

2013 ARTISTS & WRITERS CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

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The New York Times

8/2/13

SUNDAY ROUTINE | KEN AULETTA

Strong Coffee, Weak Hitters



Nicola Sengul/The New York Times

By JOHN LELAND
Published: August 2, 2013

Ken Auletta is a prolific author and staff writer at The New Yorker, with an apartment on the Upper East Side and a house in Bridgehampton, N.Y. But what distinguishes Mr. Auletta, 71, in some media circles is that for the last two decades, he has been a team captain in the annual [Artists and Writers Softball Game](#), which will be played on Aug. 17 in East Hampton to raise money for several Long Island organizations. It is not a job for the meek, Mr. Auletta said. Perhaps you've heard of the egos of writers regarding their athletic prowess? Mr. Auletta is married to the literary agent Amanda Urban, who manages egos and looks for home runs all year long. Their daughter, Kate Auletta, and 4-month-old grandson sometimes join them on Sundays.

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DAYBREAK On Sundays I sleep late. I get up about a quarter to 6 — even earlier if I'm in the throes of writing something.

JOLTIN' JOE I make strong coffee. My wife is also an

THE GAME I'm tinkering now with the Artists and Writers stuff. You have several objectives that can clash with each other. On the one hand, you're trying to win. On the other hand, you're trying to get as many players into the game as possible. The roster is over 40 people that signed up, and that's a lot of people to get into a nine-inning game. Particularly since some of those players are not particularly good players, and that clashes with your objective of trying to win. And the third objective, which can also clash with that first objective, is that you're trying to get as many celebrated people into the lineup in order to entertain the fans who pay money to attend the game, in order to maximize the amount of money you raise for charity. So it leads to some hilarity.



Nicola Sengul/The New York Times

THE PLEAS I will get e-mails from people that I don't know telling me what wonderful softball players they are. Now anyone who tells you they're a wonderful softball player usually is not. And what I always tell them to do is come early to practice before the game. And I watch them bat and field. And the other hilarity for the captain is that you stand among players on the sideline, and they're looking at you as, "When can I get in the game?" It's really kind of a pain.

THE PLAYER I used to play the outfield, but as you get older you slow and you move to safe positions like first base, which is where I play now.

HEADING HOME And then, typically on Sundays we drive back. I cook. I'm the person who likes to cook in the household. It could be anything, like a recipe I spotted in Greece a couple years ago which we call Greek chicken.



and autumn ... Aug. 17. A Hampton benefit. The Artists & Writers thing — popcorn, hot dogs, burgers, ice cream, announcers Ed Burns, Matt Lauer, Carl Bernstein.

7/31/13





Mort Zuckerman, Bill Clinton, and Carl Bernstein

Artists claimed victory at the 65th annual **Artists vs. Writers Celebrity Softball Game** in East Hampton's Herrick Park on August 17, 2013. With Bill Clinton cheering from the stands and Matt Lauer serving as umpire, the star-studded sporting event raised more than \$150,000 for four eastern Long Island charities.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SONIA MOSKOWITZ/GETTYIMAGES.COM



AN ARTISTIC TRADITION

In the late 1940s, painters Willem and Elaine de Kooning and Jackson Pollock played softball with their friends on Long Island's East End. In 1968, the annual game became a charity event, and in the ensuing years the teams have grown to include actors, athletes and even politicians (see: Clinton, Bill). This year marks the 65th annual Artists & Writers Celebrity Softball Game. Check it out Aug. 17 at Herrick Park in East Hampton, artistswritersgame.org.



Actor and Amegansett resident Alec Baldwin takes the plate.

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Daniel Rodriguez, Ray Kelly, and Domingo Zapata



Lori Singer



Jack and Matt Lauer



Artists claimed victory at the 65th annual [Artists vs. Writers Celebrity Softball Game](#) in East Hampton's Herrick Park on August 17, 2013. With Bill Clinton cheering from the stands and Matt Lauer serving as umpire, the star-studded sporting event raised more than \$150,000 for four eastern Long Island charities.



Doug Kuntz for The New York Times

Bill Clinton stopped by the Artists vs. Writers softball game in East Hampton, N.Y., last week, signing balls and posing for pictures with the crowd.

