

## Argy Nestor Begins Job at Maine's Department of Education *by Carol Trimble*

After years of advocacy about the importance of having a visual and performing arts position in the Maine Department of Education (MDOE), arts education supporters across the state are celebrating the hiring of Argy Nestor for that position. A knowledgeable, articulate arts education leader, Argy taught visual art for more than twenty years at D. R. Gaul Middle School in Union, Maine, was Maine Teacher of the Year in 1995, and is a former MAAE Board member. In late August, after just 3 days on the job, Argy answered these questions posed by MAAE Board members and the leaders of the organizations that comprise the Arts are Basic Coalition.

### The Big Questions

#### What is your vision for arts education in Maine?

"Visual and Performing Arts teachers throughout the state do an outstanding job of bringing high-quality programs to students in kindergarten through grade 12. I envision us working together to advance the quality of education and the delivery of instruction in the arts. We, as arts educators, have a great deal to be proud of. I believe the arts are at the heart of exemplary education. All too

often what is happening in arts classrooms is unknown to others. We need to bring this work to the forefront and communicate more effectively about the good work arts teachers are doing. This will give us the opportunity to learn from each other."

#### What is your primary goal as VPA consultant?

"Currently, my primary goal is to listen to the needs of arts teachers and work with them to address those needs. We know it has been several years since the MDOE had someone representing the arts. I certainly can't make up for the time lost, but I will put 100% of myself into doing what I believe is right for visual and performing arts education in Maine."

#### How do you plan to manage the challenge of addressing education in all of the arts, since your background is primarily in visual art?

"I am fortunate to have two teenage sons who are very involved in music and theater, and both are very interested in dance. Through their experiences, I have learned a great deal and have an enormous appreciation for teachers of dance, music, and theater. Some of my favorite memories

from the past include playing the piano and being on a square dance team that won a state championship. Both my parents are Greek, so I sang in the



choir and danced Greek at every occasion I could. Although my formal training is in the visual arts, I have been involved in and have a genuine love for dance, music, and theater. I look forward to tapping into the expertise of educators in every discipline to inform my work. I plan to continue and expand on the arts education advisory committee that the MDOE has formed, and I enjoy gathering people together to collaborate on ideas."

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# Argy Nestor continued from p. 1

**What kinds of support can arts teachers and administrators expect from MDOE as they work to provide good arts education for students?**

“The MDOE has made a commitment by reinstating the position of VPA Specialist. The short- and long-term goals we outline will reflect the support that is required to provide quality arts education for every Maine student.”

**Maine Learning Results Revisions**

**What is the process and timeline for the MLR Revisions?**

“During the past year, a panel of fourteen educators from throughout Maine, MDOE personnel, and a national consultant have immersed themselves in reviewing the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) segment of the MLR. It has been the intent of the MDOE and the content area panel to build on the existing MLR framework, incorporating what we have learned about the arts and student learning since the 1990s to ensure that Maine’s students are college, career, and citizenship ready in the 21st Century. The proposed revised VPA standards differ from the 1996 document significantly. They acknowledge the unique Disciplinary Literacy (Standard A) and Creation, Performance and Expression (Standard B) for each of the disciplines of the arts, and they list these separately for each of the disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. The revised standards continue to recognize the common applicability of Creative Problem Solving (Standard C), Aesthetics

and Criticism (Standard D), and Relationship Among the Arts and with other Disciplines, History, and World Culture (Standard E) to all the disciplines of the arts. We believe this format best represents the shared aspects of arts while, simultaneously, adequately and clearly addressing the unique performance indicators for each discipline. The MDOE will bring the proposed VPA standards revisions to the Legislature in January 2007.”

**Assessment**

**What role will you play in the area of arts assessment?**

“I will rely on my experience in assessment as a veteran of 30 years in the classroom. Assessment has an important role in what we do as educators. Since 1997 MSAD #40 (the district I taught in) has been administering local assessments. The district administration was supportive, providing release time and compensated summer work time to create, pilot, and adopt assessments. They were in place for grades 3, 6, and 8 in visual arts. We have used our assessment information to improve our instruction and alter the curriculum.”

