

2015 OFFICIAL PROGRAM



EAST HAMPTON
ARTISTS VS WRITERS
CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015 • HERRICK PARK, EAST HAMPTON

For the benefit of:
EAST END HOSPICE
ELEANOR WHITMORE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
PHOENIX HOUSE ACADEMY OF LONG ISLAND
and THE RETREAT

ARTISTSWRITERSGAME.ORG



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The East Hampton Artists Writers Annual Softball Game is dedicated to building a community of artists, writers, celebrities, volunteers, and friends who are focused on supporting organizations that serve those in need on the East End of Long Island. As the longest continuing tradition in our area, we come together each year to create a fun and festive event in the spirit of entertainment and competition for the mutual benefit and advancement of the interests of local charities that provide vital human services.

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**THE EAST HAMPTON
ARTISTS & WRITERS
CELEBRITY SOFTBALL GAME
2015**

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Today's Game Benefits Four Worthy Charities

EAST END HOSPICE is a New York State Certified Hospice, providing an individualized plan of care for patients, their families and loved ones throughout the difficult time of illness and loss. Since 1991, our team of skilled professionals and volunteers offers social, emotional, and spiritual support and pain and symptom control in a familiar and loving environment. No one is denied care because of inability to pay. Our bereavement care services are offered throughout the East End community. Our staff are extensively trained in grief therapy. East End Hospice also offers Camp Good Grief, a summer day camp for children who have experienced a loss—a place where fun is mixed with therapy, and a skilled bereavement staff plan and lead each day with care.

ELEANOR WHITMORE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER. Filling a need for day care in East Hampton while supporting single parents, working families and the businesses in the community that employ them, Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center provides a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of pre-school children. Since 1969, the Center provides an environment that contributes to each child's sense of belonging, gives recognition for effort and accomplishment, and encourages each child to express ideas freely without fear of rejection or ridicule. The only licensed New York State day care center in the town, the Center relies on contributions to maintain its vital programs and meet its growing needs.

PHOENIX HOUSE ACADEMY OF LONG ISLAND. The nation's leading non-profit substance abuse treatment and prevention organization runs ten programs on Long Island. It provides treatment and a variety of prevention and intervention services to schools and communities. It offers a safe haven and a chance to rebuild damaged lives. Phoenix House treatment is comprehensive and includes health care, education, and job training among its broad array of supportive services that enable residents to leave drugs behind and start healthy, productive new lives as part of the Long Island community. Phoenix Academy of Long Island, is a 45-bed residential, adolescent treatment and school program in Wainscott. East Hampton Outpatient uses a combination of individual and group counseling approaches. They are a small program that provides clients with individualized attention, as well as support, counseling, education, and advocacy. The East Hampton Outpatient program is a phased program for adults and adolescents that begins with education and orientation. The second phase of treatment is a recovery phase and the final phase prepares the client for self-preservation and discharge. Phoenix House programs have been saving lives and strengthening families and communities since 1967.

THE RETREAT'S mission is to provide safety, shelter and support for victims of domestic abuse and to break the cycle of family violence. In pursuit of that mission, The Retreat offers residential and nonresidential services, including a 24/7 domestic violence hotline, group and individual counseling, legal advocacy, violence prevention education and crime victim assistance, as well as a comprehensive fatherhood program, self-sufficiency and financial literacy training programs, rental assistance, batterer education, and collaborations to offer support to victims living with mental illness, in foster care, substance abuse treatment and developmental disabilities communities.



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Since Last Year's Game

Welcome to the 67th annual Artists Writers Softball Game. This glorious event has included many of the most gifted artisans, writers and celebrities in the US and Canada. It provides support for more than four charities: East End Hospice, Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center, Phoenix House Academy of Long Island and The Retreat. These charities, in turn, help with fund-raising and the machinery needed to produce this event. The Village of East Hampton Trustees of Herrick Park, East Hampton Mayor Paul Rickenbach, the Highway Department under Scott Fithian and Jeff Verity, and Police Department under Gerard Larsen are to be thanked for their extraordinary work and support.