DAILY NEWS

Former President Clinton and Daily News Chairman and Publisher Mortimer B. Zuckerman hit the diamond on Saturday.

BUBBA AND THE BOSS PLAY BALL!

New York Daily News Chairman and Publisher **Mortimer B. Zuckerman** looks to be giving former President **Bill Clinton** a few tips at the 65th annual Artist and Writers softball game in East Hampton on Saturday. The Artists topped the Writers 8-6 in a game that included journalists **Carl Bernstein**, The News' **Mike Lupica**, top cop **Ray Kelly** and actor **Josh Charles**.



© JANE COMB FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



Ken Auletta, Jamie Patricof, Leif Hope

8/18/13

Bill Clinton, Big Home Run Highlights 65th Artists-Writers Softball Game



PHOTO BY TOM RATCLIFFE III

AUGUST 18, 2013 BY KELLY LAFFEY

On a day that couldn't have been more perfect for baseball, the Artists bested the Writers, 8-6, in the 65th annual Artists & Writers Softball game on Saturday.

With so much more to keep your eye on than the ball, Artists & Writers is the kind of game that prompted an announcer to note, "Thank God someone is keeping score" before the top of the 7th. Former President [Bill Clinton](#) started the game off on a high note with a visit in the 2nd. When announcer Juliet Papa asked him if he'd be calling balls and strikes this year, he responded with a wry, "No, I don't think so. I've made enough decisions in my life," before posing for photos with fans on the field.



At the end, Leif Hope, in that courtyard, stood up on a chair and told us the true results of this game. Under the direction of Deb McEneaney and her team of volunteers, a total of \$150,000 had been raised for East End Hospice, East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, Phoenix House and the Retreat. It was an enormous accomplishment, nearly 10 times what had been raised in any prior year. A home run.

Al Franken

ENTERTAINMENT

65th Annual Artists Vs. Writers Game Raises \$150,000 For L.I. Charities

Former President Clinton Watched On As Artists Won 8-6

August 18, 2013 1:30 PM



Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, 1010 WINS' Juliet Papa, Mike Lupica at the 65th Annual Artists Vs. Writers Game, August 17, 2013.

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (CBSNewYork/AP) —

The artists have drawn a victory over the writers in this year's [star-studded softball faceoff](#), a creative take on competition that's become a fixture of the Hamptons summer fundraising scene.

"Today" show host Matt Lauer was an umpire and former President Bill Clinton was in the crowd Saturday for the 65th annual event as the artists' team beat the writers, 8-6.

Clinton also made a surprise appearance at the Artists Vs. Writers game last year.

1010 WINS is a sponsor of the game and reporter Juliet Papa again served as the announcer.



1010 WINS' Juliet Papa interviews former President Bill Clinton at the 65th Annual Artists Vs. Writers softball game, August 17, 2013.

Journalist Carl Bernstein was among the writers, as he has been for years. He told the newspaper he keeps participating "because it's fun."



Former President Clinton at the game with media and real estate mogul Mort Zuckerman, left, and journalist Carl Bernstein

FOR LOVE of the GAME

Bill Clinton drops by as artists, writers play ball for Hamptons charities

BY MACKENZIE ISSLER
mackenzie.issler@newsday.com

The final score in yesterday's Artists vs. Writers celebrity softball game held in East Hampton was 8-6.

But the only number anyone cared about was the bottom line: more than \$100,000 raised for East End organizations and charities.

The 65th annual event at Herrick Park drew the usual

"Today Show" host Matt Lauer and journalist-author Carl Bernstein.

Participating for the second time, Lauer was one of the umpires — a job he described as "a lot of pressure, but fun."

Bernstein, who has played in the game for at least 20 years, said he keeps coming back "because it's fun... and I want to see if I can still do it."

Co-organizer Debby McEnaney said she walked onto the

The money was raised through silent and live auctions, program advertisements and raffle, ticket and souvenir sales, she said.

Proceeds benefit East End Hospice, East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, Phoenix House adolescent center in Wainscott and The Retreat, an East End domestic violence agency providing services to women and children.

Clinton showed up to

was another umpire.

For the record, the Artists beat the Writers.

