

# *bright ideas*

Fall 2009



Springboard

an affiliate of  
Young Audiences  
Arts for Learning



# Turning to Textiles

Students across the St. Louis region are going to be turning to textiles with Springboard this fall through two exciting and brand new opportunities.

Springboard received a \$10,000 Kresge Arts in St. Louis grant- a partnership of the Kresge Foundation, the Arts and Education Council and the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation. The grant



will be used to support the Red Thread Project® which is based on a Chinese proverb that describes how an invisible red thread connects us all. Three classrooms in four schools totaling around 300 students will learn a simple knitting technique to create colorful handmade hats. After the hats are complete, professional artist and creator of the Red Thread Project® Lindsey Obermeyer will join the hats with lengths of knitted red thread for a performance art event. While wearing the hats, participants will be led through a series of simple movements

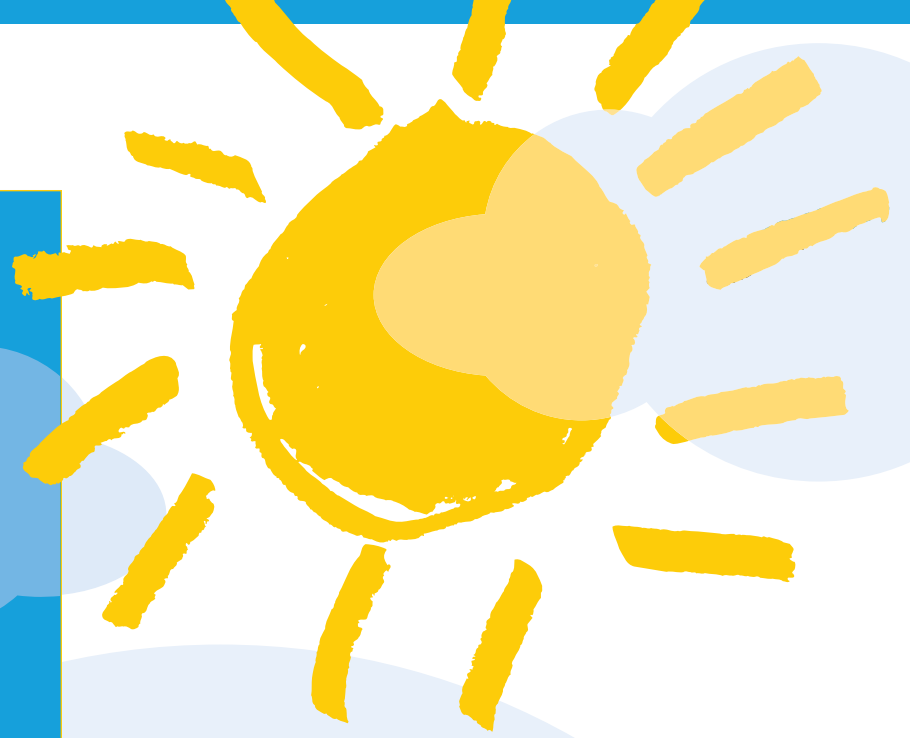
done in unison while connected to others. Afterwards, the hats are disconnected and in a cooperative spirit, given to local charities chosen by the participating students.

In addition to knitting, fourth and fifth graders from Mann School will learn about the importance of weaving in our society from local artist Amber Barhorst. They will explore the world of fibers by making their own paper, dyeing fabric and weaving baskets from recycled fibers. All classrooms in the program collaborate on a group weaving which will become their gift to the school. This program is generously funded by the Civic Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO).

Springboard staff members and teaching artists are thrilled to weave arts and culture into the curriculum during the 2009-2010 school year throughout the St. Louis region.



Photos courtesy of Sandi Gunnett and The Red Thread Project®



## A Letter from Barbara Carswell

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying our new newsletter! In April, almost three years after the merger of Springboard to Learning and Young Audiences of St. Louis, our Board

of Directors voted to officially change our name to Springboard. Our organization has adopted a new logo and new newsletter design.

