Family Tradition

Irving Laurice Mintz found inspiration in his father, **Morty Mintz's** legacy.

"I try to bring Dad's gentle touch to every heart I meet. Dad was the most insightful and compassionate man I've ever known."

Laurice continued; "Occasionally I speak with those whose lives were deeply touched by my father's quiet, courageous interventions that often turned a tragedy into a success - bringing new meaning and hope to individuals and families. I am fortunate to have been under his wing and to now apply his influence to the foundation of Portals Of Wonder."
(Continued on page 13)

%100 Success with Homeless Prevention for Foster Youth – By Magic!

(Continued from page 1)

between staff and foster youth, helping prevent homelessness. **“Precious few facilitators offer what Portals Of Wonder supplies: a road map to finding ‘that home within’ which empowers youth (in foster care) to embrace their dreams and visions for the future... the staff of Portals Of Wonder are truly wondrous...a poignant and magical experience...”**

--Michael Texeira, Training Manager, Independent Living Resource Center, Hunter College School of Social Work

Prior to the Fall of 2002 training, this program was applied to homeless and foster children in Hannover and the lower Saxony region under the auspices of the **German Government’s Department of Social Services, Division of Foster Youth.**



This program helped children and youth break from the chains of drugs, violence and Neo-Nazi youth gangs.

Social Worker **Bettina Vorbeck**, who joined as Executive Director of Portals

Of Wonder’s Germany Satellite Program in 2000, explained that without families or loved ones, at-risk youth between the ages of 11-19 years old run away from social residences during the holidays and end up living on the street. Because of suicide, drugs and gang violence, some never return.

Programs were delivered throughout December and January. Over Christmas and New Years, joyous holiday magic and music workshop programs ran continuously from the afternoon till 2:30 in the morning.

According to succeeding reports in February from the supervising residential staff at the Department of Social Services, Portals Of Wonder’s programs successfully **“reversed the trend – resulting in a 100% runaway prevention rate and return of youth to schools in January”**. Portals Of Wonder’s presence made a resounding impact by touching these young lives with hope, creative expression and wonder.

Portals Of Wonder’s ongoing Professional Development program for foster care staff, coupled with arts education workshops and performances with foster youth, has improved the quality of life for hundreds of New York youth in foster care and transitional housing. With adequate funding to support an ongoing program, that number is expected to increase to thousands.



Now You See It... Eye-Hand Coordination Helps Children with Brain Tumors & Cancer

Through sponsorships by local businesses like **United Auto Repair**, these past months have seen smiles on children afflicted with brain cancers and tumors.

Programs using magic and music were delivered at hospices and hospitals such as the **Beth Israel Medical Center, Pediatrics** division, to involve little ones in post surgical movement of their limbs by evoking curiosity and laughter. Teaching and demonstrating magic and music helps rebuild eye-hand coordination and raises the immune system, aiding recovery.

One seven year old boy who could not easily move, smile or talk after cranial surgery for cancerous brain tumors, was so enchanted during a display of magic, comedy and music by Laurice and Sandra Nordgren, he reached out his hands and whispered, **“Abracadabra”**, into the renowned magician’s ear.

*“In this busy world, pause to find the magic moment”
- Sandra Nordgren*

Wheel chair bound child with AIDS enters a magic moment



Exceeding State and National Education Standards

A Prayer Is Answered

Working with **Arts Horizon** and the **Center for Arts Education**, Portals Of Wonder was the recipient of **Annenberg** funding to develop and deliver outstanding programs.

“Clinically trained social worker and psychotherapist (Laurice) supervised our **Creative Alternatives for Youth At Risk** program. He used magic and music to develop skill levels and self-esteem, to build boundaries in their lives. Portals Of Wonder brings fresh ideas to improve education with a sense of joy, wonder and the positive influence of the arts ...results that exceed the state and national **Arts Education Learning/Core Curriculum Content Standards.**”

-- **Elizabeth Halverstam**, Associate Director, **Arts Horizons**

Stephanie Berghash Snow weaves a tale of wonder for school children & their parents



Portals Of Wonder has had the opportunity to design professional training programs for social service and health care workers in degree programs at **Audrey Cohen College** and several public school systems. Students benefited from hands-on pioneering training in Jung's Psychology, Creativity and Social Group Work. (For information visit www.PortalsOfWonder.org: please click on Services and then Curriculum.)

Winning critical praise for the depth, joy, and creative inspiration they evoked, by mid 2000 the Portals Of Wonder family had delivered hundreds of programs for the **Essex County Youth Commission**, the **New York City Board of Education**, and other youth programs and schools throughout New York City, New Jersey and upstate New York. “**They wove the arts into academic subjects, inspiring participant’s critical thinking and creative visionary skills,**” Halverstam said. For Laurice, “**A prayer since my childhood had been answered: the opportunity to improve education for children who deserve to receive the benefits I never did.**” □□



Homeless elderly Asian immigrants in the United States who may not speak English can participate through the international languages of magic, comedy and music. This workshop honors each individual and strengthens communal ties by increasing their self esteem, value and hope.