Jamie Patricof, a Hollywood producer, was named most valuable player. The son of venture capitalist Alan Patricof, he said he grew up spending summers in the Hamptons, often watching the celebrity softball game.

"It's a wonderful tradition," said TV and movie actress Lori Singer, of "Footloose"



THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

Raffish Artists Win to Writers' Chagrin 8/21/13

The Game raised an unprecedented \$150,000 for its beneficiaries

The Artists defeated the Writers 8-6 in the 65th Artists and Writers Softball Game played at East Hampton's Herrick Park Saturday, thus evening the series in the post-modern era at 12-12-1.

Though the big news was that the Game, the work of whose participants over the years was featured in a Guild Hall show earlier this summer, raised an unprecedented \$150,000 for its beneficiaries — the East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, the Retreat, the Phoenix House Adolescent Center in Wainscott, and East End Hospice.

Leif Hope, the Game's impresario, and the 2013 Game's co-organizer, Deb McEneaney, were heartily applauded after that announcement was made at the post-Game party at Race Lane, a gathering that numbered many members of the Writers' team, who in years past would habitually slink off to lick their wounds if they lost.

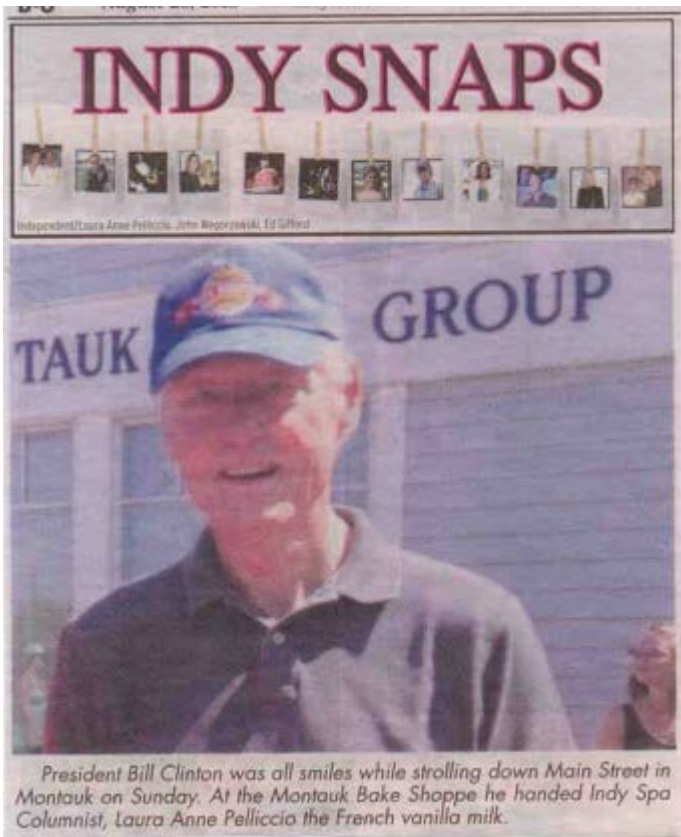
While the Scribes still hold a solid 26-19-1 lead since the Game began to be played as a benefit in the late 1960s, it's been hard to tell the winners from the losers in the past quarter-century, a span during which the quality of play has at times been outrageously outstanding.



"Go, Eddie, Go," Tom Clohessy would appear to be saying to the Artists' heavy-hitting musician, Eddie McCarthy, as he headed for home with the eventual winners' third run in the top of the fourth inning.

Durrell Godfrey





Neil DeGrasse Tyson

PAGE 27

Artists and Writers Game 2013 and Softball Game Gala

The 65th Annual Artists and Writers Softball Game took place in East Hampton's Herrick Park on Saturday. Money was raised for local charities and a great time was had by all! Photographs by Kimberly Goff and Tom W. Ratcliffe III



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. The Writers
2. The Artists
3. Ken Auletta and Leif Hope present Jamie Patricof, (center) with MVP award
4. Actor Bob Balaban
5. Dan Rattiner and Walter Bernard
6. Gail Sheehy, author, Juliet Papa, award winning reporter for 1010 WINS radio (Sponsor and MC)
7. Mike Lupica recovering from a diving catch
8. Senator Al Franken
9. NYC commissioner Ray Kelly and Matt Lauer
10. Deb McEaney, President Artists-Writers Game
11. James Lipton



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.





