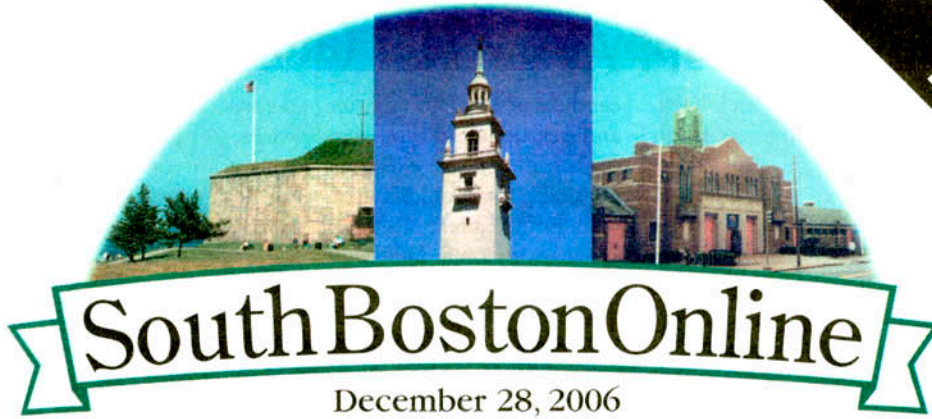




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Print Edition

“Project Poetry & Pictures” at Boys & Girls Club



Budding poets from the Boys & Girls Club with Sonya (r.) and Amy Kurzweil at the conclusion of their poetry-and-arts session, “Project Poetry & Pictures”.

The Sonya Kurzweil Developmental Center (SKDC) visited the Boys & Girls Club to present “Project Poetry & Pictures”. It was a hands-on workshop - the young people wrote and read their own poems at the end of the event.

by Rick Winterson

“Project Poetry & Pictures” promotes the arts, both poetic and pictorial, among elementary students in Massachusetts. It is jointly sponsored by the Sonya Kurzweil Developmental Center (SKDC) and the Kurzweil Foundation.

Project Poetry & Pictures came to the South Boston Boys & Girls Club last Wednesday, brought there by SKDC Director Sonya Kurzweil, her daughter Amy, and Debra Brangan, Assistant to the Director of SKDC. Thirty youngsters had been asked to write poems of their own in workbooks provided to them by SKDC.

The event opened with a discussion of the book, “Forever Poems for Now and Then, Poetry by Mother and Daughter, Illustrated by Great Masters”, which was written by Sonya and Amy Kurzweil. Opposite each poem written by the Kurzweil mother/daughter

duo of Sonya and Amy is a carefully selected masterwork by a well known artist. Each of the 22 poems created by the Kurzweils reflected in words the visual impact of each painting. “Forever Poems for Now and Then” also has a glossary of various schools of painting at the end.

The paintings and the poems deal with topics important to children: friends, the seasons, pets and animals, special days, and playing. The paintings themselves range from Old Masters to modern illustrators such as Ezra Jack Keats and Norman Rockwell. Many Impressionists are included. In a humorous pairing, the poem “Messy Room” is accompanied by an expressionist abstract by Wassily Kandinsky.

After being shown the book, several of the young people at the event stood up and read their own poems. The Kurzweils then autographed copies of “Forever Poems for Then and Now” and presented them to each attendee. The books were generously donated by the Kurzweil Foundation. To date, sev-

eral thousand books have been given to schools, youth associations, and Hurricane Katrina relief.

SKDC Director Sonya Kurzweil, Ph.D., is a practicing clinical psychologist. She teaches at Harvard Medical School. Amy Kurzweil studies at Stanford, with interests in creative writing, visual arts, and dance. Debra Brangan, M.Ed., Assistant to the SKDC Director, has extensive experience in elementary enrichment and with various social service agencies.