For over six years, Debra McEneaney, as President of Artists Writers, ran the game with professionalism and skill, raising money and directing activities. Her tireless efforts, unbound energy, and dedication to the game will be greatly missed, and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

The new administrator, Eve Iselin, with thirty years' experience in fund-raising, has been working hard to continue the game's success.

Our first off-season event called 'Spring Training' brought together 46 artists and over 50 works of art displayed at the Kathryn Markel Gallery during the month of March 2015 to benefit our charities.

The Choral Society of the Hamptons, thirty plus strong, will sing the National Anthem under the direction of Christine Cadarette, who has designed a variation of this very difficult piece of music. Debra Stein, Cantor of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, will be MC, with color commentary provided by James Lipton, and others.

Enjoy the game!

LEIF HOPE
CO-ORGANIZER

THANKS TO CHRIS LONDON & VINCE ROMANO FOR THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS LONDON

Leif Hope and Debra McEneaney in her 2014 dual Artists/Writers t-shirt

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WE THANK

Mort Zuckerman

**FOR HIS LOVE OF THE GAME, YEARS OF PITCHING,
AND OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR OUR CHARITIES
AND THE COMMUNITY WE HAVE BUILT
AROUND THIS GAME!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Leif Hope, Walter Bernard,
David Brandman, Ronnette Riley

A Brief History of the Game

The Artists & Writers annual softball game began as a picnic on Sundays in the summer of 1948. It was played by artists such as Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Philip Pavia, Jackson Pollock, and Joan Mitchell. Everyone brought a dish. Some brought drinks. Two writers joined in this picnic, Barney Rosset of Grove Press, whose girlfriend was Joan Mitchell, and Harold Rosenberg, an art critic. All this took place on Wilfrid Zogbaum's front yard.

The artists had moved to Springs and the East End for cheap rent, larger studios and an easier life. They talked of art, gossiped, ate, drank, and shared in camaraderie. Some recall what a glorious time it was. The war was over, the world's depression lessening, and more artist's work was being seen in New York galleries. Some were successful in sales and reputation. Some drank too much. Most were just young artists anxious to be part of the emerging art scene. Writers joined the artists in the '60s and '70s. Irwin Shaw, Willie Morris, and James Jones were among the group who expanded to include politicians, actors, musicians, publishers, editors, and television personalities. The game has included governors, mayors, senators, a former President and a Supreme Court justice.

Most importantly the game is now played for four local charities that provide vital human services and it would not exist if it were not for the humor & determination of Leif Hope, who has for more than 50 years kept this Game alive—with a little help from his friends. Leif's charm and wit have endeared many along the way—mostly women—to help keep him organized. Hats off to them. So have fun, buy lots of raffles, shirts, hats, posters and notecards. Enjoy our burgers, hot dogs, Joe & Liza's ice cream and Snapple. It is all for good causes!

We thank you for coming to the 67th Annual Artists & Writers Game!

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Choral Society of East Hamptons
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applauds

LEIF HOPE

*for his devotion to the Artists & Writers Game,
and the charities it supports.*



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Ronnette Riley *Architect*

ARCHITECTURE • INTERIORS

Ronnette Riley *Architect* is proud to support East End Hospice, Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center, Phoenix House Academy of Long Island, and The Retreat.

Go Artists!





ARTISTS

Anthony
Gregg Bello
Walter Bernard
Russell Blue
Peter Borish
Pete Cestaro
Josh Charles (MVP '10)
Jack Dowd
Michael Dougherty
Dennis Duswalt
Eric Ernst
Michael Gaston
Colin Goldberg
Ed Hollander
Leif Hope
Dennis Lawrence
John Longmire
Eddie McCarthy
Jeffrey Meizlik
Matthew Montemaro
Ron Noy
Jamie Patricof (MVP '13)
Jon Patricof
Joel Perlman
Geoff Prisco
William Quigley
Ronnelle Riley
Randall Rosenthal
Alexson Roy
Michael Supraicone
Lori Singer
Stu Sleppin
Joe Sopiak (MVP '07 & '08)
Bill Strong
Scott Stuber
Richard Sullivan (MVP '14)
Neil deGrasse Tyson