80 year old Stroke Victims Live Their Dreams of Singing & Dancing

In Vaudeville Concert Series for Elderly and Youth –Singing and Dancing Together

From May through the July 4th celebration 2002, the bi-monthly concert series ‘*Reminiscence*’, served those afflicted with Alzheimer’s, elders and their family members at **Castle Senior Living’s 80th Street Residence**. Offered throughout New York and New Jersey, this Intergenerational Program offers a stroll down memory lane into the charm, romance and ambiance of the golden era of Vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, Hollywood and Broadway through magic, musical comedy, slapstick mime, song and dance.

Hosted by Laurice and his live Dixieland Ragtime Show Band, the *Reminiscence Series* features a dozen artists ranging from 8 year old songbird **Melissa Gavin**, to 80 year old classical pianist and Trustee **Maestro Saul Rosenfeld**.

The series highlights mini variety shows, sing-a-longs, barbershop quartets, chorus girls, colorful period costumes, ambient lighting and special effects, rare period recordings and film clips of legendary stars. Upbeat fast paced and interactive, concert programs are anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours in length.

Spontaneous dancing broke loose on stage when, as a *(Continued on page 8)*

Wonder Lifts the Spirits of Young & Old

The Thirteenth Street Theatre hosted a series of Portals Of Wonder programs for homeless youth and critically ill children and their families. The series included arts education workshops and a main stage show, executive produced by Sandra Nordgren, entitled *Way of the Wizard*.

This production featured daring **Houdini-like** escapes, breath-taking magic and illusion, live animals from fire and thin air, comedy, musicians, song, dance, **Charlie Chaplin-like** mime antics and made the audience participants stars of the show!

The performance series is a highlight that reinforces ongoing themes in arts education workshops and staff development, artistic and entrepreneurial skills, and academic and social-emotional development.

"Thank you. You have enhanced and enriched the lives of our residents...in gaining a more positive social outlook on life," said **Margaret Ritchie** of the **Delancey Street Foundation**.



Laurice balances a beautiful woman on the tip of a sword.

The Wizard's Workshop... A Magical Musical Extravaganza Starring Homeless Children

Many nationally respected organizations praise Portals Of Wonder's programs, from social workers at **Covenant House** (for run away youth) and the **Greenwich House Senior Center**, to the Director of Recreation from the **Bushwick Family Center**, who, according to **Antonio Rodriguez**, Director of Recreation for the **New York City Dept. of Homeless Services**, said:

"It is THE BEST program the children had ever been to."

-- Director of the **Bushwick Family Center**



"I have rarely seen the amount of enthusiasm and EXCITEMENT from the children who attended your programs."

-- **Antonio Rodriguez**
Director of Recreation
N.Y.C. Department of Homeless Services

Rodriguez continues **"It is an honor to bring the families to events knowing they will be greeted with smiles and kindness...to connect our kids (with) your talent and warmth."**

The *Wizard* performance series engaged youth and adults in the audience to come on stage and become part of the program and the magic. Participants interacted with, and were honored by master magician Laurice, whose artistry inspired a sense of wonder, mystery, and awe. Through performance interaction, Laurice and his staff opened the hearts of children and adults alike.

During one performance, after many children had already come up from the

audience to participate in the program, a three-year old boy who was sitting in the front row crawled up the three steps to the stage and became the center of attention. Laurice, although engaged in creating an illusion, gently brought the toddler into the performance by presenting impromptu close-up magic that drew rapt attention. A proud mother watched as her small son was cheered on and supported by the other children and adults.

A very strong sense of community emerged during that performance as children and adults laughed together and honored each other through small acts of kindness, from lending support and offering suggestions to giving each other sincere applause.

"Our clients have so few opportunities to attend cultural events; your consideration provides a gift not otherwise possible."

Rymer Shaw, Program Director of the **Olivieri Center for Homeless Women**.

Rodriguez observes, **"Children and mothers really took away the true meaning of charity, caring, and community. That is the hunger that is fed, that is the need that is fulfilled."** □□

Young Artists & Entrepreneurs Mentoring Program

One-on-One Mentoring

The Young Artists & Entrepreneurs Mentoring Program brings together a team of advisors and artists from the New York Metropolitan area, throughout the United States and internationally, to develop the creativity and professional skills that result in job creation for youth, fueling the local economy.

