



SEA students at End of the Year Party in Santa Monica, SEA students at End of Year Party in Oxnard, holding their certificates of achievement and the SEA End of the Year Party in South LA

## Side Note

An article published in the New York Times on June 7, 2014 discussed how the middle and high school years for many young African American and Latino men is from ages 11 (middle school) to 21. It pointed to warning signs in middle school and that if they were addressed, it led to higher high school graduation rates. It was written by Robert Balfanz, a research professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Education. His article only confirms what we have found through our success with the SEA Program. Click here to link to the article: <http://nyti.ms/SDIHol>  
I want to convey my genuine appreciation to all the mentors who truly care and work hard to help their student(s) perform to their best potential.

## To all our Friends and Supporters,

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to reflect back on the past academic year. The SEA Program has continued to grow! From the five school sites listed in our last newsletter, we are now at nine. We currently operate at three schools in Oxnard, one in Thousand Oaks, one in Malibu, three in Santa Monica, and one in South LA. We have grown from supporting just over 20 middle school students last year, to close to 100 this academic year. It is only through donations and grants that we are able to function; we are grateful to each and every person and organization that contributed to our Foundation. You have made it possible for us to help more students attain academic success: SEA has inspired them to perform to their best potential. We held winter holiday parties at all sites where we were operating SEA in December and January, and completed our “End of Year” celebrations prior to the 2013/2014 academic school year terminating.

## Tea Time

Our annual Fundraiser/Tea took place once again at the home of Kathy Landmann on April 22. It was a true success. Our guests were treated to a lovely assortment of delicious food, all either donated, baked by a committee member or friend, or provided to us at a significantly reduced rate. Our guests were moved by the speeches presented by the SEA student participants who attended and shared their experiences of how the Program has impacted their lives. SEA students Sophia Stahler, Lauren Longo and Josue Garcia all provided a clear insight into how SEA has helped them on various levels. In addition, Shawna Sturgill, our Oxnard Area Coordinator (recently graduated from CSUCI) talked about her experience in working with the students both as a mentor and in overseeing the Program. Lastly, Nicole Raden, site director of the Boys & Girls Club at Ocean View Junior High School in Oxnard, shared her observations of how this Program is serving a tremendous need. She expressed a wish for SEA to accommodate the many more children who need this one on one support to succeed at her site. Children who attend Ocean View often request to be part of SEA of their own volition! A group of SEA students at Nicole’s site were slated to attend and speak at the event. Unfortunately, they were informed only the week prior that they were required to participate in state testing the day of the Tea. They had been planning their speeches, attire, and were so excited. As a “next best” solution, the children were videoed to express what they had wanted to say at the event. Below are some photos taken at the Tea.

## New Avenues

We are delighted to announce that Libby Jacobson, our SEA Program Executive Coordinator, is pursuing a Masters of Science degree at USC in Social Entrepreneurship. Once completed, she will be armed with new skills and greater knowledge to help guide the Foundation into the future as we grow the SEA Program. In addition, Libby will glean new contacts that can serve to benefit our Foundation. A special congratulations goes to student Angel at Rio Vista Middle School. With the support of his mentor Brad, he attained the "Most Improved Award" for 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Rio Vista Middle School. In addition, he won an "Award of Merit". Brad has worked tirelessly with Angel this entire school year, and said he is so proud of Angel's growth both as a student and person.



Another student, Pedro, at Rio Del Valle Middle School in Oxnard, attained the "Most Improved Award" for 7<sup>th</sup> grade in his second semester. His mentor, Ashley, deserves much of the credit for helping Pedro attain this achievement. These are just two examples of the SEA Program's many success stories this year.

*SEA is the greatest program invented. This program has changed my life in a lot of ways. I was very shy and HATED school, until I joined SEA. My mentor is the best person in the world! She has taught me about myself, more about organizing, and way more about school! She has saved me from the wrong street path and made me love school and myself again. Without SEA I wouldn't be me. I love SEA and never want to leave! Thank you, Shawna, Ms. Ellen and Ms. Libby for starting SEA.*

Love,  
Armando

Letter to SEA from student Armando,  
Ocean View Junior High School, Oxnard



(Left) The 2014 Tea Committee, (top right) Sweet treats at the tea, (bottom right) Ellen Shane with Kathy Landmann who graciously opened her beautiful home for the tea.



Ellen and Libby

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

**BENEFIT TO SUPPORT THE EMILY SHANE FOUNDATION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 2014 AT HAMILTON GALLERIES ON OCEAN AVE. IN SANTA MONICA**

## In other news

My husband Michel and I were proud recipients of a "Dolphin Award" in March. This award is bestowed to members of the Malibu community who have impacted others through significant, positive actions. We were recognized for our Foundation's SEA Program, "Pass it Forward" campaign, and focus on advocating for safety on Pacific Coast Highway. We were humbled by being honored with the others who merited this award, as their achievements are all remarkable. It was extremely meaningful to be acknowledged by our community for our Foundation's work; however, our true reward is keeping Emily's memory alive by helping others in her honor.

Here is the link to an article in the Malibu Times about us being awarded this honor : [2013 Dolphin Award Winne#A74BEC](#)

On June 6, Michel and I attended the Malibu High School graduation, as this was Emily's class. The graduates were wearing purple wristbands to commemorate her, kindly donated by the Sills family. The inscription on them said: Be Kind. Be Positive. Reach for the Stars. Emily would now be 17. We often wonder what she would look like now and what she would be doing with her life. To mark this milestone, Michel wrote a message to the graduating class. It was printed in the Malibu papers and published in the Huffington Post. He also posted it on Facebook. It is truly heartfelt and powerful. Here is the link to the message by Michel to all graduates at Malibu High School.

[Click here to read Michel's Blog.](#)

**CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO OF A SEA STUDENT AT ST. ANNE SCHOOL IN SANTA MONICA!**

[CLICK HERE](#)



## E.R.S

On a completely different note, the EMILY E.R.S. (Emergency Rescue System) was deployed twice over the Memorial Day Weekend and saved two lives at Venice Beach in L.A. We are so touched that this device, invented by the father of one of Emily's dear friends, is keeping her memory alive in coming to the rescue of people drowning or in distress in the water.

Below is a photo of the new production facility for the EMILY in Tucson, Arizona. The girls pictured in the second photo are working in the facility; Elizabeth on the left met Emily when she visited the city with her friend Marie, whose dad invented the EMILY.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer! I will be working during the school break to prepare for the next academic school year, which begins in August.

As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and suggestions!

Ellen

Please send your comments and suggestions to: [info@emilyshane.org](mailto:info@emilyshane.org)

The Emily Shane Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity. Our SEA (Successful Educational Achievement) Program provides individualized support to mainstream, struggling/failing middle school students who could not otherwise afford the intensive help we provide. This unique Program was created in memory of Emily Rose Shane, who was murdered on April 3, 2010. She was 13, in middle school (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and struggled academically due to processing issues. She fell in a "grey" area; not requiring any form of special education; yet having difficulty succeeding in the mainstream classroom. There are many middle school students who risk "falling through the cracks", like Emily. Our goal is to help them to attain their best academic potential; to allow them to enter high school with the tools and strategies needed to ensure academic success.

"MALIBU SEA STARS" is a new one of a kind  
hand painted line of Tote Bags for  
Mother & Daughter  
We donate half of our proceeds to the



Visit our website to learn more!

[www.malibuseastars.com](http://www.malibuseastars.com)

