

**Mary Dimino**, will tell you point blank she “grew up fat, funny, and afraid in an Italian family in Queens.” Turning her honesty into a thriving career in comedy, on Broadway, in film and television, Mary Dimino has reeled in some of the industry’s biggest awards for her choices to tell it like it is: **Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs (MAC) Outstanding Female Comedian**, the **Gracie Allen Award** for her work in portraying women in film and television, and **NYC International Fringe’s 2010 Outstanding Solo Show**, to name a few. **Mary Dimino** is performing ***Big Dummy: Me & My Old Man***, her 2013 NYC International Fringe acclaimed sold-out show, at **George Fischer Middle School** in Carmel, NY, Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7pm, as part of **H. G. Fairfield Arts Center for the Environment’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Founder’s Day Celebration** in recognition of their Founder **Kathie Freston (USMCR)**’s 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, 32 years of teaching 6<sup>th</sup> graders in NYC and the Bronx, and decades of selfless service to her community and environment. The annual **Grasshopper Awards** will also be presented April 24<sup>th</sup> to two couples who exemplify service to our communities in **Mr. & Mrs. Denis Castelli** (Putnam County Historian) for their contributions to veterans and their families and **Mr. Bob Gentile (of Camp Herrlich) & Mrs. Wendy Gentile (of Carmel Central School District)** for their contributions to the arts and culture. Join in the fun!

H. G. Fairfield Arts is dedicating the net proceeds of their 2014 Founders Day Celebration to support programming for the ***Spirit of R.O.C.K. Assemblies*** initiated this school year by **George Fischer Middle School’s Assistant Principal Mrs. Wendy Gentile**. Since August of 2013 GFMS Staff and Teachers have been collaboratively developing with H. G. Fairfield Arts, and other organizations, arts-based learning and events that teach and reinforce the character education program created by GFMS, including elements of the New York State common core curricula. GFMS curates the programs for the ***Spirit of R.O.C.K. Assemblies*** and provides the space and the logistical support for them, while H. G. Fairfield Arts provides some of the interactive programming including “**Suitcase Mysteries: Immigration and Identity**,” “**The Young Filmmakers Atelier**,” “**Athena Global Shorts**,” and “**200 Feet of Art: Dreaming Big**.” **George Fischer Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Principal Ed LoPresti** writes, “We are excited to have this partnership with H. G. Fairfield Arts as we bring more training and more exposure in the Arts, leadership skills, and excellent community involvement into our school.” H. G. Fairfield Arts sponsored actor, playwright, and national headlining comedian **Mary Dimino** as their **2014 Artist in Residence** this past January at GFMS for 4 days, with Mary performing an abridged version of **Big Dummy** during a 42 minute ***Spirit of R.O.C.K. Assembly*** for all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders and then teaching for the next 2 days in every 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade gym class bringing her dynamic **Story Telling-Writing Workshop**. Winners of that story writing competition may be opening for Mary.

One of the best solo artists of New York City and American theater, **Mary Dimino** is described as “riotously funny” by **The Wall Street Journal**, “utterly captivating” by **NYTheatre.com**, and **Broadway producer Ruben Brache** declares “If you’ve never seen Mary Dimino perform, then make a point of it. [She] will have you laughing and crying at the same time for different reasons.” Mary Dimino reveals;” I learned compassion from my dad. And I learned people who are different have a lot to teach us.” ***Big Dummy: Me & My Old Man*** is a show about an Italian-American girl living in a family with different rates of literacy, special needs, and expectations. Witness the struggle of a bright kid with parents of one world who don’t seem to be of hers. How she handles that conflict gives a birds-eye view from a master solo- and performance-artist and creates compassion for those who wake up to the immigrant reality every day. Join the event’s Sponsors by adding your business’ name to **Dr. Adrienne Fabrizio of Carmel Chiropractic, Gappy’s Pizza of Kent, NY**, and the **Putnam County Italian-American Social Club in Brewster, NY**, in welcoming the festivities of **H. G. Fairfield’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Founders Day** April 24<sup>th</sup> and in honoring **Kathie Freston, Denis & Athena Castelli, & Bob & Wendy Gentile**. Call 845-363-1559 to reserve tickets & for info; or go online to [www.HGFairfieldArts.org](http://www.HGFairfieldArts.org) & find the event on Facebook.