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Horace Mann Celebrates Service-Learning, Raises \$9,200



SERVICE LEARNING – Horace Mann 8th Grade Class President, Sydney Gray, Optimist Recipient Daniel Litvak, and Sofia Azizi recently spent a day each in a wheelchair as part of class lessons following a presentation by former surfer Jesse Billauer.

By Christy Fuhrer

Special To *The Courier*

Horace Mann students were recently treated to an assembly featuring guest speaker Jesse Billauer, a former surfer and founder of the non-profit Life Rolls On Foundation.

Billauer's goal of becoming a professional surfer ended 10 years ago after he was thrown from his surfboard into a sandbar and left a quadriplegic. Today at age 27, he is the founder of Life Rolls On, which raises money for spinal cord injury re-

search.

Billauer also tours the country speaking talking with students about overcoming adversity and living life to its fullest no matter your disability.

After the Jan. 18 assembly, the Horace Mann staff had the students participate in a variety of homeroom lessons based on what they heard. All of the lessons were curriculum based and met each grade level's standards in subjects such as language arts, math, science, and health.

Fourth grade teacher, Heather Woodring, had her students write about what life would be like confined to a wheelchair before Billauer's speech. Once they heard his presentation, they revised their essays with a new attitude towards life in a wheelchair.

Student Kyle Ilunga wrote: "If I were in a wheelchair I would try to make the best of life and have fun. I would be grateful that I would still be alive and I would still try to make my dreams come true."

A week after the assembly, the students participated in a school-wide walkathon to raise money for Life Rolls On. They were also allowed to use a wheelchair to get a glimpse of what life would be like confined to a wheelchair.

The walkathon raised more than \$9,200 for the foundation. Two kindergarten students, Harrison Walker and Erica Espineli, raised the most money for the walkathon. Harrison donated over \$1200 and Espineli contributed over \$630.

"I wanted to help people in wheelchairs so they could get out of their wheelchairs someday," Espineli said.

Sydney Gray, eighth grade class president, and Daniel Litvak, the school's Optimist recipient, spent an entire school day in a wheelchair.

"I felt like I lost my independence and sometimes I felt taken advantage of because kids I

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CONNIE MARTINSON Talks Books

Eunice David's book, *High Rise Low Down: Who's Who and What's What in New York's Most Coveted Apartment Houses* (Barricade Books \$24.95) co-authored with Denise LeFrak Calicchio and Kathryn Livingston, was given a most elegant book party at The Peninsula with the best, brightest, most successful of the L.A.'s movers and shakers on hand. Now the question is: "Could they pass the co-op boards that Eunice writes about?"

The book opens the door to what can only be called "the secret society for supposed adults." Imagine an apartment is available at 834 Fifth Ave.

The building was designed by Rosario Candela, who had built the great addresses in pre-Depression New York City, your neighbors have names such as Rockefeller, Whitney, etc. The asking price is \$44 million, and the rules of the co-op are that the perspective buyer exhibit cash in excess well in excess of the asking price and be able to pay the amount in cash with no loans affixed.

The new owner is Rupert Murdoch. Wishful owners have to meet and answer questions from the board, and leave without knowing if they have been approved. Dominick Dunne has written about this gruesome test in his novels.

The authors cover the great buildings of old New York, the ones that were like palaces. At 960 Fifth Ave., the owners were able to design their own apartments, so that people had 20-foot ceilings in the library and bedrooms on the floors above and below. Not to mention that the apartments shared maid and laundry services in the building.. The beauty of this building and others like it has inspired Robert A.M. Stern, dean of the Yale School of

STUDENTS

(Continued from page 22)

never even knew would just come up and start pushing me." Litvak said. "They didn't care how it made me feel. Sometimes I told people to stop pushing me and let me do it. I stayed in the wheelchair the whole day and kept going on even when I wanted to quit. I really wanted to know what it would be like."

However, by lunch, Gray decided she had enough and turned her chair over to eighth grader, Sofia Azizi for the remainder of the day. Sydney said, "It felt terrible to lose your independence," Gray said. "I needed help from other people just to get around."

To learn more about the Life Rolls On Foundation or Jesse Billauer, please visit www.liferolls.org or www.Jesse-Billauer.com.

Editor's Note: Christy Fuhrer is a Kindergarten teacher and Service Learning Advocate at Horace Mann School.

Architecture and the lead designer of the building going up at 15 Central Park W. where hedge fund mogul Daniel Loeb has already bought the pent house for \$45 million.

(This is a case where the sons also rise as it is being built by the Zeckendorf brothers, sons of William Zeckendorf, Jr, who built the Zeckendorf Towers and grandsons of the icon William Zeckendorf, Sr., who built Century City.)

They talk about the Beresford. I must confess that as a college freshman I was invited to stay at a friend's grandparents' apartment there. It took my breath away with its grand staircase and massive rooms and ceilings.

Today among its celebrity owners are Jerry Seinfeld and Mike Nichols. The Dakota of *Rosemary's Baby* fame is the home to Lauren Bacall and Yoko Ono, who bring pot luck food for the annual October courtyard party.

There are the power towers of the Waldorf Towers, The Pierre Towers, the fabulous Park Avenue addresses, and then there is 19 E. 72nd St. whose co-op board turned down former President Richard Nixon. River House claims Henry Kissinger, Muriel Siebert, Peter Peterson, but it turned down Gloria Vanderbilt. River House used to have its own boat landing on the East river. Finally, enough is enough and there has been the rise of the condo, where you pay your money and the place is yours. These are rising in the Village and downtown Manhattan.

I did tell Eunice when we taped she has given a great gift to those charities that mail and mail because now they know where people live.

I have only scratched the book's surface in what I have mentioned. Actually, it's a "hard to put down book." Incidentally, Eunice and her famed lyricist husband, Hal David, also have a co-op in New York.

Bruce Wagner wrote a fascinating novel *Memorial* (Simon & Schuster \$25) which looks at a family in Los Angeles.

Not his typical old Hollywood but a woman, Joan Herlihy, who is an architect in a field governed by men. Her design firm ARK is in the running to design a memorial for a billionaire in memory of his brother and sister-in-law who were killed in the tsunami in India. She has a brother, Chess, a location scout. He has a friend who plays a dirty trick on him in a hidden video reality show. Chess sues and plays the trick back on his friend that causes the friend to be paralyzed.

Unlike simplistic writers, Bruce Wagner fleshes out his story with Joan and Chesses' mother, Marj, who becomes victim of a

lottery scam and their father, Ray, who had disappeared from the family years before. Ray is living a simple life with his dog and his girl friend, when he is the victim of a wrong address attack by the LAPD. His dog is shot and Ray suffers a heart attack. Each of the four plots intertwine and could have been stories on their own, but Wagner knows how to weave a story that makes his novels so intriguing.

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Thank you all for the great response to my ad regarding the need for an animal shelter for the residents of Beverly Hills. The BEVERLY HILLS COURIER advertising is very effective. Of a number of calls, one email and one phone call needs mention: Rod Wood, City Manager for Beverly Hills, emailed to ensure me he is working on the Los Angeles/Beverly Hills shelter association -- he has all the information to make it happen. Councilmember Jimmy Delshad immediately called and again reminded me of his support for an animal shelter. I do hope Jimmy is re-elected because he will provide City Council support that will make the association with Los Angeles happen with the new, nearby shelter location on Pico Boulevard in West LA; or perhaps even an animal shelter for Beverly Hills. Thank you Rod Wood, Jimmy Delshad and Steve Webb.

Paula Kent Meehan, President

The Beverly Hills Pet Care Foundation