Many of these young artists receive one-on-one and small group mentoring by professionals who spend extensive time helping them achieve artistic mastery in the performing arts. Portals Of Wonder staff helps these artists learn to develop and deliver arts education programs, produce and market their performances, and become placed in professional performance settings where they may earn a living using their artistry and business skills.

Portals Of Wonder collaborates with after school programs and national music schools such as the Jazz Outreach Program at the New School for Social Research University and the music program at New York University, to develop – in a series of master classes and performances – programs that give students an opportunity to learn “in their bones,” through first hand experience, the application of the romantic and Tin Pan Alley show styles and traditions.

Sasha Alexandra – dancer, singer, actress

Fourteen year old Sasha Alexandra traveled from Pennsylvania to receive mentoring in dance and performance experience. Through Portals Of Wonder, Jennifer Jiles, an Emmy Award-winning comedic actress and former Radio City Music Hall Rockette (with a solo show about her Rockette years called KICKING & SCREAMING, for which she received a standing ovation at NYC's prestigious Cami Hall), reached out to young Sasha to provide choreography and dance coaching. Sasha had her New York City dance debut with Portals Of Wonder.

Melissa Gavin – Songbird

Melissa Gavin, pictured with Sandra Nordgren, sang her little heart out to enthusiastic applause during Portals Of Wonder's concert performance series. It was the first time the talented eight year old sang publicly.

Melissa received coaching in voice, presentation,



costume and repertoire in a professional setting that instilled confidence to continue her music and performing arts education. This helped develop her interpersonal skills with groups and elders and increased her self-esteem, which gives her incentive to improve her academic studies.

Chris Gavin, R.N., a children's therapist and father of our youngest participant, said,

“We think the Portals Of Wonder intergenerational concert series is a great program. Melissa was very excited to be a featured part of the concert series. She rehearsed extensively, learned from the coaching provided, and stole every show.

“Everyone at Portals Of Wonder encouraged Melissa and was very proud of her success. Afterwards she ran up and threw her little arms around Laurice and then Sandra Nordgren, who over the last several years, have each become her ‘theatrical godparents’. Besides providing on-the-spot professional experience for Melissa, the program brought her a needed sense of belonging to, and participation in, a community that honors her self-expression and artistic work ethic.

“The experience encouraged her to share joy and delight with young and old alike. It was as if we were with a warmly accepting, extended family. Portals Of Wonder gave us heartfelt family memories to last a lifetime.”

Melissa continues to receive coaching and plans to participate in future performances including at elderly residences with Portals Of Wonder's intergenerational program.

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(Continued from page 6)



Jonathan Ospa – Playwright & Comic Magician

For nine year old Jonathan, comic wit comes naturally. His success in controlling Tourette's Syndrome was marked by his award-winning musical entitled *Welcome To Tourettaville*, which he co-wrote.

And through sources that include the **Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)**, Portals Of Wonder joins forces to help teens and young adults to broaden their performing arts and business skills through our mentoring and internship programs, once they have come to the United States. Together, we “help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.”



Young Aya Kato - Japan's Ragtime Pianist

Aya Kato, a 22 year old student and pianist from Japan, has studied classical piano for 19 years. She wants to specialize in the Ragtime-Dixieland and Golden Broadway style of show music but could find little training despite the several major music conservatory programs she had enrolled in.

Aya came to New York, during school break from the **Berklee College of Music** in Boston, to spend an intensive week of master-class work with Portals Of Wonder - which partnered with the Thirteenth Street Theatre to provide Aya with daily access to a rehearsal room and a theater with pianos. Laurice and his staff worked daily with Aya on music repertoire, voice coaching and accompaniment, program selection, historical context, solo and ensemble styles and techniques.

Aya received coaching in arranging repertoire for the vaudeville, concert and musical theater stage. By the end of the week Aya, a very talented

Foster youth learn – by magic!



Professional Empowerment

and dedicated pianist, felt empowered. She participated with the Portals Of Wonder staff in giving several workshop-performances for children and teens studying musical theater in an after-school program.

To further her career opportunities, a part was written for Aya into Portals Of Wonder's upcoming Off-Broadway musical. Laurice introduced the young pianist to the Tony Award winning stars and the musical conductor of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on Broadway, and to one of the premier Dixieland-Swing Big Band Leaders in the United States today, **Vince Giordano** and his *Nighthawks* - appearing weekly at New York's **Cajun Supper Club** where Aya was invited to play her new arrangements. She has since returned for more rehearsals and performances in the chic SOHO **Photographic Art Gallery**, as part of the **Portals Of Wonder Ragtime-Dixieland Vaudeville Show Band** and plans to continue her work with Portals Of Wonder after graduation.

