I want to express deep gratitude to all of Silvermine’s supporters and its excellent management team who once again have achieved superlative performance in both financial results and service to the community.

After having accomplished a dramatic turnaround last year, this year the management was led by two goals: sustainability and relevance. The financial outcome speaks for itself, totaling a net positive result after Depreciation of $187,424. This performance is critical to the future sustainability and growth of Silvermine. Each year we will rebuild the financial reserve required for operations and set aside funding to restore our aging facilities. With the Centennial a mere four years away, it is our imperative to renew the campus as it faces the next 100 years.

On the community front, we are reaching out to our 501(c)(3) neighbors to find meaningful collaborations to bring Art to their programming as they serve their constituents. Through partnerships Silvermine deepens and broadens its relevance to the community.

We know that Art is a powerful tool for communication, education, enrichment, and development. Our 26-year experience with the Art Partners program in Norwalk and Stamford’s under-resourced schools has demonstrated the power of art to facilitate learning when integrated with school curriculum. It is also remarkable how art can break through emotional and social barriers and foster communication, empathy and personal emotional development.

This year we partnered with Creative Connections, Inc. to connect our young students with an art class in the Rain Forest of Brazil. Together they created and exchanged paintings about their lives and culture and shared stories via video conference through translators. When answering a question “What’s that?” about a painting depicting shopping in the produce section of Whole Foods – our students were brought into the lives of their new friends learning how they fished and harvested for their daily food. The stark contrast was enlightening for both.

Art is communication, learning and understanding.

We are providing art classes for the STAR Inc. community who are challenged with developmental disabilities. We look to expand our programming to include classes at Silvermine for these talented and inspiring artists.

Art is expression and art is achievement.

Silver Hill Hospital residents come to Silvermine for art programs developed to unlock and express emotional issues. Art is healing.

We are partnering with New Canaan Historical Society to showcase Guild artists in exhibits for the community. Art is enriching.

These are but a few of our neighbors. Silvermine will continue to foster collaborations with both community leaders and local businesses to share the power of art to enhance our community.

Thank you for being part of our mission.

Rose-Marie Fox
Board Chair
The Silvermine School of Art continues its legacy of award-winning art education with over 4,000 annual enrollments (ages 4 to 94) in all levels of proficiency from beginner to advanced. With over 1,100 courses, workshops and youth programs held throughout the year, it provides a nurturing environment, unstructured enough to encourage creativity, yet disciplined enough to provide a solid foundation. For the sixth consecutive year, the School was awarded ‘Best of the Gold Coast’ by Moffly Media for its art classes.

Highlights:
- New this year, we transformed our annual open house into Open House Studios—a day of mini workshops, taught by art professionals, offering a variety of hands-on two hour sessions and demonstrations throughout the day. It was a great way for new and current students to sample a medium they may want to pursue in-depth later. The day was tremendously successful.
- The Workshops Catalog introduced last year is proving to increase enrollment by allowing participants to enjoy a wide range of media offerings. Our popular ‘One Night Stand’ workshops have been in great demand by new and repeat students. Some of the highlights of workshops offered throughout the year: Fluid Acrylic Pours, Yoga and Art, Bowls on the Potter’s Wheel and Photo Transfers.
- Scholarships provide deserving youth opportunities to experience Silvermine’s exemplary art education. Seventy-eight scholarships were awarded to children this year. The Annual Holiday Sale, Art Materials and Equipment Tag Sale and individual donations raised almost $14K for the Scholarship Fund.
- This winter we will launch a new school administration system which will enable on-line and mobile registration providing a faster and easier process. The system has features to serve the full range of school registration, management and analytic needs.
- The Silvermine School of Art continues its legacy of award-winning art education with over 4,000 annual enrollments (ages 4 to 94) in all levels of proficiency from beginner to advanced.

Looking Ahead:
- We are incredibly excited to replace our outdated Digital Lab equipment thanks to the generosity of the New Canaan Community Foundation and contributions from the Gala’s live auction. We now have the opportunity to provide high school and college age youth with professional level art and design classes that prepare them for future study and/or career opportunities. Silvermine will collaborate with New Canaan High School in the design of these programs that complement and extend its offerings in digital media.
“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

Scott Adams

You not only reflect upon art at Silvermine – you also connect directly with the artists who created it through informal exchanges, artist-led tours, and conversations between artists and distinguished curators. You can spend days finding inspiration in the five galleries that house the ever-changing exhibitions or stroll the grounds perusing our sculpture collection which places art in the center of a conversation about the way we think about our relationship to our environment. Whatever time of the year you choose, there will be a new series of exhibitions to view that continue enriching the history of Silvermine.

The Galleries present relevant, visually compelling art exhibitions, accompanied by programs and events, to heighten appreciation and understanding of art and its role in society. Our inclusive approach encompasses programming tailored to make our exhibitions meaningful and accessible to diverse audiences of every age and background. Many of our landmark exhibitions are juried by distinguished guest curators. All of our installations use art to create opportunities for learning and provide a venue for broadening participation across media, disciplines, cultures and contexts.