**Professional Development**

**What can MDOE do to promote networking among teachers of the arts?**

“Over the last 30 years, I have gone to Haystack for the fall three-day Maine Art Educators conference. Not only is it a studio-learning experience, but also an opportunity to connect with teachers from throughout

Maine to share ideas and catch up on friendships while enjoying the incredible Haystack food. (There is nothing like good food at a gathering!) At Haystack, I am reminded of the Japanese proverb: None of us is as smart as all of us. Arts teachers are often isolated, being the only arts teacher in a school. It would be beneficial if we could develop a spirit of sharing throughout the school year. For this to happen, I need everyone’s help. I hope to conduct a survey to determine needs of arts educators. A survey can also give me a database of names and email addresses that we can use to communicate with everyone in the field. This information can be invaluable. We can also use it to communicate periodically, so teachers are informed of what is happening at the MDOE.”

**Would you consider reminding school administrators of the importance of arts teachers at all grade levels attending conferences, such as the Maine Music Education’s Conference and the Haystack conference you mentioned?”**

“Absolutely! The professional opportunities available to teachers of the arts should be included in yearly plans for every teacher. Over the years, my opportunities have been varied and plentiful. They have influenced not only my teaching direction and instruction, but also, at times, the school’s direction. When we share what we learn, everyone benefits, especially students.”

# Judy Trepal

## Success by Design

by Hilary Cline

*Judy Trepal is the Creative Director, Agency Principal, and Co-founder of Ethos Marketing & Design in Westbrook. She is known as someone who will not let anyone get away with telling her they are not creative. She says she will challenge anyone who does not believe creativity exists within them. In fact, she believes that sometimes we need to put ourselves in a new space to discover our creativity. She has learned that remaining open and flexible are two essential components for keeping creative thought alive.*

Judy received a B.S. in arts education from University of Connecticut and an M.F.A. in graphic design from Tyler School of Art, a division of Temple University. She has received numerous national design awards from organizations such as the American

Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), *Creativity* magazine and American Corporate Identity.

Judy says, "Life is too short to not live in the truth," an ethos she began to develop at an early age. There were many influential people who helped shape Judy's path. Her creativity was nurtured by her mother who studied painting, ceramics, and lapidary at the University of Kansas. She feels that her mother's passion and appreciation for art encouraged her to honor her own creative expression. Judy's grandmother was also a tremendous inspiration in that she received a college degree during an era when many women were not able to pursue higher education. Even though Judy's grandmother died when Judy was a child, stories about her life's accomplishments remained a motivating force.

Judy reminisces that it was Mrs. Cohen, her art teacher at Cape Elizabeth High School, who took Judy under her wing. Judy recalls that Mrs. Cohen always made her feel welcome; she often invited her to work on art projects after school, and she invited Judy to be her assistant teacher during her free periods. Judy remembers feeling both calm and excited walking down the hallway to Mrs. Cohen's art



room, and she still can visualize the batik cloth that she made in one of her classes. It was through these experiences that Judy was given the freedom to trust her artistic abilities. Perhaps this is also where Judy first learned that she could be a leader. She fondly remembers Mrs. Cohen's nurturing and feisty personality, and how Mrs. Cohen just "made you trust that you could push yourself." She also remembers that Mrs. Cohen had a distinct way of doing things and that she had earnest plans to have Judy take over her position when she

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## Profiles: Arts Education and the Creative Economy

This profile of Judy Trepal is the sixth in a series by MAAE that collects stories about the connections between arts education and Maine's Creative Economy. These profiles articulate the ways in which arts education brings people to communities as well as the connections between arts education and creative businesses and employment. We all use what we learn from the arts every day, often without even realizing it. In each issue of this journal, MAAE profiles a person who contributes to Maine's economy by using creativity or other skills developed through arts education. We have drawn from throughout Maine's diverse economy. While those profiled may not be working purely as artists, arts education has contributed in some way to their professional or personal success. If you would like to suggest someone to be profiled (including yourself), email [artseveryday@adelphia.net](mailto:artseveryday@adelphia.net).

## Argy Nestor continued from p. 2

### Do you plan for any of the MDOE workshop funds to be used for regional arts workshops?

"I envision workshops or conferences that bring together all the arts educators in the state. After speaking with my colleagues at the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Alliance for Arts Education, we agree these can be exciting learning opportunities for all participants."

### Certification

#### Now that we have certification for dance and drama educators, what is the timeline and process for becoming certified?