Training, Jobs, Opportunities

Portals Of Wonder recognizes that each person has gifts that are uniquely their own to give. All too often, talented individuals are left to languish, being denied their right to a meaningful living for a variety of reasons such as poverty, lack of access to training and immigration barriers beyond their control.

Without the training, support and job development Portals Of Wonder supplies, the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to society these young individuals have to offer might never unfold.

Together with her formal conservatory training and her master class work with Portals Of Wonder, Aya is now better prepared to seek work in Broadway orchestras and Big Bands, internationally. Upon her return to New York after graduation in June, Aya, along with others in the Young Artists Mentoring Program will continue to train and work with Portals Of Wonder in arts education workshops and Off-Broadway settings. □□

80 y.o. Stroke Victims Dance... (Continued from page 4)

smiling 85 year old with Alzheimer's approached Laurice with her hands extended, he asked her,

"What's your name, dear?"

Looking up into his eyes, she said plainly,

"I don't know."

Thinking quickly to avoid a potentially embarrassing situation, Laurice responded,

"Well, you can be Ginger Rogers.

And I'll be Fred Astaire!"

Her eyes lit up as they laughed and danced together in fond memory of Fred and Ginger while the audience roundly applauded.

Portals Of Wonder consistently offers these humanizing experiences in creative, non-competitive and warm social settings through sing-a-longs and laughter with the antics of a performance that audience members help create. Participants of these interactive performances feel vital in spite of their suffering. Elderly such as **Helen**, barely able to walk unaided due to a stroke, expressed deep heartfelt gratitude for the inspiration to get up and live out her dreams of singing and dancing. Physical interaction not only increases cognitive development, heightens self-esteem and raises immune system function, it also encourages a shared expression of joy.

"(For) those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, strokes and other physio-cognitive impairments ...there is empowerment ...to realize there is something remembered that most residents share is a gift ...our audiences love (your program)."

--Paul Rosen, Director of Programs at the 80th Street Residence (affiliated with Mt. Sinai Hospital and New York Presbyterian Hospital)

Ethnic-American themes are emphasized through foot tapping Ragtime and Dixieland jazz, upbeat and powerfully touching Celtic songs, achingly soulful African "spirituals", romantic Jewish-Gypsy melodies and driving Latin Tango music. Each enriches multicultural diversity with selections interspersed by brief educational points that set the historical atmosphere in which this great music thrives best.

The music, whether poignantly underscored by Charlie Chaplin-like mime accompanied by his musical compositions, or pulled from the pages of a Hollywood-Broadway musical film, inspires participants to sing, dance and laugh out loud. Over the course of the concert series we knew we made an impact as more and more frail elderly residents greeted us with a newly enlivened energy. Many began dressing up and applying make-up for the Portals Of Wonder event.

Working to engage youth and elders in the community by encouraging interfaith understanding, gender sensitivity and multicultural reconciliation, Portals Of Wonder honors the important contributions of each generation and reconnects youth to our national legacy. □□



Steppin' Out with Ma' Baby

Since 2001, Portals Of Wonder has collaborated in dance performances with New York's premier dance schools such as **Steps On Broadway** where Portals Of Wonder created a special program featuring professional dancers and a troupe of eight young dancers-in-training. This intergenerational format provided important building blocks for these youth's future work on stage and screen.

New York Fun-Raiser

A New York City poetry hot spot, **Club 13**, hosted a fund-raising event featuring magic, comedy, and illusion. The event was co-hosted by owner **Thomas Sullivan** and **Richard T. Mudrinich** of **Salmon Smith Barney Brokerage**. Portals Of Wonder and community-based organizations such as the **Manhattan Chamber of Commerce** collaborated at this event to bring programs to homeless youth.

Corning Celebrates 150 years of Wonder in Scientific Discovery

Celebrating 150 years of scientific discovery, **Corning, Inc.** featured the magic and comic mime of Portals Of Wonder for 1,000 employees. The income derived from corporate sponsored events directly supports Portals Of Wonder's programs. □□

Inspirational Thought

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" -Gandhi

10 Exciting Goals 2003-2004: Aiming Higher!

Our goals over the next 18 months are to engage the considerable talents of our dedicated board, staff and faculty to:

1. Deliver programs to over 4000 children
2. Continue to develop extraordinary performance and educational programs that focus on the issues that effect the children and elders of our communities
3. Expand and increase celebrity participation with Portals Of Wonder
4. Further develop marketing materials
5. Increase funding through service contracts, ticket sales, grants, board development, live and media events, fundraisers and donor committees
6. Further establish our regionally respected programs in collaboration with major community-based organizations
7. Salary professional administration in marketing, fundraising, business development, and production while building administrative infrastructure
8. Further develop our website for e-commerce and e-philanthropy
9. Work on the pre-development of a capital campaign
10. Develop an endowment fund for the donation or purchase and operation of a vaudeville musical theater to house our musical extravaganzas, arts education programs, community center, and other business and economic development



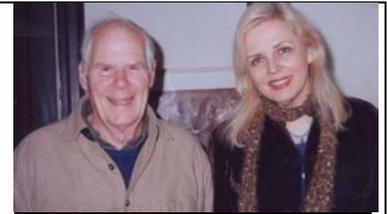
Off Broadway Vaudeville Theater for Children

(Continued from page 1)

Presently, we are in the pre-development stage of a capital campaign, expanding our Board of Trustee, and in consultation with fundraising and real estate advisors.