Highlights:

Big Impressions, Small Presses: the Small Independent Print Shop show – curated in collaboration with James Reed, Silvermine’s Print Collections Manager. The exhibition showcased nine outstanding independent print shops located throughout the Northeast. The independent presses featured have contributed significantly to the contemporary art of printmaking. Among their many specialties are original lithographs, hand-printed fine art editions, mixed-media prints, and artists’ books. Silvermine also premiered the film ‘A Story in Stone’ featuring Guild members James Reed and Dan Makara, followed by a panel discussion.

Guild Group Show – is the third in the series of guest-curated exhibitions at Silvermine. Eric Ben-Kiki, of EBK Gallery in Hartford, CT said he thinks about “the presence each piece commands. For me, the type of artwork doesn’t pre-determine any decisions of choice, because the caliber of work will ultimately be what presents itself. One of the most rewarding experiences of curating and choosing artwork for exhibits are those moments of discovery. There were many here at Silvermine.” Eric selected one artist from this exhibit to have a solo show at the EBK Gallery.

Perfect Partners: Art in Design – a new exhibition developed by Nancy McTague-Stock, Guild artist and former Board member, transformed the galleries into four remarkable, distinct, and exciting environments through the creative partnering of Guild Art selected by five local interior designers as the starting point for their interior expressions.

68th Art of the Northeast – curated by Patricia Hickson, the Emily Hall Tremaine Curator of Contemporary Art at the Wadsworth Atheneum, continued its history of high quality submissions of talented Northeast contemporary artists. Patricia called the competition "a strong and diverse range of work,” and commented further: “My subjective decisions were grounded in objective criteria – a balance of creative and formal elements. Color, technique, and composition weighed equally with subject, concept, and individual style. This vast and impressive range of work speaks to the many individual voices creating contemporary art today.” During a special Gallery event, visitors joined Patricia in an intimate and lively conversation with the award-winning artists about their creative processes and the larger meanings of their work.
Silvermine has given rise to a world interpreted by artists, painters, photographers, sculptors, and a whole range of other disciplines. Since 1906 when visionary sculptor Solon Borglum moved to Silvermine and held annual exhibitions in his studio and weekly critiques called the Knockers Club, Silvermine has been a place for artists to gather. In 1922 The Silvermine Guild of Artists was formed and later incorporated as a not-for-profit to provide a permanency to the community of artists. Silvermine has a 96-year reputation of exhibiting and involving art luminaries such as Joseph Albers, Gabor Peterdi, Milton Avery, Elaine deKooning, Clement Greenberg, Louise Nevelson, Larry Rivers, Jean Claude and Christo, James Rosenquist, Chuck Close, Philip Johnson—and the list goes on.

Today, the Guild is comprised of over 300 professional artists who enhance and change the way we experience art. Widely respected and highly collectible, their multi-disciplined work can often be viewed in Gallery exhibitions. We continue to honor our heritage by expanding the borders of our contemporary exhibitions to include recognized emerging artists from across the USA to exhibit at Silvermine. These exhibitions highlight current art trends and broaden the community’s understanding and appreciation of art by bringing some of the most influential pundits in contemporary art to Fairfield County.

New Members
Each year the Guild is honored to welcome into its ranks a competitively selected group of new artist members. Since its inception, Guild membership has been a peer-juried process based on the quality of the artists’ submitted works and professional achievements. Our Guild members have attained a superior level of technical and creative accomplishment as demonstrated by numerous group and solo exhibitions, awards, publications, commercial gallery representation and inclusion in museum and corporate collections. This year seventeen new members were selected in a wide range of artistic media.

The Legacy of Silvermine: Artists, Art, and Community Exhibition
As the Silvermine Arts Center heads toward its hundredth year, we continue to celebrate luminaries and Lifetime Guild Members who have been central to Silvermine’s vital and enduring presence as an artists’ community. All of them found at Silvermine an inspiring professional artist community that embraces innovation, experimentation, collaboration and support.
Art Partners’ Teaching Artists create effective, transformative educational experiences for underserved students. Extending the term ‘Outreach’, a middle school student was so inspired by her after-school Art classes that each Monday evening she taught her three older brothers what she learned in painting class – bringing the joy of creativity to her whole family!

Classroom teachers were brought to tears during a Gallery tour when they realized that a young boy with learning disabilities was inspired by the visual arts – “finally giving us a way to reach him.”

A mother raved that her daughter is “excited to talk about what she learned. Thank you to Silvermine for reaching out to our young community!”

For 26 years, Art Partners, Silvermine’s unique Outreach Education Program, has provided curriculum-based studio art classes for approximately 15,000 underserved students in elementary and middle schools, as well as after-school and Special Needs programs, in Norwalk and Stamford. Art Partners is providing these stimulating programs to over 1,000 children annually.

Programs are designed to address and help close Connecticut’s achievement gap. Thinking and responding visually is critical in our increasingly global society. Creativity, innovation, critical thinking, collaboration and communication – essential 21st Century skills – are embedded in the process of making and sharing art. Studies show that arts learning, especially for these targeted audiences, yields improved academic success as well as increased civic and community involvement.