WRITERS

Ken Auletta
David Baer (MVP '11)
Carl Bernstein
David Bernstein
Brian Burns
Ed Burns
Jay Cardiello
Bill Collage
Jay DiPietro
Katrina Foster
Rod Gilbert
Mark Green
Zack O'Malley Greenburg
Walter Isaacson
Rick Leventhal
Jim Leyritz
Chris London
Hugo Lindgren
Ann Liguori
Mike Lupica (MVP '09)
Lee Minetree
Michael Pellman
David Rattiner
Richard Reeves
Michael Safir
Peter Schwartz
Gail Sheehy
Brett Shevack
Leslie Morgan Steiner
Benito Vila
Mark Weinstein
Paul Winum
Richard Wiese
Stu Zicherman
Mort Zuckerman



The Writers, 2014



The Artists, 2014





Opening Ceremony, 2014

Reflections on the Game



Sketches of the game by Lynn Matsuoka

Juliet Papa

This is the 67th year of the Artists & Writers game, a game that's evolved from a backyard frolic to a fierce fight to the finish. And despite all the years of play and purpose, this dance on the diamond still defies description. After all, where else can you find best-selling authors, newspaper publishers, world renowned painters and sculptors, models and media elite running the bases and swinging for the fences on a quaint softball field in the middle of one of the most picturesque villages in America?

Is it The Big Leagues? When New Yorker writer Ken Auletta is coaching and Daily News and ESPN's sports commentator Mike Lupica is fielding grounders, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani are umpiring, and Eric Fischl and Eric Ernst are making art of sport, you're talking about people at the top of their respective games. But I'd venture to say that none of these fine fellows are giving up their day jobs, nor have they been offered an MLB contract in the vicinity of All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano. Our game may not be "the show," as minor leaguers call it when they're elevated to prime time, but it could work in Triple A—All Amateurs, All the time.

But there's always the Grapefruit League. We've earned that distinction, but not because our players participate in Spring training in Florida. We're talking about a proud long-standing tradition, nobly carried out by our fearless leader, patron and Artists' coach, Leif Hope. Each year, instead of taking a brush to canvas, he takes it to the skin of a perfectly softball-sized grapefruit. He paints it white and literally throws it into the mix. The unsuspecting batter may initially think his towering strength has ripped the ball apart until the sweet sticky succulent sections splatter all over him. In recent years, the softer fruit has

given way to a thinly disguised turnip, which makes for a more powerful pop (see 2013 photo of former Yankee Jim Leyritz making contact with the unfortunate vegetable).

And then there's our Field of Dreams. We've had our own unique version of the scene in the Kevin Costner movie when Shoeless Joe Jackson appears as a welcome vision stepping out of the cornfield. Last year, former President Bill Clinton stopped our game dead in its tracks when he emerged from the hedges on the first base side of Herrick Field to the delight and surprise of more than a thousand spectators. It was his third appearance over the years and it seems, 'if you invite him, he will come.'

And can Hillary be far behind? She has a book to sell and a presidential run to consider. She even jokingly referred to her softball prowess back in April, when her speech was interrupted by a troubled woman who zinged a sneaker at her. Perhaps Mrs. Clinton can show us what she's got and start a new tradition on the mound by throwing out the first 'shoe.'

This game may be hard to categorize, but it isn't hard to characterize; it's a competitive camaraderie tempered by a common cause—our local charities. And whatever the final score, they are the true winners in our book. ■



Mort Zuckerman pitching, and Dan Rattiner, umpire



The Wallachs accept a plaque for Eli

Eric Ernst

The head of NBC News lay sprawled in the dirt, his face a Kabuki mask of pain and confusion, his shoulder twisted and contorted at an unnatural angle while nearby, on first base, stood the former heavyweight boxer and one-time Great White Hope, whose heads up hustle (and bone crushing collision) had won him an infield single.

