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When Olga Lara, Andrew Courtney and I founded WISE Services in 1991, we were the only members of the Board of Directors, the only staff and the only donors. By 1993, with an advisory board of eight and a small number of passionate additional donors, we brought

WISE to Croton-Harmon, Mamaroneck and Scarsdale high schools.

Today, we have close to 70 diverse WISE schools nationwide. This would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and committed dedication of our 14-member Board of Directors, our staff of 15

and hundreds of donors.

Past newsletters have focused on some of the basic pillars of WISE -- the project, the mentor, the journal, the task force. In this issue, we would like you to get to know our hard-working Board of Directors, and we want to thank our donors.



WISE Board members (9/12/2004) Standing (left to right): Charles Knoblock, Numa Rousseve, Harry Phillips, III, Andrew Courtney, Steven Brown and Dr. Linda Greene, WISE Services Executive Director. Sitting: Valerie Somersille, Michael Mark, Eric Rothschild and Vic Leviatin. Photographs of additional Board members continue on page 3.

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BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Knoblock and his wife, Mary, live in Hartsdale, NY. Their three children (David, Sarah & Carrie) attended Woodlands High School with two doing WISE projects. A believer in diverse community public education, Chuck sees WISE as a vital link between a community and a student's education that extends beyond "book learning." Chuck was with IBM Marketing for 30 years and more recently works with startups.

Numa Rousseve is the parent (with Kaaren) of 1989 and 1993 Woodlands HS WISE students, Kristin and Jonathan. He works with WISE Services board and staff to help future WISE students learn about themselves and their dreams, and lends money to small businesses for HSBC Bank. Numa sings with the Westchester Choral Society

Harry Phillips, III is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. The Board makes policy for all education in New York State; licenses, educates and disciplines 48 licensed professions and charters museums, libraries, public radio and TV. He is a Managing Director of Winged Keel Group, a financial security management firm and is past Chair of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College. Mr. Phillips resides with his wife, Marjorie, in Hartsdale, NY.

Andrew Courtney was a career teacher of Fine Arts at Woodlands H.S. His work there began in the vigorous civil rights era. For him, Woodlands High School was a vital base for the adventure of learning in and out of the classroom. Special examples of this adventure were Andrew's authoring of the experimental EVOLVE program of 1971, the Square Block Project of 1977 and the China trip of 1982. He saw these as art projects. His early and continued participation with the W.I.S.E. program was form fitted to his philosophy of experiential education. Andrew is an activist for social issues and an exhibition documentary photographer/ filmmaker.

Steven Brown is the President of the Greyston Foundation. Steven has been a member of Greyston's Board since 1998. Steven has a long history with WISE, participating on its first Task Force at Woodlands High School, and in the first class of WISE in 1973, where he did a project in journalism. He is currently the Chair of the Wise Services Board and is the proud parent of Anya, who is a White Plains HS WISE student.

Valerie Somersille, who died in January 2004, was on the original WISE Task Force in 1973. See story on page 7.

Michael Mark is a musician/composer by profession. He serves on the Nyack School Board and the Board of the Valley Cottage Library. Michael and his wife Mary have two children, Noah and Emily, both of whom had excellent WISE experiences at Nyack High School. Michael also mentored a Nyack HS student in a music project.

Eric Rothschild is a retired Scarsdale High School history teacher. He has taught at Columbia University and Manhattan College. In addition, he is an author, a consultant for the College Board and a writer of Advanced Placement U.S. History examinations. For forty years he has designed simulation games. Presently he is a consultant for the Federal Judicial Center and the History Channel.

Vic Leviatin taught social studies for 30 years at Woodlands High School in Greenburgh, New York, where he helped found the WISE program in 1973. Retiring in 1991, his wife Roz encouraged him to form WISE Services, which has helped more than 70 diverse high schools nationwide to design and implement their own project-based programs. Over 15,000 seniors (including his sons David and Daniel and his daughter-in-law Connie) have completed WISE projects as transitions to college, work and life-time learning.

BOARD MEMBERS



Elizabeth S. Pforzheimer is a community volunteer and resident of Scarsdale for 40 years. Involved in social services and education -- board member of Blythedale Childrens' Hospital, New Alternatives for Children, Bank Street College, Wellesley College. Three children and seven grandchildren. Excited by WISE program and the opportunities it offers to students from different backgrounds and experiences.



Douglas M. Pravda is an associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP. He is a 2001 graduate of Harvard Law School and a 1997 graduate of Harvard College, where he was Managing Editor of The Harvard Crimson. Doug was a member of the first class to participate in the Senior Options/WISE program at Scarsdale High School. Doug's project was an internship in the office of Congresswoman Nita Lowey.