In addition, we are excited to announce the creation of a new web site. Our new home on the web is [www.springboardstl.org](http://www.springboardstl.org). We have invested in many bells and whistles to make this dynamic and teacher friendly. Teachers and administrators can search artist's biographies, enter key word searches, see photos of our programs, download program guides and much more. Our organization is striving to keep up technologically to make arts and culture easily accessible to thousands of students in the greater St. Louis region from the Lake of the Ozarks to Southern Illinois.

To our longtime Young Audiences supporters, please know that we maintain our affiliation with Young Audiences, Inc. and that we continue our award winning programs. We have worked together diligently to create our new brand to adhere with the Young Audiences national standards.

We look forward to an exciting new school year! Thank you for your support.

Barbara Carswell  
Executive Director

Send us your email address! We are starting an e-newsletter and want to keep you in the loop.

See [www.springboardstl.org](http://www.springboardstl.org) for more info!

## The Spotlight: Springboard Volunteers

In each newsletter, we would like to shine our spotlight on the very important people who make our organization a success.

First and foremost, the Springboard staff would be remiss if we did not recognize the timeless and tireless efforts of our **Shirley Sher**. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, Shirley volunteers in the Springboard office once a week doing everything from typing to filing. She also makes hundreds of journals for first and second graders, creates photo montages, and coaches WiseWrite. In addition to Shirley, **Carolyn Beimdiek, Ann Bronsing, Pat Bubash, Myra Crandall, Beatrice Gardner, Stephanie Hempel, Irene Kalnins, Suzanna LeBegue, Claire Marx, Ann McCormack, Barb Mennell, Joan Schiele, Shirley Sher, Shannon Sturgis** and **Mary Weinstock** also serve as WiseWrite coaches. In 2009, they worked with students from Hudson and Herzog Elementary Schools for six weeks this spring to write plays. Coaches assisted students in the classroom with everything from vocabulary to character arc and provided an attentive and encouraging

audience to the young playwrights. Each student created a published play of which a handful were performed in April at the Repertory Theatre by professional actors.

Our programs would not be possible without our wonderful **Springboard Program Evaluators Committee** (pictured below). They observe a minimum of three Springboard programs per semester,



complete an online evaluation form about each program, attend various meetings and ultimately serve as Springboard ambassadors in the community. Among this great group is **Marjorie Smith** who was named one of the 2009 Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans by St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors.

## Sunburst Society Debuts

Fall 2009



Sunburst Society

"Ignite a passion for learning in a child with your gift to the Sunburst Society. Please join me and become a founding member."

Cindy Maritz

Springboard is proud to announce the launch of its Sunburst Society. The Sunburst Society is a giving society composed of dedicated individuals and families who have committed to building a solid foundation in support of our mission. Special thanks to longtime supporter Mrs. James A. Maritz and her daughter Board member Cindy Maritz for graciously hosting a brunch in September for founding members and their guests. An annual contribution by an individual of \$1,000 or more provides membership into the Sunburst Society.

Contact:

Andrea Gant, Development Director at 314-289-4120 for more information.

## centennial celebration

In January, Springboard founder Elise R. "Leesy" Schweich celebrated her 100th birthday! St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay declared January 30, 2009 as "Elise R. Schweich Day" to honor Leesy's long time commitment to bringing arts and culture into St. Louis city public schools. Leesy founded Springboard to Learning in 1965 at Ford Elementary School. Friends and family joined her for dinner and entertainment provided by St. Louis Irish Arts and longtime Springboard teaching artists Helen and Eileen Gannon. The Springboard staff and teaching artists work hard to continue Leesy's vision to "bring the world into the classroom."



With daughter Susie Treiman



Mrs. Schweich in 1965

## Tributes to Elise "Leesy" Schweich

Suzanne & Alan Broddon  
Pat Esserman  
Shirley A. Heiman  
Cynthia A. Maritz  
Claire & Richard Marx  
Barbara & Julius Schweich  
Brigitte M. Schweich  
Robert Schweich  
Shirley & Donald Sher  
Julia Muller & Earl Shreckengast  
Sally & Bernard Stein  
Susan & Ralph Treiman  
Grace Weber

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Earl K. Shreckengast

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Kathie Winter

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Cynthia A. Maritz

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Betsy Wack  
Cheryl L. Whalen

Find out more by visiting our NEW website  
at [www.springboardstl.org](http://www.springboardstl.org)!



WHITAKER FOUNDATION