Clockwise from left: Former U.S. Marine Timothy Brown, who threw the first pitch of the game; Lori Singer and Stu Sleppin; President Bill Clinton amidst the crowd; James Lipton; Eric Ernst; Joe Soplak and Dan Rattiner

Artists 8. Writers 6.

An Umpire's Tale of the Legendary Softball Game in East Hampton

BY DAN RATTINER

The humble sandlot baseball field behind Waldbaum's supermarket in East Hampton last Saturday was festooned with pennants, banners and inflatables. Tents were lined up along the third base line. The crowd had assembled. The 65th running of the annual Artist and Writers softball game was about to get underway.

And so it was that I walked up to the table where you pay to get in and when asked to pay the \$10 entrance fee, said the same thing I've said for the last 30 years.

"I'm the umpire."

"Oh yes," the woman behind the table said. "I recognize you. Well, you've paid in other ways. I've seen it."

And she waved me through. She was referring to when the game had been halted in years gone so the players on each team could chew me out about a play in public, either separately or together. Beyond the table, I saw them there, the Writers in black uniforms and the Artists in white, just waiting to pounce.

"Thanks," I said. And I walked in.

Batting practice was still under way. Players from both sides were out in the field, with pitchers lobbing in strikes and balls and batters getting the feel of the clunk of ball hitting the

bat. There was something old and there was something new out on that field. The old were the players who had been there year after year for 25 years or more. They have good baseball names like Auletta, Ernst, Hollander, Bernard, Strong, Zuckerman, Singer, Meizlik, Lupica. The new were those here for the first or second or third time, Baer, Tyson, Lauer.

Ed Bleier, on the sidelines, had this to say. "The Writers this year look slightly younger than the Yankees."

Ceremonies at the pitcher's mound preceded the throwing out of the first ball. The Mayor spoke. An award was handed out for last year's player of the game, Jay DiPietro. Members of many local churches, united in chorus, sang "The Star Spangled Banner." A wounded warrior, Tim Brown, threw out the first ball. And everybody applauded as the artists trotted out onto the field to take their places. Mort Zuckerman, owner of *The New York Daily News*, came out to the mound and I handed him the ball. But the next order of business, before "play ball" could be announced, was to dust off home plate, trot back out to the mound and get the pitcher on the rubber. The rubber is three inches wide and one foot long. The pitcher has to be standing on it when he throws. There was no rubber.

We wandered around, Zuckerman and I,

kicking at the dust, hoping to find it. It must have been walked away with, is what I thought. We were holding up the start of the game, trudging around out there like that.

Finally, I drew a line in the dust.

"Use this line as a rubber," I said.

Zuckerman balked. "It's too far from home plate," he said.

He then moved forward about three feet and drew his own line. But I wasn't happy with that.

"It's too close," I said.

"This is where it has to be," Zuckerman said.

At that point, Leif Hope, the manager of the game, appeared on the mound, followed by New York State Supreme Court Judge Richard Lowe III. Lowe made a line in the sand partway between my line and Zuckerman's line, although much closer to Zuckerman's line.

"Here is where it has to be," he said.

"How do you know?" Leif asked.

"Because it has to be 42 feet from home plate," the judge said. "And I paced it off."

"How big is your foot?" Zuckerman asked.

At that moment, the controversy ended. The judge's foot struck rubber. It was four or five inches down under the dust. Just where he said it would be. I looked at it. "Archaeology," I muttered.

And so, in the end, that is where Zuckerman stood when he threw (Continued on next page)

ON THE AVENUE BEACH

JULY 2013

THE ARTS ISSUE

PARTY CLASHERS

Southampton Hospital
vs. The Parrish

THE HAMPTONS A-LIST

power players,
Blue Book
heavyweights,
media elite
and more

65TH ANNUAL WRITERS AND ARTISTS SOFTBALL GAME

JAY McINERNEY

dishes from the
dugout on Ken Auletta,
Alec Baldwin, Bill Clinton
and more

Author Jay McInerney at
the diamond in Herrick
Park, East Hampton

THE SOFTBALL DIARIES

Jay McInerney, on hungover players, watching Bill Clinton umpire, seeing Christie Brinkley without makeup and his collision with that famous "artist," Alec Baldwin

by Jay McInerney ♦ *photographed by Allen Henson*

styled by Rory McDonough ♦ *produced by Adam MacLay*

Stripes: gray cotton sweater and white button-down by Khos. Row (all shirts by J.Crew, 18 Main Street, East Hampton, 631.324.5024. Black leather bracelet, Luke Martin. Lululemon.com. Slim cut jeans, McInerney's web.