"The MDOE will be using the rules established by the State Board of Education. These certification rules are part of

Chapter 115, part 2 and can be accessed online at the MDOE's website: [www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/chaps05.htm](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/chaps05.htm)."

#### Some dance educators are concerned, wondering if the MDOE has plans to adopt the PRAXIS Performing Arts standard exam for new teachers?

"Currently, this is not part of the discussions taking place by the State Board of Education. Testing information can be accessed online and is part of Chapter 13, testing information. View it at [www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/chaps05.htm](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/chaps05.htm)."

### Collaborating with Organizations

#### How do you intend to draw upon

#### the expertise of the state's arts education organizations (such as MAAE, the arts teachers professional organizations, and the arts and cultural organizations around the state) to advance arts education?

"For several years, I have been a member of MAAE and MAEA. I am aware of the advocacy work that is ongoing for professional organizations. I have worked with Paul Faria from the Maine Arts Commission on projects, with Jennifer Ryan from LA Arts and with you, Carol, having been a board member of the Maine Alliance for Arts Education. Working this past year on the Learning Results revisions has been a great opportunity to meet and get to know some of the music, theater, and dance educators in Maine. I look forward to learning more about the professional organizations I have not been involved with in the past. I believe professional arts organizations all have similar missions and collaborating with these organizations will only strengthen arts education."

#### How can the members of the organizations of the Arts are Basic Coalition (MAAE, Maine Art Education Association, Maine Music Educators Association, Dance Education in Maine Schools, Maine Drama Council, and VSA arts of Maine) help you to strengthen public awareness of the importance of arts education?

"Working together, communicating, and collaborating with a common goal." ■

*Argy Nestor is the Visual and Performing Arts consultant for the Maine Department of Education. She can be reached at [argy.nestor@maine.gov](mailto:argy.nestor@maine.gov) and 624-6825.*

## Attention Arts Teachers: New Fellowship Available!

MAAE and the Maine Community Foundation are launching the Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program (MATF) to support the artistic development of arts teachers in Maine schools. Through MATF, each fellow will design an individualized course of study that will provide both immersion in their own creative work and the opportunity to interact with other professional artists in their fields.

Selected fellows will receive up to \$4,000 each, with a complementary grant of \$1,000 to the fellows' schools to support post-fellowship activities. The fellowship award may be used to defray the costs of tuition and other fees, room and board, travel, purchase of materials and/or equipment for personal art-making, childcare, and other relevant expenses.

The program will support up to eight fellows annually, beginning in the 2006-2007 school year. The fellows will be selected through a competitive process. By November 17, 2006, potential applicants must contact the Maine Alliance for Arts Education at 667-7707 or [cbudney@maineartseducation.org](mailto:cbudney@maineartseducation.org) to discuss their fellowship ideas. Those who meet the initial criteria will receive an application form and an invitation to apply. Final applications are due February 2, 2007.

For more information on deadlines and eligibility, visit MAAE's new website: [www.maineartseducation.org](http://www.maineartseducation.org).

# Call for Arts Education Award Nominations

We need your help. MAAE is looking for people and schools in Maine's arts education world who deserve special recognition. Please let us know about that dedicated person whose passion for arts education is making a difference in your school or community. We also want to know about schools deserving recognition because of the education they provide in all of the arts for all of their students.

MAAE's annual awards honor those special individuals and schools providing outstanding work in support of arts education and contributing to quality arts education programs that encourage and strengthen educational excellence.

The Outstanding Advocate for Arts Education Award will be given to a school administrator who has shown outstanding leadership and support of the arts, established exemplary or innovative arts education programs, and/or promoted the importance of arts in the education of every child.

The Bill Bonyun Award will be given to an artist, parent, community member, or teacher who is making a positive impact on arts education through significant contributions to the arts in our schools. This honoree will have shown outstanding commitment and dedicated service in arts

education, exemplified talent and professionalism as an artist or arts advocate, and/or been an inspiration to students, teachers, and the community. Bill Bonyun was a life-long arts educator and folk singer whose memory lives on in this award and in the many people he touched with his talent and personality.

The Creative Ticket School of Excellence Award is presented to schools for their outstanding achievement in arts education. The Maine Alliance for Arts Education presents this award in collaboration with the national Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network.