To this end, we are building upon our work with social service and educational institutions, theatrical producers, and real estate and corporate sponsors with whom we have had prior experience. ☐☐

Newly Appointed Board Members



We are proud to announce the following individuals have joined our **International Board of Advisors**.

Galt Mac Dermot (pictured left with Sandra Nordgren) is a **Grammy** and **Tony Award** winner, composer of the groundbreaking Broadway and Hollywood movie musical *Hair*, and has recently topped the charts again with **Busta Rhymes**.

The **Honorable Shannon Taylor, J.D.**, Judge, City of New York, is the Founder and Executive Director of **Not Just Blacks & Jews In Conversation**, a not-for-profit dedicated to educating peoples of all backgrounds and creeds with programs that include bringing judges and minority youth together in social-educational group conversation.

Joe Franklin is the lovable nostalgia host of **WOR** radio's *The Joe Franklin Show*. A television and radio host since the last days of vaudeville and the early days of radio and television, Joe has interviewed everyone from **Eddie Cantor** and **Milton Berle** to **Jackie Mason**, **Bing Crosby**, **Bill Cosby** and many others including Laurice.

A member of the Leadership Search Committee, **Bonni Miller's** Haute Couture hat and evening dress designs have adorned clients that include Hollywood legends and those of the fashionable Equestrian set, such as **Marilyn Monroe**, **Susan Strasberg**, **Paula Strasberg**, **Ann Bancroft**, **Princess Von Broncovan**, and others. Bonni is also an avid illustrator of

(Continued on page 10)

Newly Appointed Board Members

(Continued from page 9)

of Horse Shows among her other varied subjects published in the exclusive **Palm Beach Journal Magazine**. She is easily recognizable at equestrian events and invited to attend many including the **Hampton Classic**, horse shows at the **Palm Beach Polo and Equestrian Club** and the **Kentucky Derby**.

Dr. David Schroeder, Ph.D., is Program Director for **New York University's Jazz and Contemporary Music Program**, and the **Jazz Masterclass Series**. He developed and directed the **New School Jazz Outreach Program** and through these auspices collaborates with Portals Of Wonder's Young Artists & Entrepreneurs Mentoring Program to provide jazz students with the opportunity to develop their careers as performers and creative individuals while teaching the necessary professional survival skills often left undeveloped by the education process.

A former Vice President & Producer with Verve Music Group, Schroeder coordinated jazz industry and performance mentoring internships for **Blue Note Records, Verve Music Group, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Blue Note Jazz Club, Universal Entertainment** and **The Knitting Factory Records**. A graduate of the **New England Conservatory of Music**, and a **Eubie Blake Scholar**, Schroeder was named **Outstanding Jazz Studies Doctoral Student of the Year (1992)** and has performed with orchestras and headliners including **The Temptations, Martha Reeves & the Vandellas, The Drifters**, and the **Tommy Dorsey Orchestra** as well as on soundtracks for silent films on **American Movie Classics**.

We are proud to announce our new members to the **Board of Trustees**:

Christine Prokopiak, M.A., held senior management positions as an Information Technology Consultant for state and city governments (**VA, HI, OR, and NY; NYC**) and Fortune 500 corporations including **General Electric and IBM** where she was responsible for online security measures and the supervision of programming budgets of up to eight figures.

In 2000, Christine served as **Interim Senior Administrator** for Portals Of Wonder. Her efforts balanced the bookkeeping, produced our first annual report and helped raise over fifty thousand dollars in cash and in-kind services.

Based upon her success as an entrepreneur, author, and researcher on indigenous cultures, consciousness studies, comparative religions and myths, Christine founded **Mystecha**, a not-for-profit community geared towards teens - both as future leaders and sacred artists. Under Christine's empathic expertise and dedication **Mystecha** is an organization is dedicated to re-directing potent energies rising in the youth of today into socially enhancing forms of artistry, leadership, and world building.