Silvermine also participates in Norwalk ACTS, a partnership of over 100 civic leaders dedicated to taking collective action to ensure student success. It is now recognized that social/emotional development enables student learning. This is incorporated into our programs, which are focused on enhancing self-esteem and empathy and are celebrated through public recognition of Art Partners’ Programs.

- Public ceremony, introduced by the Mayor, to celebrate installation of “Garden People” sculptures at Fodor Farm.
- Norwalk Housing Authority students created a book of poetry and photography celebrated with a poetry reading of this at the Norwalk Library, which included the publication in their collection. This event was followed by a reception and exhibition of their work at Silvermine’s Student Gallery.
- Completion of the Silvermine Elementary School’s 18th Annual 5th grade Mural Project which becomes a legacy for the outgoing 5th grade students.
- Nathan Hale Middle School, year-long after-school program with student art featured in school showcases throughout the year.

We appreciate the Melissa Newman Trio and the Jim Clark Trio for their jazz performances that benefited Art Partners Programs.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Corporate and Foundation sponsors: Hearst Foundations, Colgate-Palmolive Company, The Pitney Bowes Foundation, Bankwell, Westport Sunrise Rotary, as well as the generous support of individuals who enable us to continue this important Program.

“If you hear a voice within you say ‘you cannot paint’, then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.”

Vincent Van Gogh
“Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life.”

Michael Korda

Hearst CT Media Group – Bobbie Roessner

“We are journalists. We chronicle our culture, our time, and our place … and here we are extending this chronicle of who we are in this place and time into the world of the Arts.”

Barbara and Bill Hilson

“The BIG Dream is that someone very close to Silvermine wins one of those mega lottery tickets and decides the best possible thing to do with $20 - $30 Million is to give it to Silvermine, in which case I have no doubt we would transform this place into something unlike anything ever seen before in America.”

Nancy McTague-Stock

“I first learned of Silvermine in 1989 when we moved from NYC … and it was an oasis … and I made lifelong friends. Silvermine is one of those rare places where you can find people in all different communities and from very young to old.”

Vivien White

“Art saves lives. Especially with young people who really need to save their lives because of their circumstances … young people, counselled and supported by art teachers, can make a real difference in their whole life.”

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Annual Gifts

**Lifetime Giving**

$500,00+  
Connecticut Office of the Arts

$200,000 – $499,999  
Rose-Marie Fox & Bill Shanahan

$100,000 – $199,999  
Barbara & William Hillson

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Nancy McTague-Stock & Robert Stock*

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$10,000 – $19,999  
Jeniam Foundation*

Connecticut Office of the Arts*

$20,000 – $49,999  
Hearst Foundation

$100,000 – $199,999  
Jeniam Foundation

Rose-Marie Fox & Bill Shanahan

Connecticut Office of the Arts

Lifetime Giving

14
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018
Operating Information

REVENUE:
- Tuition: $1,728,449
- Gala Net Income: $210,756
- Other Earned Income: $215,336
- Contributions & Membership: $384,113
- TOTAL REVENUE: $2,538,654

EXPENSES:
- Compensation & Commissions: $1,420,679
- Scholarships & Outreach: $55,896
- Program Expenses: $527,003
- Maintenance & Overhead: $242,898
- TOTAL EXPENSES: $2,246,476

RESULT AFTER DEPRECIATION:
187,178

FY18 continued the positive trend of financial performance from the preceding year. Silvermine had a $187,424 Result After Depreciation representing a $119K increase over FY17 results of $67,924. We are proud that ninety percent (90%) of expenses went directly to arts programming.

All business areas showed improvements. The School revenue was up 14%; the Gallery up 25%; Scholarships and Outreach funding was also up enabling Silvermine to bring the joy of art education to more under-resourced youth.

The profit from the annual Gala reached an historic high for Silvermine – over $210K which goes to support programs and operations. Thank you to all our sponsors and patrons who made this possible.

This excellent financial performance is due to our strong management team, the dedicated board of trustees and our generous donors. Together we are working to ensure that future generations can continue to unlock their creative potential at Silvermine.

Silvermine is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
“The artist must have the patience of water that eats away the rock drop after drop.”

Auguste Rodin

Sadly, each year we lose some of our cherished artists. This year, we honor six long-time members who made a lasting impression in and to our community.

In Memoriam

Rosamond Berg Bassett
Binnie Birstein
Ken Davies
Jane Ingram
Vincent Schifano
Renata Manasse Schwebel

Staff

Director, Operations & Finance
Barbara Linarducci

Director, Strategy & Development
Robin Jaffe Frank, PhD

School Director
Anne Connell

Gallery Director
Roger Mudre

Outreach Education Director
Sophia Gevas

School Financial Manager
Bruce Dunbar

Operations Associate
Lisa Scroggins

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Kim Healey
Joseph Kais
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Karen Neems

Honorary Board
Cynthia Guest
Roger Mudre
Sally Sheehy
Leonard Tow
Diana Wege

*ex-officio

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Serendipity Magazine

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Leonard Tow
Diana Wege

*ex-officio
“What moves men of genius, or rather what inspires their work, is not new ideas, but their obsession with the idea that what has already been said is still not enough.”

Eugène Delacroix