Among the spectators, who had come to see celebrities like Paul Simon, Christie Brinkley or Regis Philbin, the initial response was a kind of shocked silence. Midst the startled hush while the television executive was carted off the field and taken to Southampton Hospital, I heard someone nearby ask, "What the hell was that? I thought this was a friendly game."

A game made up of friends perhaps, but in the many years since I started watching the game as a child I've seen the textbook evolution of a competition that is, in the deluded minds of the players themselves, as intense and legitimate as the Red Sox against the Yankees, Muhammad Ali versus Joe Frazier, or the Celtics facing the Lakers. Motivated by the same explosively flammable combination of competitive drive and repetitive familiarity (absent, of course, any discernible athletic



Ken Auletta and Carl Bernstein

prohess), the Artist Writers game illustrates with immediate clarity that victory is most satisfying when it's over those one is most familiar with.

As I once thought I heard the noted author Ken Auletta intone, he whose graceful fielding at first base is so often accented by quotes from Louisa May Alcott, "Rivalry adds so much to the charm of one's conquests."

So when might this blood feud have actually begun? Some have maintained it



Benito Vila swings



John Shevack, Deb McEneaney



Former Police Commissioner Kelly with Mike Lupica



Billy Strong rounds first



Eric Ernst is safe at first



Lynn Matsuoka's on-site drawing of James Lipton and Bert Sugar announcing the game

started when the writers began showing up more regularly and insisted on playing by legitimate rules. Up to that point the games were distinctly pick-up affairs where regulations were less important than libations and where the final score was often unknown to but a few who had actually paid attention.

All of a sudden, however, a premium was placed on actually knowing the intricacies of the game, subtleties often lost on artists like Willem deKooning, Esteban Vicente, or my father, European émigrés all who loved American baseball but had been raised playing soccer.

As for the writers, each year always seemed to boast a dramatically better line-up than the year before with luminaries like George Plimpton elegantly patrolling center field like a WASP Joe Dimaggio, Neil Simon slinging wisecracks and cracking doubles over Larry Rivers' head, or Jimmy Lipton, playing a scrappy second base like a cross between Dodger great Eddie Stanky and an angry badger.

Against this kind of line-up throughout my youth the artists never provided a serious contest so no true rivalry developed until Lief Hope expanded his role from artist manager to P. T. Barnum-like promoter on behalf of the various worthy causes the game serves to benefit.

The germination for the idea of raising money for charity began when the game was used to gather campaign funds for Eugene McCarthy (the only poet/Senator to ever run for President) and then a few years later to help defend artists Bob Gwathmey and Bill Durham in a landmark civil rights case which involved their arrest for flying a bath towel painted to look like the American flag with a peace sign where the stars would be.

Having realized it was possible to raise

funds for a candidate who couldn't possibly win as well as helping to keep artists with a whimsical sense of political protest out of jail, an idea was born and Lief, while now seeing the altruistic possibilities the game presented, also recognized that in order to attract attention it would be necessary to promote the game in a whole new way.

As a result, his first promotion was fielding an all-girl team of artists and hiring a professional woman softball player to fire 90 mile per hour inside fastballs at the writers' which, for some inexplicable reason, many of the scribes found distinctly unfunny. They didn't find it entertaining when she pitched a scoreless first inning and they were even more demonstrably unhappy when she was brought back into the game to squelch a writer's rally in the ninth. The artists ended up winning a game for the first time in modern memory and, among the writers, the manager of the artists had earned the lovable nickname "that son of a bitch Lief Hope".

Over the years other professional athletes were to follow including Dale Berra, Wesley Walker, Pele, and Marty Lyons (whose mammoth home run into the tennis courts is still spoken of in hushed tones), but it was the actual accumulation of talent on the artists' team in the early 1990s that truly leveled the playing field. Admittedly, the definition of artist had expanded to include just about any profession that even remotely could be construed as "creative" but, at the same time, as soon as the game became competitive the meaning of "writer" also became significantly more elastic as well.

The artists would add a landscape architect which would be parried by an advertising executive who writes copy which was upped by a lawyer who has an artist for a client which was then offset by a real estate agent who once wrote a short story. And so on.