Susan Somersille Reggie, a Woodlands HS 1983 WISE graduate, is currently the Director of Product Planning for Dictaphone. She leads an innovative team of product engineers in developing and marketing new technology products for healthcare including speech recognition and natural language processing. Prior to joining Dictaphone, Susan worked at Apple Computer, EFI and Fujitsu. Susan is a Harvard & MIT-educated engineer and received her MBA from The Wharton School.



Winsome Gregory is an Assistant Superintendent in the Nyack School District. A psychologist by training, her professional interests have included organizational change, leadership, human relations, cultural competency, and families and children. She is currently completing her doctorate in Educational Leadership at Fordham University. Winsome, with her husband Algie, is the mother of two children. Her son, Dwaine, is a graduate of Woodlands WISE, 2002.



After Mary Ann Masarech's WISE publishing project in 1978 (with Vic Leviatin as her mentor), she studied Classical Languages at Wesleyan. Mary Ann worked as an editor and then became a corporate training consultant. She is currently a product manager at BlessingWhite, a firm dedicated to "reinventing leadership and the meaning of work." She lives in Fairfield, CT with her husband and two daughters



Douglas T. Schwarz is a 1977 WISE graduate of Woodlands High School. He is a litigation and labor and employment law partner in the New York office of Bingham McCutchen LLP and a former commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. He and his wife Beth Marcus have a daughter, 11, and a son, 14, who they hope will have the opportunity to do WISE projects.

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A WISE FAMILY - BY SUSAN SOMERSILLE REGGIE



My mother, Valerie Somersille, was on the original Task Force that started the WISE program at Woodlands High School in 1972-73. As the Executive Director of Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., and later Director of the New York State Division of Economic Opportunity, she saw the need for structured, supportive transition projects for high school seniors.

Ten years later, in 1983, I did my WISE project in animal behavior with Toni Abramson as my mentor. My WISE experience helped me rule out veterinary medicine as a career, saving years of schooling. I went on to earn a B.S. in engineering at Harvard University, and an MBA at The Wharton School. In 1994, while working for Apple Computer in San Francisco, I helped WISE Services start the program at Berkeley High School.

Having my mother as a founding board member of WISE Services was an indispensable source of inspiration and support. It was always great to hear from her, Toni, Vic Leviatin, and my classmates about all the students benefiting from this extraordinary program, as WISE continued to expand across the country.

When I moved back to New York in 2000, although Mom's health was declining, she never wavered in her support for WISE and continued to be an active WISE board member while also serving on the Westchester Community College Board of Trustees and the Westchester Community College Foundation.

My mother died on January 29, 2004. Her strong voice for justice, her wit and perseverance are sorely missed but are manifest each day in the quality of services that WISE provides.

This summer, I was asked to become a Director on the WISE Services Board, which has five WISE graduates as Directors on the 14-member board. In spite of a grueling schedule as the Director of Product Management at Dictaphone, I was honored to be asked and eager to accept, because I also knew my mother wouldn't have it any other way. I am proud to continue the Somersille tradition of service to WISE as we help adolescents pursue their passions and find their way to making a contribution to the world.

WISE Services
348 N. Midland Avenue
Upper Nyack, NY 10960
Phone: 845-353-2854
Fax: 845-353-2838
Email: wiselindag@optonline.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.WISESERVICES.ORG

DID YOU KNOW?

Peekskill High School, which hosts the 14th Annual WISE Services Conference on April 1, 2005, celebrates the Tenth Anniversary of its WISE program in June ... Since the last newsletter, WISE Services presented at three professional conferences: November 2004 - Bev Davis, Gerald Garfin, Linda Greene, Francine Hertz, Vic Leviatin and Andrew Lutz at the Foundation for Excellent Schools in Lake George, NY; February 2005 - Toni Matthews and Nancy Schneider at the National Association of Independent Schools in San Diego, CA; February 2005 - Linda Greene, Vic Leviatin, WISE graduates Harlan Pinto, M.D. ('75), David Ross ('78) and Peter Clauson ('88) with Miramonte WISE Co-Coordinator Alison Burke and four 2005 Miramonte High School WISE students at the National Association of Secondary School Principals in San Francisco, CA. ... A visit to the Columbia School of Public Health is planned for twelve students from WISE schools in May ...



Dr. Linda Greene, WISE Services Executive Director, showing a sample Journal at the Spring Valley High School Journal Workshop