Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities

Sail Into Summer

2022 Gala

Thursday, May 19

Indian Harbor Yacht Club
Greenwich, CT

HONORING

Lydia H. Soifer, Ph.D.
Language and Literacy Specialist,
Advocate, Consultant
Answering, “Who is this child?”

and

The 2022 Fred J. Epstein Youth
Achievement Award Winners
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The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni from Eagle Hill send their heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lydia H. Soifer for her dedication and years of service to changing the lives of students with LD.

Congratulations on this well deserved Lifetime Achievement Award Dr. Soifer!

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On your Lifetime Achievement Award!

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Lydia H. Soifer, PhD.

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Today, we celebrate your life long commitment to service — helping so many that learn differently!

Love, Marc Hoffman

MARC HOFFMAN
AUTHOR • EDUCATOR • SPEAKER
Save the date,
Sunday, September 25, 2022.
Smart Kids with LD
4th Annual Smart Walk
Lydia H. Soifer, Ph.D. is a renowned pediatric language and literacy specialist, whose experience includes over 45 years in clinical practice, educational consulting, and university teaching. She was the founder and served for 25 years as director of The Soifer Center for Learning and Child Development, the first multidisciplinary diagnostic and remedial setting in Westchester County, and continues to provide educational consultation and advocacy services to families and schools.

Dr. Soifer specializes in the role of language in the development of children's learning, literacy, behavior, and social-emotional development. She is the author of a chapter on the development of oral language and its relationship to literacy in a major textbook on multisensory structured language, and developed a training program on classroom language dynamics. She focuses on guiding all educational professionals to answer the essential question, “Who is this child?”

Dr. Soifer is a member of the Board of Trustees of Eagle Hill School in Greenwich, CT and The Gateway School in New York City, and serves as a member of the Smart Kids with LD Professional Advisory Board. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and presents regularly to parent as well as professional groups.
The 2022 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award winner is Tatum Thomas from Los Gatos, CA. A student with an extraordinary resume of achievements and service, Tatum transformed herself from a child with multiple learning differences who had to repeat second grade to a champion and advocate for others with similar challenges. Among her accomplishments are student government and mock trial leadership positions, outstanding grades, a cappella singing, volunteer work at hospitals and the humane society, and the creation of a tutoring business for students with disabilities. When her plans to spend a summer in Peru were derailed by the pandemic, Tatum founded an international nonprofit to serve Peruvian children with learning differences, an effort for which she is learning Quechua. “My personal experience shows young kids that just because their brain works differently, doesn’t mean they lack intelligence.” Next year Tatum will carry her determination and inspiration to Northwestern University.
This year’s 2022 Special Recognition Winner is Andre Allen, a member of the National Honor Society and Captain of his wrestling team and a Maryland top-10 wrestler in his weight class. This Upper Marlboro scholar-athlete has been fighting hard his entire life. Weighing less than two pounds at birth, Andre required major surgery to survive, and has continued to persevere as he’s learned to successfully navigate life with ADHD and Dyslexia. Andre volunteers at the local Boys and Girls Club and has a part-time job. He is known as a hard-working self-advocate with impeccable character who thrives on helping others. Andre plans to continue to wrestle and achieve his goals at McDaniel University in the Fall.
Alejandra Engel, identified early with dyslexia, attended a school for kids with LD. Like many of her same-age peers, the Lynnwood, WA teen struggled with depression due to Covid and compounded by the loss of two grandparents. Ultimately, she faced her fears by learning coping skills and finding an inner strength she didn’t know she had. Her goal is to become a psychiatric nurse to support others with life’s challenges. Speaking from experience she suggests, “Don’t be ashamed to ask for help. You’re not alone.”

As a fifth grader, Carlisle, PA resident Jonathan Thomas Filipovich was diagnosed with ADHD. Thanks to appropriate treatment, he became a focused, organized, and successful student—that is until Covid. Like so many students with attentional issues, online education was a temporary setback for him, from which he has fully rebounded. As a high school senior Jonathan is again pursuing a rigorous course load along with college level classes. In addition he has achieved Eagle Scout status while working 30- to 40-hours per week, and is looking forward to attending Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall.
Katelyn Justice, from Ashland, KY, feels the duality of being twice exceptional, identified with above-average intelligence and dyslexia and dysgraphia. As a result she felt out of place in both the special education program and the gifted/talented program. Her response was to confront the struggle to fit in by educating her peers about her experiences. One way in which she raised awareness was to institute a book drive for the benefit of her former elementary school’s special education department. Katelyn has demonstrated leadership in several arenas, including the Kentucky Youth Assembly, where she succeeded in getting a dyslexia evaluation bill passed. She is currently collaborating with an author to create a book about a learning-disabled superhero, who will probably look a lot like Katelyn.

Jeremy Todd Shinder’s success at the age of four, “reading the room” of casting agents who booked him for roles on Sesame Street and Nickelodeon, soon disappeared when he was unable to read the script for bigger roles. Amazingly, he discovered that when the lines were read to him, he could memorize them, and so his acting career continued. Frustrated by his difficulty in reading exacerbated by his severe ADHD, a turning point came in fifth grade when he played “Pugsley” in the International Tour of The Addams Family. It meant that he would spend that school year being tutored, allowing him to close the gap on his reading skills. Jeremy notes that among his most proud accomplishments, is graduating high school cum laude and making the Dean’s List each semester at Syracuse University, where he is an honors student and an award-winning filmmaker in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Reframing his disability as a diversability drives him to share what he has learned, and to overcome his challenges.
Live Auction Item # 1

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Donated by Judy & Walter Grossman and Kathy & Brian O’Hare

Restrictions
Includes two house tickets, not available for sale to the public, to the performance of your choice
Two weeks advance notice of desired performance date required. Tickets not available from Thanksgiving through Christmas. Package includes $250 gift certificate to Sardi's and $300 voucher to hotelgift.com.
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Tickets are located at the third base side at field level and include access to the Audi Yankee Club and the Pepsi Lounge. Section 126, Row 3, Seats 13-16, on the aisle.

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Chef Laurie Erickson served for 6 years as Executive Chef at the renowned Canyon Ranch Spa in Lenox, MA and is the former Wellness Chef at the 5-star Cloister Resort and Spa on Sea Island, GA. Her recipes have been featured in numerous magazines and publications, including Spa Magazine, Self, The Boston Globe. Her talents were featured on the Dr. Oz Show and she has cooked for numerous celebrities, including President George W. Bush and his family. Consistently voted best private chef in Charleston, she is ready to take Connecticut and Westchester by storm!

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Donated by Chef Laurie Erickson & Black Bear Wines & Spirits

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