"AT THIS DISTANCE IN TIME, HOWEVER, THE ONLY FACT ABOUT WHICH WE CAN BE FAIRLY CERTAIN, GIVEN WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE TWO TRIBES, IS THAT MOST OF THE PLAYERS WERE PROBABLY HUNGOVER."

antrally, the artists try to hog the credit for the creation of the annual Artists & Writers Charity Softball Game in East Hampton: Sixty-five years ago, the story goes, actual artists, including Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline and Willem de Kooning, started gathering at painter and sculptor William Zogbaum's house in Springs to play softball. According to this particular creation myth, the snake in the grass was Harold Rosenberg, the art critic. Gradually, other writers infiltrated the gathering, and at some point the game bifurcated into separate teams: artists versus writers.

At this distance in time, however, the only fact about which we can be fairly certain, given what we know about the two tribes, is that most of the players were probably hungover. By the time I started playing, in the early 1990s, the game had moved to Herrick Park in East Hampton and become an annual charity event, the artists had taken to recruiting actors and professional athletes in a desperate attempt to overenrich the writers. And a few of the participants, like George Clooney, Ken Auletta, John Irving and Mike Lupica, actually had real athletic ability.

I must have been hungover myself when I showed up that first year with a borrowed glove, and while I hitted pretty well, I seem to recall fumbling a grounder in right field. Perhaps that's why they put me in a catcher's mask the following year. It was in this capacity that I had my stoned run-in with the famous painter Alec Baldwin. (Or is he a sculptor?)

I was feeling pretty good about the home run I'd hit in the fourth inning as I donned my mask for the fifth. The first batter for the artists, Baldwin cracked a solid hit to center field. I can't remember who was hitting with Baldwin on third base, but the ball was popped up to left field, where it was snagged by Ken Auletta, who promptly threw it to me at home plate. Baldwin tagged up on third and then charged headlong toward home, where I stood with the ball in my mitt, increasingly nervous as he loomed larger and larger on the third-base line, seeming to block out the sun.

He then barreled forward as if ignoring my existence, eventually colliding with me and knocking me over, a painful encounter to be sure, but I retained my grip on the ball, and my foot remained on the plate. As a result, I got the MVP award at the end of the game. Announcer Howard Stern, then-president of CBS, was calling the play from the bleachers, and declared, "That's the worst case of writer's block I've ever seen."

Apparently there was a precedent on the artists' side for Baldwin's charge: they had once recruited boxer Gerry Cooney, who had never played softball before and seemed to think it was a form of rugby. (Left Hogue, the artist-manager, said of Cooney's inclusion on his team: "He does his best work on canvas.") And Auletta recalls: "[Cooney] thought that when you got a hit you were supposed to knock over the first baseman."

Whatever his expertise, Cooney whacked the ball and ran straight into Andy Lack, then working for CBS News, breaking Lack's collarbone.



Red-cable-knit sweater by Stefano Berronigola's, 1000 3rd Avenue, 212-751-2010; Ring Power Ultra GPF watch, Hugel; 802 Madison Avenue, 212-310-0400; Sunglasses, McArthur's own.

65TH ANNUAL ARTISTS AND WRITERS SOFTBALL GAME

an oral history

by Christopher Lawrence

At Guild Hall, East Hampton:
"They Played The Game"
An exhibit celebrating 65 years of
the Artists & Writers Softball Game
June 15-July 28, 2013

Game Date: August 17, 2013
Herrick Park, East Hampton
9P noon; Game 2pm

Play Ball!