Mort Zuckerman at bat



Stu Sleppin, Randall Rosenthal and Ronnette Riley



Jim Leyritz at bat



Alexson Roy and fan



Ray Kelly, Walter Isaacson, Mort Zuckerman and Walter Bernard

One wonders, then, what new manifestation of gamesmanship will be required for the two teams to remain competitive in the coming years, especially as the core players for each team inevitably must bow to the inevitable inroads of time. Already within the past few years, a number of incidents of the use of performance enhancing substances have been documented including an overdose of Red Bull (leading the overly energized and wide-eyed runner to forget that one can't go from first to third by bisecting the diamond) and steroid use (actually a cortisone injection for a bad shoulder but, hey, it's a steroid). Further, at least one storied member of the artist team has for years been a known aspirin and milk junkie.

It should be pointed out, however, that even absent these recent evolutionary trends towards more competent contests, the historical enmity between artists and writers will always guarantee a measure of personal animosity regardless of talent on either side. This has been true from the moment in 1456 when the Renaissance sculptor Donatello taped a 'kick me' sign to the back of author Leon Battista Alberti's cloak, it was evident when heavyweight Gerry Cooney flattened

NBC's Andrew Lack, and it'll be just as apparent this summer when sportswriter Mike Lupica has his annual collision at home plate with sculptor Randall Rosenthal. ■

Ken Auletta

Every Saturday for 35 years a group of us play softball in Sag Harbor. Only one Saturday each Summer do we play in the Artist & Writers softball game. I've played in the annual game for about thirty years, half of them as captain of the writers' team. We trash talk each year about how we writers plan to thrash the artists, about how they cheat by smuggling in football players and house painters who can slug a ball four hundred feet.

In between winks, we're united in a belief that no matter how sometimes foolish we look on the field, we're luring fans to contribute to worthwhile local charities; we're helping fortify a sense of community on the East End; and we're laughing with, not at, each other. After the game, which are usually nail-bitingly close, we repair to a pub together to tip a glass and to wait to learn how much money we raised for our favorite local charities. ■



Announcers Fred Graver and Juliet Papa. Official Scorekeeper Josh Brandman



Richard Wiese, Jim Leyritz



Former Commissioner Ray Kelly, Hon. Richard Lowe III



After the game; Carl Bernstein in foreground



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Juliet Papa



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“It’s always fun to beat up on the Artists. And it’s for a good cause, which makes it more fun.”



Ken Auletta and Mike Lupica
CO-CAPTAINS: THE WRITERS TEAM



BROOKLYN SERVES



Since its founding in 1988, Brooklyn Brewery has been proud to play a positive role in the communities it serves. In the early years of Brooklyn Brewery, the company did not always make a profit, but always donated beer to not-for-profit and arts organizations, a tradition that is carried on today. The Brewery has facilitated many community meetings at its event space, and its employees serve on not-for-profit boards, including the Prospect Park Alliance, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and Transportation Alternatives. Brooklyn serves.