Carol Schaefer, a leading advocate in Adoption Reform internationally, is author of ***The Other Mother: A Woman's Love for the Child She Gave Up for Adoption***. Listed by Penguin Reader's Guide in **500 Great Books by Women**, a list that goes back to the 11th century, the book was adapted for television by **NBC** in 1995. The TV movie of the same name, starring Frances Fisher [who played the mother in the blockbusting film **Titanic**], is now one of the most popular movies on **Lifetime Television for Women**.

Schaefer's play, ***The Sacred Virgin***, was produced by the Thirteenth Street Repertory Theater and ran for the first three months of 2002. Schaefer edited the photo/essay book, ***Sacred Connections: Stories of Adoption***, and her book ***Mary Queen of Scots*** was published April 2002 and can be purchased at **Barnes and Nobles** or your local bookseller.

On behalf of the Adoption Reform Movement, Schaefer has appeared on many national and local television and radio shows, including **Good Morning America, CNN** and **MS/NBC**, and speaks at conferences worldwide on adoption issues. She is Board Vice President for the national organization, **Concerned United Birthparents**.

We welcome all our new board members, and are inspired and honored to have their invaluable support. We look forward to developing a long and rich legacy of service, leadership and joyous camaraderie together.



Foster Youth's Art Work



ANKE - 19 YEARS OLD

Anke, age 19

This selection of drawings was created by foster youth who participated in the Portals Of Wonder arts education workshop series that features fairytales and myths illustrated with magic, mime and music.

These drawings reflect the inner experiences of children who just experienced an ancient fairytale that culminates with a question: What treasure does your ancient and powerful tree in the magic forest contain for you now and in your future?

By identifying and drawing their inner treasures, children in crisis are helped to clarify inner visions and longings; they revision their lives from one of hopelessness and despair to a life of infinite possibilities.



Waldemar, age 12

Joy Song

By Stephanie Berghash Show
[The Portals Of Wonder Theme:]

Joy can dwell within you all if you tear down fearful walls. If you open cynic halls, Joy Will Come To Live.

Here's a new day. Here's a chance. Welcome in it's sweet romance. See the wonder in its dance. Joy Will Come To Live.

See the snowflakes. Drop your heartaches. Joy Will Come To Live. Break down bars. Look to the stars. Joy Will Come To Live.

Graceful is the morning light bringing back the day from the night, bowing to all chances bright. Joy Will Come To Live.

[Lyrics excerpted by permission. Words and Music © 1997 Stephanie Berghash. All Rights Reserved]

Patch Adams in Fourth Year as Honorary Chair



We feel privileged to announce that **Dr. Patch Adams, M.D.**, (pictured with Stephanie Berghash Snow) continues his fourth year as Honorary Chairman of Portals Of Wonder. The Hollywood film biography of his life stars superstar **Robin Williams** in the title role playing **Patch Adams**. Patch praises the mission of Portals Of Wonder as:

“Important work...(that revitalizes) wonder and curiosity...(with an) ancient and sorely needed approach to rebuild community.”

Patch, the founder of **Gesundheit! Institute**, is a leading activist for affordable healthcare and peace. He has brought free healthcare to 15,000 individuals in different nations and is the first physician to bring clowning and laughter to children in hospitals as a valid healthcare modality. Portals Of Wonder is proud to be scheduled to deliver programs to his hospital upon its completion.

**About the Portals Of Wonder
Senior Staff-family...**



Co-founder and Director of Education and Design, **Stephanie Berghash Snow** is a veteran

educator and designer who holds a Masters Degree in Education, state certification and certification as a chef. Stephanie's designs include the future **Children's Museum of Buffalo, N.Y.**, toys displayed and retailed at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, and educational programs for public school systems in New York City, Buffalo and New Jersey. For over five years, her expertise in early childhood education was regularly featured on **AM Buffalo** over the **ABC** affiliate **WBEN** and broadcast throughout Western NY and Canada.

Behind her sparkling personality she brings a rare kindness filled with poetic study, disciplined scholarship, wisdom and insights that are combined with practical know-how. An artist in her own right, Stephanie has a liltingly sweet voice that weaves her vibrantly original music, lyrics, poetry and prose as a delightful counterpart to the music, magic, mime and mystery of Laurice. Stephanie embodies and evokes joyful sweetness, reverence and love. These qualities permeate her leading-edge work in education, the arts, design, and the creation of sanctuary - an extraordinary approach that brings hope, inspiration and wonder.

Joining Portals Of Wonder in April 2001 as Executive Director and Executive Producer, **Sandra Nordgren** brought her expertise as Production Auditor for **ABC, NBC, CBS** and **HBO** network television programs and specials such as **Pee-wee's Playhouse** and **Madonna** videos. As General Manager of the **Thirteenth Street Theatre**, she runs the day-to-day operations of a 60-80-member repertory company with between 5 and 6 plays and musical productions per week. A published playwright, Sandra developed and maintains the **New Works Reading Series**, whose mission is to help playwrights and screenwriters develop their work.