These awards will be presented in March 2007, at a special MAAE ceremony during the Arts Education Advocacy Day in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta.

The 2006 MAAE Awards were presented to:

- **Nelson Monteith:** auditorium director, Reach Performing Arts Center, Deer Isle, Outstanding Advocate for Arts Education Award
- **Martin Steingesser:** poet, performer, visiting artist-teacher, Portland, Bill Bonyun Award
- **Mt. Desert Island High School,** Sally Leighton, Principal, Mt. Desert, Creative Ticket School of Excellence

For nomination forms and more information, please visit <http://www.maineartseducation.org/awards.html>

Nominations must be completed and post-marked by January 10, 2007, for the Outstanding Advocate and Bill Bonyun awards and January 15, 2007, for the Creative Ticket award.

Nominate someone you know who deserves our recognition! ■

## Poetry Out Loud

**Riva Dumont,** student of Berit Freeling at Erskine Academy, met Senator Olympia Snowe during the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, D.C.



this spring. Dumont finished in the top 12 of the national poetry recitation contest created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The Maine Alliance for Arts Education and the Maine Arts Commission administered the program in Maine. ■

## MaineArtsEducation.org

Visit MAAE's new website for up-to-date information on arts education programs, grants, advocacy resources, and more!

# Wine, Cheese & Chocolate at Baldacci's Restaurant

by Hilary B. Cline

**M**AAE's second annual Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Extravaganza fundraiser was a big hit among arts education advocates in Bangor on May 7th. Baldacci's Restaurant was packed with enthusiastic guests who were delighted by the opportunity to taste wonderful wines, cheeses and chocolates, all while supporting arts education for Maine students and schools. Governor John Baldacci and First Lady Karen Baldacci, both strong advocates for arts



*Arts education supporters chat with Governor Baldacci at last year's Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate Extravaganza*

**“Bravo!** This really is a wonderful event. I think we made some money, plus we were inspired by the diversity of people: the 91 year-old woman who still has 25 harp students, plays 'gigs' regularly, and promotes dark chocolate and wine as her key to reaching 100; the young couple from Maine who are making delicious chocolates with Winterport Wine; the lady from Peru living in Lubec who needed some form of employment, so she took out 8 'beautiful books' from the library and started making chocolates; the woman from Mongolia who talked about her herd of 100 goats while we tasted the most delicious cheese; the two talented young men who masterfully set the mood of the evening with their smooth jazz tones from guitar and bass .... and that, of course, is only a sample of the interesting people at this event. Governor John Baldacci was the first to arrive and the last to leave .... running the vacuum, wiping the tables, stacking the glasses, and eloquently speaking to the importance of the arts in Maine schools as part of the 'main menu' of our children's education...not dessert, not a side dish.... the meat and potatoes to make our kids strong of heart and creative of spirit. Great day. Thanks to all.”

— Jayne Lello, Sebec,  
former MAAE Board Member

education, hosted the event at their family restaurant and were pleased to serve Maine produced products.

The restaurant was decorated with local students' colorful artwork. Music was provided by Caleb Sweet and Zach Bence, two Bangor High School seniors, who performed a guitar and bass jazz duet. Guests mingled around the tasting stations savoring flavors of apple and pear wines, ginger and cayenne flavored chocolates, cranberry and rosemary goat cheese, and plum and walnut bonbons. Chocolates, cheeses and wines were provided by Monica's Chocolates, Dean's Sweets, B. Potter Wine Chocolates, Bartlett Estate Wines, Blacksmith Winery, Winterport Winery, Sunset Acres, Seal Cove, and Hahn's End Cheese.

During the event, arts education supporters listened to Governor Baldacci speak eloquently about the importance of the arts in Maine schools and

toast the Maine Alliance for Arts Education for its hard work. He spoke about arts education having measurable impact on children's test performances and about how nurturing this creative spirit is imperative for a strong creative economy. John Rohman, CEO of WBRC Architects & Engineers and Chair of the Maine Arts Commission, stressed that cultivating creative minds through arts education is not only essential for a vibrant economy but that it also needs to be a top priority for all.

MAAE Chair Rich Abramson and Executive Director Carol Trimble thanked Governor Baldacci and First Lady Baldacci for helping to make this year's fundraising event possible and expressed gratitude to all in attendance for supporting their important work in strengthening arts education for all Maine students.