It's a Hamptons institution; a thread that connects the post-war Bohemia of Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline with the millennial celebrity and media circus of Alec Baldwin and Ken Auletta. East Hampton's annual Artists & Writers Softball Charity Game has been played in some fashion since the Truman Administration and has benefited local charities since the late-1960s. This June, a little down Main Street, Guild Hall marks the game's 65th anniversary with "They Played The Game," a "carbon-dated shards of coconut dug up" at the original site in Springs. But if the contest's mythic origins hang on a not-quite-trended time frame, its good works and ample celebrity bonhomie are well beyond dispute. Herewith, some of the voices of the Artists & Writers game . . .

VOICES:

"One day, 35 years ago, the artist Wilfred Zogbaum invited some cronies to his home in Springs to play softball in the front yard. And that was the birth of the East End's Artists and Writers Softball Game . . . first year participants included Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, Syd Solomon, Howard Karmatz and Esteban Vicente, who came for the look, the liquor and even the softball!"

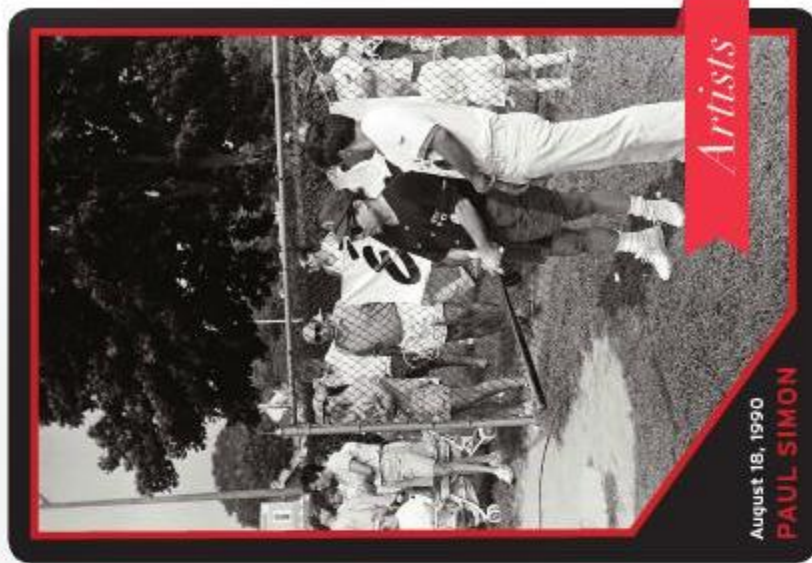
Barbara DePalma, the New York Times, August 16, 2003

"After World War II, 'Many artists had migrated to Long Island . . . Some had reputations for sales. Many struggled to pay the rent. Second drink too much. The camaraderie was strong and memories of those days were precious. Among the artists were Philip Pearl, Willem de Kooning, Elaine de Kooning, Norman Blackburn, Esteban Vicente, Wilfred Zogbaum, Syd Solomon, Jordan Pollack, Abram Lissine, Joan Mitchell, Howard Karmatz, Leo Gatch, Grier Harrigan, Carroll Maria Bell, and Ludwig Sundar."

Founder Leif Hope, the New York Times, May 18, 1997

"It was a perfect day to watch knock around woodsmen and punners added sculptors shuffle around the diamond for charity."

Selim Alpar, Dan's Papers, August 20, 2007



Artists

August 18, 1990
PAUL SIMON



"SOFTBALL IN THE ORIGINAL LATE-1940S GAMES WAS A CASUAL AFFAIR. A BAT, A BALL, SNEAKERS, LOB BALL PITCHING, POP FLIES, OCCASIONAL HOME RUNS, MUSCLE STRAIN AND TALK, NOT HIGH-CALIBER PERHAPS, BUT COMPETITIVE AND FUN. AND ARGUMENTS. ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM WAS IN FULL FLOWER. CUBISM WAS OVER. CONSTRUCTIONS, SCULPTURE, COLOR FIELD PAINTING, MATISSE, BRAQUE, PICASSO AND DAVID SMITH WERE SUBJECTS OF TALK . . ."

Founder Leif Hope, the *New York Times*, May 18, 1997

[The First Game?] "William de Kooning is at bat and Frank Kline is looking on. The catcher, Harold Rosenberg, the lone artist, says the pitcher that day was Harold Rosenberg, the New Yorkers are critics who did so much to promote the art being produced by de Kooning and his friend and Springs neighbor, Jackson Pollock."

