

Norwalk Education Foundation Newsletter

NEF Matters

In This Issue

[Author Shares Newest Books](#)

[Emcor Continues Support](#)

7th Annual Business Partners for Education Awards Breakfast

Norwalk/Rowayton Sales Manager, Kate Johnson of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage and Insurance Company, along with Brasitas, The Brewhouse Restaurant, Coromandel, Festivities, the art of celebrating, Little Tokyo, NCC Culinary Arts, and Via Sforza Trattoria are to be honored Jan. 21st at the 7th Annual Awards Breakfast of Business Partners in Education, co-sponsored by the Norwalk Education Foundation and the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

They are to be recognized at the Hilton Garden Inn, 7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. for their recent support of Fall Taste for Education event. The breakfast also features reports on the future of Norwalk's schools to be delivered by superintendent Dr. Sal Corda and Richard Moccia, the mayor of Norwalk.

Information about the breakfast is available by calling the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce at (203) 866-2521.

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Author Shares Newest Books with Norwalk Teachers

Local artist, author and NEF board member, Page McBrier, presented a teacher workshop for After the Bell and Power Hour teachers in December. The workshop showcased her three latest books for [Heifer International](#), a nonprofit committed to ending hunger and poverty through the provision of animals to poor families. Ms. McBrier is also the author of the New York Times Best-Seller, *Beatrice's Goat*.

She shared her personal experiences from visiting China and Armenia for an insider's look at what inspired her to write the books. ***The Chicken and Worm*** is a story of friendship, innovation and humor that introduces young readers to the idea that even the smallest creatures can work together to care for the Earth. ***Winter in Songming*** is about a Chinese boy who takes his first step into manhood while his village takes a step toward self-sufficiency. And ***Once There Was, Once There Was Not*** is about a young boy in Armenia who learns the power of selflessness.

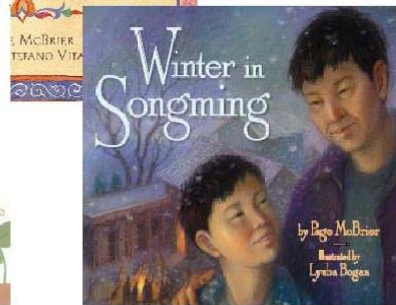
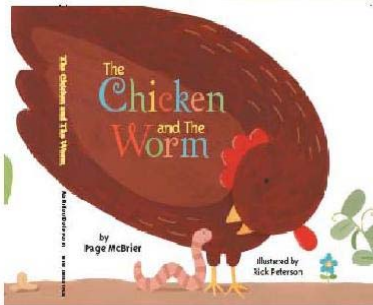
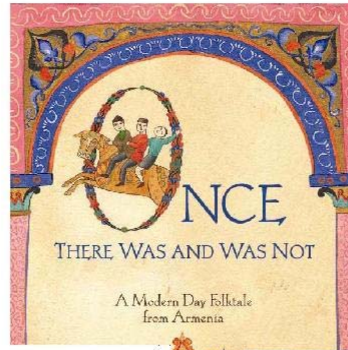
In the workshop, Norwalk teachers were provided with a resource kit by Heifer, as part of their newest educational initiative called Global Education Resources. The books and resources introduce students to the issues of hunger, poverty and environmental sustainability while satisfying an educators' need for quality supplemental materials. The kits consisted of the three books, lesson plans, activities (for inside and outside the classroom), stories, video documentaries and more.

Ms. McBrier then presented grade appropriate strategies aligned to Norwalk's reading curriculum, and had teachers break into small groups by grade level to brainstorm how



Kate Johnson, William Raveis

they might use the books and materials to enhance their classrooms and out-of-school time teaching.



Update on MSU teaching artist Jerry Craft

Norwalk teaching artist and professional cartoonist Jerry Craft, who taught comic book cartooning at NEF's MSU last spring (see bottom right Emcor photo), will be part of a 4 artist art show at UCONN Stamford, Feb. 12th, from 5-9pm. The other three artists are Barry Mason, Margo Candelario and Natalie Alleyne.

In addition, Mr. Craft is the illustrator of a new children's book called "Looking to the Clouds for Daddy", written by Margo Candelario. Both Mr. Craft and Ms. Candelario will be at a book signing on Feb. 14, at Hue-Man bookstore and Sisters Uptown Books in Harlem.

Emcor Provides Grant to Help Norwalk Students

[EMCOR Group, Inc.](#) is continuing its support of NEF's Middle School and Classroom Innovation Grant programs through 2010.

Middle School in Action provides support to students by enhancing classroom instruction, improving academic skills and promoting cultural awareness, character development and good social skills. Middle School University connects middle school students to their future success as adults.

Classroom Innovation Grants provide teachers with funding for projects that demonstrate innovative classroom instruction, foster hands-on, interdisciplinary, experiential learning, multi-level collaboration, and engage families. Examples of classroom innovation grants include the use of podcasting as a means to teach global languages, the application of digital photography to the consumer science study of fruits and vegetables, and the creation of documentary film making as a high school course elective.

"EMCOR, Group, Inc. believes in quality public education and giving back to the community. We have supported the work of the Norwalk Education Foundation for several years because we know that these programs are making a difference in the lives of Norwalk's children," says Frank T.

Our Mission

The Norwalk Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to quality public education for all of Norwalk's children. We effect positive change by providing programs and funds for innovative classroom instruction, teacher and technology training, and a variety of learning opportunities beyond the school day.



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MacInnis, Chairman and CEO.

EMCOR Group, Inc. is a Fortune 500 company with headquarters in Norwalk. The company is a leader in mechanical and electrical construction, energy infrastructure, and end-to-end facilities services.

NEF PROGRAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY



*Course: How to Make a
Video Game*



*Course: How to Make a
Music CD*



*Course: Comic Book
Cartooning*



THANK YOU for your support.

Sincerely,

The Norwalk Education Foundation (NEF)