Abramson also thanked WBRC Architects & Engineers, Time Warner Cable, Bangor



*Wine and chocolate makers set up tasting stations at this year's event (at Baldacci's Restaurant).*

Metro Magazine, Cyr Bus Lines, and Miller Drug for their generous support as this year's Wine, Cheese and Chocolate business sponsors.

Governor Baldacci closed the event by announcing the winners of a silent auction. Items auctioned included tickets to the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Maine Center for the Arts, Penobscot Theater, and the Maine Discovery Museum, along with other gifts. Mrs. Baldacci was pleased to have won *Bouquet*, a piece of fiber art created by Eric Eminger. Others won such diverse items as an auto-graphed book by Stephen King; a basket of chocolate-dipped strawberries, oranges, and biscotti from Sonya's Monster Berries; and beautifully designed pillow by Jessica Keteyian of Cozy Deluxe. Every guest was given a painted ceramic decoration made by Linda Phillips' students at Maranacook Middle School.

MAAE's Board and staff are already looking forward to next year's fundraiser and agree that wine, cheese, and chocolate make the perfect recipe for attracting fellow arts education advocates. ■

## Judy Trepal Success by Design

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retired. Judy maintained a relationship with Mrs. Cohen after high school and visited her every year while in college.

Towards the end of college, Judy realized that she had a choice to make about her career. She found herself questioning if she should continue on her path to become an art educator or school administrator. Her college graphic design teacher encouraged her to get a M.F.A. and pursue graphic design as a career. Judy returned to Maine where she became the Director of Design at ImageSet, Inc., an integrated, digital graphic communications company.

Six years ago, Judy and the former CEO of ImageSet bought the design branch of the company and transformed it into Ethos Marketing and Design. Judy now works with a team of designers and creative writers providing a wide range of marketing and creative services. Utilizing an eight-step strategic process, Ethos works to distill for their clients, through brand development and strategic marketing, how to best communicate their core truth. At Ethos, integrity, creativity, and clarity of thought drives results and is the formula for success. As Ethos' Co-founder and Creative Director, Judy is an example of a woman who was encouraged to discover her core truth through creative exploration.

Judy explains that as a Creative Director she is always giving constructive criticism. She attributes the ability to give and receive constructive criticism to her arts education background. She also feels that her arts education taught her to apply self-discipline in her work. While not an art teacher as originally planned, Judy promotes the use of arts education to teach other subjects. She also feels that art can help students overcome obstacles in learning. According to Judy, learning to express oneself is at the root of solving all problems. ■

### The arts must be at the core of every Maine student's education.

The arts and creativity are at the core of Maine life.

The arts prepare students for school, work, and life.

The arts strengthen the learning environment.

The Maine Alliance for Arts Education is Maine's only statewide organization that works to strengthen education in all of the arts.

We need your support to ensure that every Maine student experiences the benefits of arts education.

**Please use the attached envelope to send your donation to MAAE.**

**New! Click and donate here**  
[www.maineartseducation.org/donation.html](http://www.maineartseducation.org/donation.html)

# Save THE DATE

MAAE's annual  
**Arts Education Advocacy Day**  
celebration in the State Capitol will be on **March 7, 2007**.  
Plan to join fellow arts education supporters for the festivities in Augusta.



## Maine Alliance for Arts Education

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## Nominate Arts Teachers for Teacher of the Year

**Celebrate the good work that Maine's outstanding arts teachers are doing** by nominating them for Maine State

Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Maine Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and Hannaford, does not single out an individual as the best teacher in Maine, but rather honors one teacher who represents all the excellent teachers in our state. For more information, go to <http://www.maine.gov/education/it/guidance/toy/toy.htm>

## Put Arts at the Core

### Are you a current member of MAAE?

If you haven't yet renewed for 2006-07, or if you've been meaning to join but haven't gotten around to it, go to [www.maineartseducation.org/images/memberform.pdf](http://www.maineartseducation.org/images/memberform.pdf). We need your support to put arts at the core of education for all Maine students.

## Maine Alliance for Arts Education

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### Our Mission

To encourage and strengthen educational excellence in visual art, music, theater, dance, and writing in all Maine schools and communities.

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