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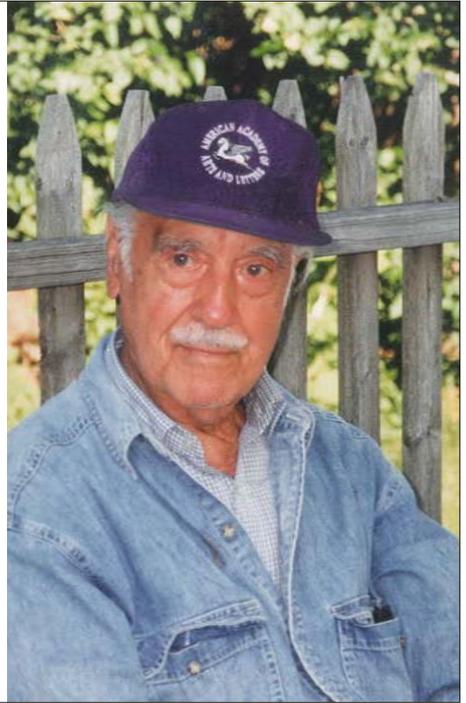
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Aiello, Danny	Broderick, Matthew	Duvall, Camille	Heller, Ben
Albert, Calvin	Brooks, James	East Hampton Girls	Heller, Joe
Alda, Alan	Brown, Larry	Softball	Heller, Woodie
Alexander, John	Brown, Ted	Ebersole, Christine	Henry, Sherrye
Allen, Woody	Brukenfeld, Richard	Eftimiades, Maria	Herzog, Arthur
Angel, Johnny	Burke, Mike	Elmaleh, Victor	Hilding, Roy
Anson, Robert Sam	Burns, Brian	Ernst, Eric	Hilford, Jeff
Anthony	Burns, Ed	Ernst, Jimmy	Hoffman, Abbie
Arrick, Larry	Caglioti, Victor	Fabricant, Florence	Hoffman, Dustin
Asinof, Eliot	Cane, Michael	Feiffer, Jules	Hofmann, Bill
Atlas, Nancy	Cardiello, Jay	Feith, Tracy	Hoglund, Rudy
Aubert, Claude	Carpentier, Ralph	Feuerstein, Mark	Hollander, Ed
Auletta, Ken	Castagna, Lawrence	Fischl, Eric	Hope, Leif
Aurthur, Robert Alan	Castelli, Leo	Flavin, Dan	Hope, Nisse
Bacall, Lauren	Cavett, Dick	Fleming, Bridget	Hren, Kim
Baer, David	Cederling, Siv	Foster, Katrina	Icahn, Carl
Balaban, Bob	Cestaro, Pete	Fox, Connie	Irving, John
Baldwin, Alec	Chamberlain, John	Franke, Linda Bird	Irving, Clifford
Baldwin, Billy	Charles, Josh	Freundlich, Bart	Jackowski, Ed
Baldwin, Stephen	Chase, Chevy	Friedan, Betty	Jackson, Anne
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Belafonte, David	Christensen, Dan	Geiser, David	Javer, Harry
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Benson, Elaine	Clohessy, Tom	Gikofsky, Irv	Johnson, John
Berliner, Uri	Cohn, Sam	Gilbert, Rod	Johnson, Lester
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Bluhm, Norman	LuAnn	Grove, Elaine	Kitt, Eartha
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ART

ARTISTS UP!

Painters, sculptors and softball players start the season off with exhibit to benefit local charities

BY ANNETTE HINKLE

Every August, a group of enthusiastic, if eclectic, softball players gather at Herrick Park in East Hampton for the annual Artists & Writers Celebrity Softball Game. The game started in 1948 with the likes of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning (whose affiliation was obvious facing off against authors like James Jones and Willie Morris. The game, which each year raises money for local charities, has continued for decades and the line up of high profile players over the years has included the likes of Alec Baldwin, Bill Clinton and even Rudy Giuliani (truly blurring the edges when it comes to defining exactly who's an artist and who's a writer).

By the way, this year's Artists & Writers game (the 67th) takes place on Saturday, August 15 in East Hampton. That's still months away, which is why Artists & Writers has opened the season early with "Spring Training," an exhibition on view now at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts Gallery in Bridgehampton that highlights the considerable off-field talents of many of the players — well, half of them at least.

The artists are up in this show (and auction), which features work by 54 of them — including such familiar local names as Eric Ernst, Paton Miller, Kryn Olson, Leaf Hope, Hans Van de Bovenkamp and Ann Chwatsky, among others. Many of them have taken the field before during the game and all of them have donated their work for this show, which will be on view throughout March at the gallery (which Kathryn Markel donated for the show). The art is also for sale and is being auctioned off through March 29 on Paddle 8, an online art auction site.

"The generosity of the artists has been amazing," notes Ronnette Riley, an Artists & Writers board member, a softball player and the curator of "Spring Training."

The model for this art auction is unique in that each artist decides how to split the proceeds of the sale of his or her work — opting to give either 100 percent, 75 percent or 50 percent of the proceeds to charity.

