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# NEFMATTERS

## Norwalk Education Foundation Newsletter



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## Film Discussion Helps Move Education Forward in Norwalk

On Saturday, November 5th, approximately 50 people attended the viewing of the documentary "American Teacher." The film was followed by a panel discussion of six Norwalk teachers moderated by Norwalk Superintendent Dr. Susan Marks.



*Norwalk Schools Superintendent Susan Marks looks on as Antoinette Giles and Carol Burgess discuss the film "American Teacher".*

The film chronicled the history and evolution of public teaching in America, highlighting present day challenges of low pay, changing student and teacher demographics, lack of supplies and support, and increasing student achievement demands from global competition.

The panel discussion was filled with energy and passion for teaching. All six panelists, whose teaching tenure ranged from 3 months to 30 plus years, went into teaching to help children become lifelong learners and to change lives. Some teachers transitioned from law, investment banking and theatre. Others knew from the start that teaching was their only calling.

A common theme from the panel was that collaboration was key: collaboration among teachers to enhance their skills and build learning communities; collaboration among administrators, teachers, and parents to support learning, and collaboration between unions, administrators, boards of education, and the community-at-large to move schools forward.

Discussions included the impact of tenure, equal pay for time served versus pay for performance, and how to fairly measure performance if teaching salaries were greatly increased.

## Our Mission

The Norwalk Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding, support and advocacy for educational improvements that sustain and drive student achievement for all of Norwalk's children.

## Annual Report

NEF's Annual Report has just been published. Click the image below to see what great work NEF is doing.



## Give the Gift of Civility

## SAVE THE DATES

## Presentation at Norwalk Public Library

On Thursday, December 8, from 6:00 to 7:00pm, the Norwalk Public Library is hosting "Give the Gift of Civility," a program and book signing by Sara Hacala, author of "Saving Civility: 52 Ways to Tame Rude, Crude, and Attitude for a Polite Planet." This program is co-sponsored by REd APPLES, Norwalk 2.0, and the Norwalk Education Foundation. The Norwalk Public Library is located at 1 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT.

Hacala explores how individuals can each contribute to making the world a more pleasant place to live. Her passionate mission is to spread the word that positive behavior can deepen our interpersonal relationships, and help us to lead more productive and satisfying lives. The "golden egg" is that civility facilitates progress in problem solving-whether that is in business, government or personal relationships.

Hacala, president of Sara Hacala & Associates LLC, is a certified business etiquette and protocol trainer, and civility lecturer. She also works in high schools with "at risk" students teaching vital interpersonal skills to help them gain entrée into the business arena and increase their opportunities for success.

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## Support NEF

***We are always appreciative of the support we receive from our numerous donors. Recently we received gifts from the Marion Moore Foundation and Xerox Foundation.***

A donation to NEF is an investment in Norwalk's future - helping to bring quality education to 11,000 public school students. More than 85% of donations to NEF go directly to improving teachers' skills, providing targeted learning programs and promoting classroom innovation.



## NEF's Taste for Education

**Thursday, March 1, 2012**

**6:00-8:30pm**

*Aitoro*

*401 Westport Ave.  
Norwalk*

Save your appetite for Norwalk Education Foundation's annual fundraiser where guests sample food from some of the city's hottest restaurants.

## Hear Our Song! Benefit

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**7:30pm**

*Norwalk Concert Hall*

Broadway and Hollywood meet Norwalk in this benefit concert featuring Lucie Arnaz. Presented by Unity Center for Practical Spirituality, half of the night's proceeds will go to the BJ Ryan Foundation to benefit Norwalk Education Foundation and other local Norwalk charities. Tickets on sale now at [www.unitycenterps.org](http://www.unitycenterps.org) or call 866-7004.

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## Be a Friend!



Written and designed by Snyder Group Inc.

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