

Great Leaps Honored with Grasshopper Awards April 30th

April 22, 2015. Brewster, NY. “The Grasshopper Award is for innovation, forward thinking, and big leaps,” the Founder of H. G. Fairfield Arts, Kathie Freston (USMC ’53-61) relates; “and this year’s Awardees’ own forward thinking led them to creating innovative arts and cultural programs that the region and beyond is participating in.” Honored for their support of Arts and Culture are Stacy and Bob Dumont, Founders of The Village of Brewster Film Festival held every Labor Day weekend in multiple venues around Brewster, NY. Honored for their support of veterans and our families are Gil Tarbox, Penny Osborn, and The Nimham Mountain Singers, Founders of the Annual Chief Daniel Nimham Intertribal Veterans Memorial Powwow held every third weekend of August in Putnam County, NY’s Veterans Memorial Park. “The grasshopper can only move forward and we liked that idea of an orientation toward the future,” Ms Freston explains: “We honor our Grasshopper Awardees’ accomplishments as they also have the ripple effects of inspiring others.”

The Annual Chief Daniel Nimham Powwow, now in its 15th year, attracts thousands and the largest 2-day crowds in Putnam County with Grammy-award winning Native American musicians and singers, drummers, dancers, and vendors from Canada to Florida offering ethnic art, food, books, clothing, jewelry, music, and more. The Founders and Producers - Gil Tarbox (ARMY, Corps of Engineers, Viet Nam), Penny Osborn (mother of 2 CCSD grads, Town of Kent Councilwoman), and The Nimham Mountain Singers – formed their Algonquin northern woodland singing group in 1999, with the goal of fostering, preserving and rediscovering traditional Native American beliefs, values and spirituality. The Nimham Powwow commemorates the Wappinger (Nochpeem) and their warriors who gave their lives to the cause of the American Revolution, and on Nov. 11, 2007, the Nimham Mountain Singers dedicated the Wappinger Memorial installed at the entrance to the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. The Nimham Powwow benefits our current veterans and families by the celebratory public showing of support for them in this traditional community ritual, with donations annually going to organizations helping wounded veterans. For 12 years the Nimham Mountain Singers also annually conducted one-day powwows inside the Danbury Federal Corrections Facility for Women with the Native American inmates, until the facility changed to men only. As a benefit for the Nimham Powwow, H. G. Fairfield Arts produced the 2013 Nimham Mountain Music Festival with Brooklyn neighbor and New Orleans Jazz Festival sensation, Martha Redbone and the Roots Project, and the Hudson Valley’s own world funk soul folk Bethany Yarrow and Rufus Cappadocia.

The Village of Brewster Film Festival debuted in 2011 and has stretched in its first 3 years to include 9 categories of Judges’ Awards, 3 days of films – 25 shorts and features from 7 different countries, with events in multiple venues of Brewster’s village, town, and even at Ryder Farm. Co-Founders of the Village of Brewster Film Festival, Stacy and Bob Dumont, reveal that “the Festival started out as a way to promote the Village of Brewster, but has rapidly gained traction to become a large multi-day international festival that promotes local businesses, unique venue spaces, and artists from Putnam County and from around the world.” Stacy Dumont is a life-long community theater performer from NYC, with a BA in Theater from Fordham University at Lincoln Center, a Masters in Education, and a special education and theater teaching position at Pawling High School in Pawling, NY. Stacy is also Co-Founder and current President of The Brewster Theater Company, which is now in its 15th season. Bob Dumont says

he “was probably the least likely person to support the arts,” and as a supporter and ardent fan of athletics, and basketball coach for over 25 years, Bob Dumont tells that “it wasn’t until the gentle persuasion of my wife, Stacy, bringing me to the stage that I have seen the light.” Bob has a BA, Masters in Economics, a day job as the owner of The Bowl Company in Brewster, NY, and has performed in many local shows with The Brewster Theater Company. Stacy and Bob With a shared vision of attracting artists to the community also worked for several seasons on ArtBeat, an outdoor art and music exhibit on the streets of the Village of Brewster.

H. G. Fairfield Arts’ President, Kim Blacklock, speaks to why they recognize arts and community leadership with the Grasshopper Awards and to the current and future positive cultural and economic realities found in the Arts and arts presenting: “We participated in the SUNY New Paltz CREEO study that published in 2014 as the ‘Mid-Hudson ARTS & CULTURE: the economic impact.’ The Arts in our 7-county region logged \$468 million in total economic impact and 4970 jobs, with 3.6 million visitors injecting their \$498 million directly. Of 52 arts and cultural organizations in Putnam County, there was information from 25 which showed 921 workers in 100,000 people, with a total economic impact of \$11.5 million, with 175 thousand visitors injecting \$6 million directly into the Putnam County economy. Direct expenditures of \$7.9 million by arts & culture organizations generated indirect spending of \$3.6 million that creates jobs in other sectors.” The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts released a report stating Arts and Cultural production accounted for 3.2% - or \$504 Billion – of the national Gross Domestic Product in 2011. New York Council on the Arts’ broadcasted the 2011 estimated overall economic impact of the arts on the state as [\\$27.5 billion](#), with some 335,683 people employed by arts-affiliated business and organizations. Americans for the Arts note: “These arts-centric businesses play an important role in building and sustaining economic vibrancy. They employ a creative workforce, spend money locally, generate government revenue, and are a cornerstone of tourism and economic development.” Kim Blacklock states; “Arts is cultural capital: it is a great time for anyone to follow their creative passions and become the future.”

Everyone is invited to join in the festivities to honor the Grasshopper Awardees, and celebrate Kathie Freston as the birthday gal and H. G. Fairfield Arts’ Founder. New dad and Comedian Mark Riccadonna, of ABC, NBC, FOX, and Armed Forces Entertainment, is coming up from Philadelphia, and Putnam’s own 9th Tallest Woman on the Planet, Kim Blacklock, will emcee a night of comedy and entertainment at H. G. Fairfield Arts’ ***Cake & Comedy Founder’s Day*** event Thursday April 30th 7pm at Kent Volunteer Fire Department, 2490 Route 301, Kent Cliffs, NY. The last pairing of Kim & Mark on the Comedy stage was for the US Military Vets Motorcycle Club’s National Presidents meeting in Fargo, ND, Aug. 2014! Tickets are a \$35 suggested donation at the door. “Bring your White Elephant Auction item, & be \$5 richer already!” Kim says. Refreshments and cake will be served. For more information call 845-363-1559 or go to www.HGFairfieldArts.org. -///-

<http://arts.gov/news/2013/us-bureau-economic-analysis-and-national-endowment-arts-release-preliminary-report-impact>

http://www.newpaltz.edu/crreo/crreo_artculture2014.pdf

www.AmericansForTheArts.org/sc/CreativeIndustries