Sandra is a person of extraordinary kindness, love and integrity who has fed and mentored hundreds of homeless children and young artists

and positioned Portals Of Wonder to serve the community's need for cultural and social service programs. She is a gentle leader of keen vision, intelligence, and heart-centered wisdom; we are truly blessed with her guidance.

For more staff, board, artists and educators, please visit www.PortalsOfWonder.org and click on the Artists and/or the Board and Staff links. Stephanie, Sandra, and Laurice, along with the continuous encouragement of Patch Adams, guide a team of 15 international artists and educators and a dozen municipal and industry leaders to cast a spell of wonder, hope and enchantment that improves the quality of many lives in our communities. ☐☐

Corporate Sponsor Appreciation

Please patronize these corporate sponsors whose support have made it possible for Portals Of Wonder to bring programs to those in need:

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Additional donors, collaborators, funders and sponsors are listed throughout this newsletter. For a more complete list, please visit www.PortalsOfWonder.org and click on the Supporters link. If you know of any company or individual who was inadvertently omitted, we extend our apologies for any oversight and ask to please let us know.



Pioneering Arts Educators: A Centuries' Old Family Tradition



Great-Grandfather in 1897,
Master Magician, Laurice



Grandfather, Irving Mintz
a gifted singer & humorist



Father, Morton Mintz



Great-Grandson
Master Magician
Laurice 1989

(Continued from page 2)

Over his 45-year career, Morton Mintz saved lives and strengthened thousands of individuals, families, and communities by connecting people to their gifts through his pioneering combination of Jung's psychology and the arts, in a social group work setting.

Among the many who recognize him for this extraordinary work are the great psychologist **Dr. Carl C. Jung**, **Mrs. Alice Tully** (of **Alice Tully Hall** at **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**) and the **Honorable Mario M. Cuomo**, **Governor of the State of New York**, who said in candid astonishment following his first meeting with Morty: **"That's the smartest man I ever met."**

A brilliant fine artist, Morty's work was critically praised by the **The New York Times** and **The Art Digest**.

The family is steeped in vaudeville and musical theater lore: Laurice's father Morty and grandfather Irving were also extraordinary singers and humorous storytellers who come from a long line of artist-community builders; his great-grandfather Laurice was a master magician and musician and confidant of **Houdini's** over 100 years ago.

When the **Warner Brothers** first came to the United States they stayed at the humble home of the elder Laurice and his family of show kids. Great-grandfather Laurice was looked upon as a kind, gentle and trustworthy man who helped mentor youth. He rubbed elbows with many of the now legendary Broadway and Hollywood performing artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and later booked Broadway's greatest theater, **The Palace**.

Laurice has been in the fore-front of the arts education movement for over 25 years bringing programs to serve critically ill children afflicted with AIDS and cancer, homeless children and their families, youth at risk, and the elderly. He shares his years of professional magic and experience in social group work, and the creative and visionary process through educational presentations of myth, magic, mime and music for all ages.

Laurice Takes Breath-Taking Risks For Underprivileged Youth

Laurice, master of impossibilities, is best known for history-making escape challenges network broadcast by **ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN**, and **Fox** to 100 countries live via satellite television. [Click here for video link](#) of network coverage of some of Laurice's world-record mystifying feats (or visit www.PortalsOfWonder.org and click on Artists for more information and video footage).

The underlying purpose for accepting such daring escape challenges is to offer a different model – a metaphor to disadvantaged children that demonstrates that anything is possible, especially their fondest dreams - [Click here for MORE INFO \[www.PortalsOfWonder.org\]](#) on Laurice, for descriptions of his Great Escapes, pictures and quotes.

A family tradition in the arts and community building is carried on through the founding of Portals Of Wonder as Laurice walks in the footsteps of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfathers who each contributed to the family tradition of arts in community. □□

Inspirational Thought

"Live your life as if it were a work of art." *I Asked for Wonder* - Heschel



Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers

Legendary Performers

Their History & Techniques
Arts Education Series

Portals Of Wonder arts education workshops, like the **Legendary Performers Series**, have been brought to

New York and New Jersey public schools and after-school settings. This workshop-performance series carries on the great American tradition of vaudeville, comedy and musical theater specialty artists such as – **Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Houdini, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Judy Garland, Al Jolson, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, George M. Cohan, Jerome Kern, Noel Coward** and others – who brought joy to the world. These artists reflect the ideals that shaped the American spirit.

Laurice puts it plainly:

“Each of us has an inner ‘Chaplin’, the optimistic little one; an inner ‘Houdini’ to escape our chains, walk through walls and transform our self; and an inner ‘Astaire’ to elegantly dance on air.