"The artists on the East End are asked to contribute to a lot of events. They were pleased to hear they had an option to decide what they

would donate," explains Ms. Riley. "They may not be getting the full value, but they're getting a new audience and new exposure." Much of that new exposure has to do with



PINSTRIPES by Colin Goldberg

the way in which the artwork is being sold. Though the art is physically on view at Kathryn Markel Gallery for the month, a much wider audience will have access to it on Paddle 8, a relatively new online auction site which also broadcasts the auction to 300,000 subscribers on its email list and handles all financial transactions and shipping.

"It made it simpler. It's like a silent auction," explains Ms. Riley. "Though some pieces have a 'Buy it Now' price like eBay."

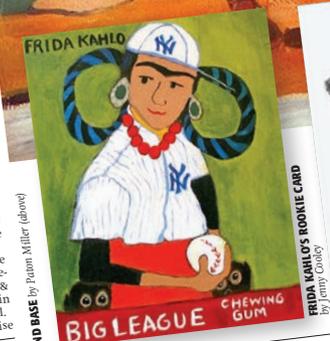
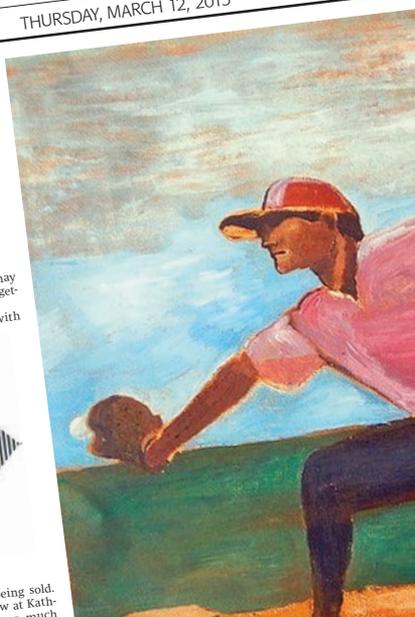
The proceeds from the auction will go towards some of the local charities supported by Artists & Writers, which include Phoenix House Academy, The Retreat, East End Hospice and the Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center in East Hampton.

"For the exhibit on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through the end of March, each of our charities will have volunteers manning the gallery and they are an important part of the event," explains Ms. Riley.

But this art exhibit is not only a way to raise money for charity, Ms. Riley notes it's also designed to raise awareness about the Artists & Writers organization beyond the single day in August when everyone turns out to play ball.

"We're trying to extend the brand and raise

continued on page B2



Our 'Spring Training' Exhibit

R WITHOUT END
B2 FAMILY BIZ
IN WORLD OF
CHANGE B5



BAM BAM by Scott Bluedorn

Batter up

continued from page B1

more money for the charities," she explains. "We thought it would be nice to do a winter event. It's not just to raise money though, it's also a way to make the Artists & Writers event more than just one day."

"Spring Training" is also focused on involving more artists in the organization, since only 10 players can actually take the field for the artists team during the annual game.

"There are a couple older artists who are in their 70s," explains Ms. Riley. "They were so happy to be included in this event because they can't play softball anymore."

"It's a pretty diverse group," says Ms. Riley who notes the participating artists range in age from their 20s up to their 90s and feature a good mix of women and men.

As you might expect in a show titled "Spring Training," much of the work has a baseball or softball theme, from Walter Bernard's "Friendly Rivals" which features a likeness of Picasso and Shakespeare eyeballing each other in their respective Artists and Writers uniforms, to Jennie Cooley's whimsical painting "Frida Kahlo's Rookie Card."

"Not all the artwork is baseball themed," adds Ms. Riley. "Carol Hunt donated an abstract and Kryn Olson has an abstract she called 'Sinkers' - which is a play on words."

"It's all serious artists who have come together," she adds. "Many have made works specific to this exhibit."

Ms. Riley, a longtime weekend resident of the East End, is an architect by training and an artist in her own right (she has a baseball themed photograph in the show which she took on a recent trip to Cuba). She has been playing softball out here for years.