“They are part of our cultural inheritance. When youth experience a crisis or tragedy, they can draw on this cultural inheritance to enrich their perceptions. This experience can offer them navigation for a future filled with positive options and potentials.”

And helping children develop *artistic imagination* allows them to develop critical thinking skills ‘outside the box’, effecting how they see themselves in business and in entrepreneurial leadership roles. Their visions and curiosity are thus stirred for possibilities beyond their present circumstances.

Laurice continued:

“The ethics and values that these artists embraced projected a living experience of

kindness and refinement born from a decency of human spirit that many youth need and long for today.”

In workshops and one-on-one master classes, Portals Of Wonder makes available rare books and publications, audio and visual demonstrations from the **Portals Of Wonder Educational Research Library**, accompanied by live demonstrations of techniques, methods and materials. Participants learn skills that build self-esteem, creativity and performing art skills that are transferable to reading, math, science, job and entrepreneurial settings, group presentations and self-expression.



Charlie Chaplin and kids

Sandra Nordgren adds, **“Anchoring elders and youth together through the *Legendary Performers Series* brings a rare haven of heart-warming familiarity and an intergenerational connectedness. In sharing great old-time American cultures of long ago, youth capture the precious memories of elders and are given once-in-a-lifetime ancestral experiences. In this way the generations bond.”** □□

Our Heartfelt Appreciation:

Web Site

The www.PortalsOfWonder.org web site art design concept was provided by Stephanie Berghash Snow, of **Stephanie Berghash Snow Design**, who created our logo and theme; Continued web concept and design was constructed by graphic artist, web and set designer, **Henning Ahlers**, whose clients include Hollywood film and commercial production companies, and companies like **Volkswagen**. Henning's work can be viewed at www.henningahlers.de. Web site is hosted by **PANIX**; Domain names are donated by **Network Solutions**; Soft ware donors include **Symantec**.

Newsletter

Editing, writing, proofing by Sandra Nordgren, **Hailey Ratigan**, **Dionne Jackson** and **Helen Drysdale**.

Financial, Reports, Research and More

Completion of the time honored financial reports is provided by Sandra Nordgren, **Christine Prokopiak** and **Peter Mertz, CPA, JD**; Technical support for fundraising was generously developed by **Frank Haberle** and **CRE**; organizational counsel is generously provided by **Martin Rubenstein, Esq.**

Other individuals providing mentoring, invaluable research and/or guidance include pioneering researcher in Consciousness Studies, and member of our International Board of Advisors, **Dr. Stanley Krippner**; theater owner/producer **Edith O'Hara**; Trustees Emeriti **David Weisman** and **Bettina Vorbeck**; **Hector Paz** and **Tim Pettolina** of Broadway's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; **Mary Borovicka** of **Petco**. They are among many other caring and loving individuals, several of whom wish to remain anonymous.

Our deepest gratitude is expressed to **Drs. Keith Marshall, D.D.S.**, dentist extraordinaire and **Corrie E. Horshinski, D.C.**, Chiropractor, for their selfless provision of healthcare to the staff of Portals Of Wonder.

We are forever grateful to Christine Prokopiak and **Neal Weisman** for their rigorous research, unending Information Technology administration, project management and kindness.

Video

The Portals Of Wonder video, available at www.PortalsOfWonder.org, is a work in progress made possible by **Robert De Niro**, **John Miles**, **Dave Feit**, and **T.H.E. Tools**.

Artistic concept and design is by Stephanie Berghash Snow, of Stephanie Berghash Snow Design; primary editing is by **Danny Goldberg**; narration voice over is by **Eric Conger**; audio engineering is by **Ben Bates**. Complete technical and artistic support acknowledged under the Individual Pro Bono and Corporate In Kind contributors section at www.PortalsOfWonder.org. More video programs will be available soon.

Portals Of Wonder extends its gratitude for the dedication and work ethic of those largely responsible for keeping Portals Of Wonder's mission and programs viable. A fuller list, although not complete by any means, can be found by clicking on the Supporters link at www.PortalsOfWonder.org. Please patronize these wonderful businesses.

Your Expertise, Please

If you would like to help and be a part of the Portals Of Wonder family, or wish to make a contribution that will help Portals Of Wonder continue its extraordinary programs, please contact us at 212 861-1638 - we would be delighted to hear from you. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent.

We graciously accept cash, check or credit card. For those wishing to donate items or expertise, we can forward you a wish list to further the mission of Portals Of Wonder.

Also, we are expanding the number of seats on our Board of Trustees - please call us for an information package. We are especially looking for those with experience in the pre-development phase of capital campaigns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of Portals Of Wonder. We wish you continued wonder and prosperity.

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