"There's a weekly pickup softball game every Saturday and Sunday at Mashashimuet Park," she explains. "I've played in that for 30 years. Some of those who play every week are involved in Artist & Writers."

Though she's been a part time resident here for years, Ms. Riley's involvement in putting together this show (along with her fellow committee members Elena Prohaska Glynn and Alison Milano), has allowed her to make contact with locals on the East End in a way she never has before.

"I've been coming to the Hamptons 30 years and I met a whole new string of people I wasn't involved with before," says Ms. Riley. "I've enjoyed it and I feel I've really had the opportunity to become more immersed in the community."

"For me, it's been really lovely getting to know the artists," she adds, "and I'm surprised at the quality of the work and how much they care about supporting the local charities."

"Spring Training," an art exhibit and online auction, runs now through March 29. The work is on view at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts Gallery, 2418 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Fridays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. An opening reception will be held at the gallery this Saturday, March 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. The art is available for purchase on Paddle8.com through March 29, with a "Buy it Now" option.



The 'Spring Training' Exhibit was organized by **Ronnette Riley with Elena Prohaska Glynn and Alison Milano.**

The Artists

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- Beryl Bernay
- Scott Bluedorn
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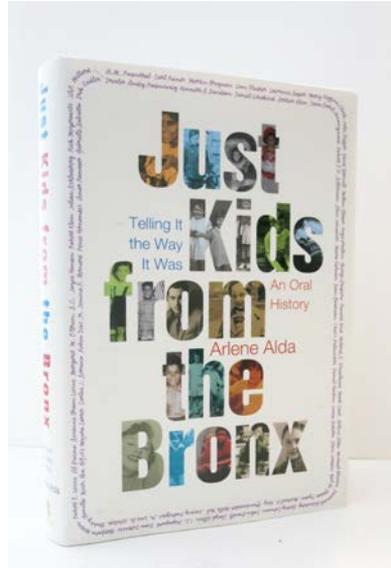
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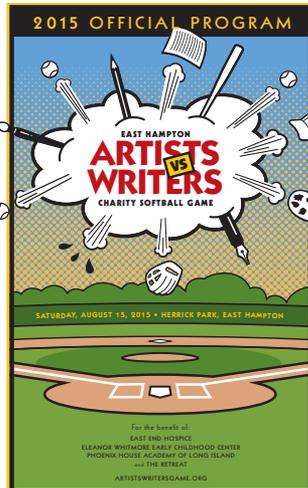
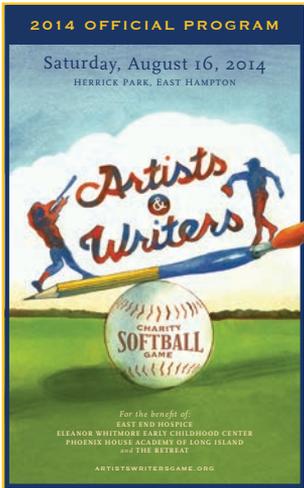
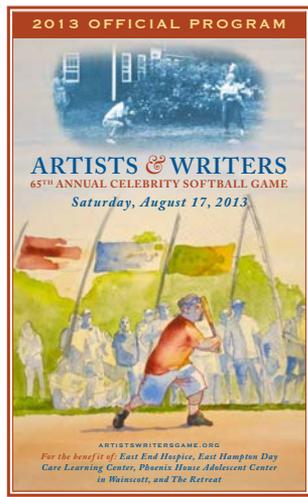
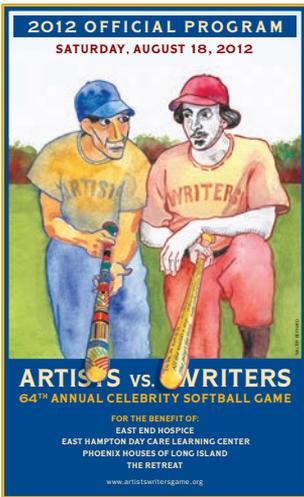
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Alison Milano Photo

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