Joan Ullman, the *New York Times*, August 23, 1998

"IN THE EARLY YEARS WE PLAYED LIKE THE BROOKLYN DODGERS. YOU KNOW, A RUNNER ON FIRST AND SECOND AND SOMEBODY HITS A HOME RUN AND PASSES THE ONES AHEAD OF HIM. GIRLS PLAYED, LOTS OF THEM, BUT THEY DIDN'T CARE. THEY RAN BACKWARDS SOMETIMES. IT WAS THE START OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT."

Philip Pavia, sculptor

"IN THE LATE 1960s, WRITERS BEGAN TO INFILTRATE. THE ARTISTS ACCEPTED THEM WITH RESERVATIONS. THEY CHANGED THE GAME. PHILIP PAVIA RECALLED: 'IT HAD BEEN FUN, WITH A LOT OF LAUGHTER. NOW THEY INSIST ON RULES.'"

Founder Leif Hope, the *New York Times*, May 18, 1997

IN 1972 "DUSTIN HOFFMAN [STEPPED] ASIDE AS PITCHER FOR THE ARTISTS SO THE PAINTER HERMAN CHERRY COULD PITCH ONE BALL TO GEORGE PLIMPTON . . . WHEN HE CONNECTED, THE GRAPEFRUIT EXPLODED WITH SUCH A BANG THAT MR. PLIMPTON WAS TERRIFIED. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A BOMB—THAT WAS THE ERA OF THE BOMB."

Joan Ullman, the *New York Times*, August 23, 1998

"In those earliest days, no distinction was made between artists and writers. . . . [former Grove Press publisher] Barney Rosset, the actor Eli Wallach, and the art collector-real estate developer Ben Heller would sometimes join [Harold] Rosenberg on a writer's team."

Joan Ullman, the *New York Times*, August 23, 1998

" . . . fans say that the Artists vs. Writers game retains surprising links to its humble and quirky past. The game still features occasional prods and a half-dreaded, half-joking rivalry between opposing teams of players sometimes jokingly defined as artists or writers."

Joan Ullman, the *New York Times*, August 23, 1998



"BARBARIC YAWPS SOUNDED OVER ROOFS AS WRITERS WIN."

The *East Hampton Star*, August 25, 2011

"The first game for charity took place in 1908 to raise money for the legal costs of two artists who protested the Vietnam War."

Founder Leif Hope, the *New York Times*, May 18, 1997



"If Senator Eugene McCarthy should be nominated to represent the Democrats in their forthcoming convention in Chicago, a small degree of his success will have to be credited to the fourth annual writers-artists softball game."

The *East Hampton Star*, August 12, 1968

"ARTISTS AND WRITERS PLAY, LOVELY, ELOQUENT, MODICUM SOFTBALL."

Dan's Papers, August 20, 2000

" . . . the Writers tossed a lineup of heavy hitters in the literary field such as John Irving, George Plimpton, Peter Maas, Avery Carrasco, and Bruce Jay Friedman but to mention journalists equivalent of 'Tanker to Ears to Charlie,' Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward, and Ben Bradlee."

Jack Graves, the *East Hampton Star*, August 14, 1986

"BUT THE GAME WAS CLEAN, AND JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING, SO IS WRITERS MANAGER KEN/AULETTA. 'I'VE NEVER TAKEN STEROIDS.' THE 65-YEAR-OLD MEDIA CRITIC CLARIFIED FOR FANS."

Selim Algar, *Dan's Papers*, August 20, 2007

"Celebrity aside, I think you have to give credit to well-known folks who aren't afraid to embarrass themselves for a good cause."

Randall Rosenthal, *East End artist*

"[The game now benefits] 'three wonderful charities: The East End Hampton Day-Care Center, The Beloit (Belmont) women and abused children) and The Hospice. But the game has changed, from a pleasure game, often played in private to a serious business, which results in little laughter, some profanity, deep unhappiness for the losers, pleasure for the winners and great satisfaction for the charities. As one artist said recently, 'When the writers and their spouses showed up, there goes the neighborhood.'"

Founder Left Hope, *The New York Times*, May 16, 1997



**August 17, 1991
BEN BRADLEE**

"IT'S A BALANCING ACT, TRYING TO WIN AND TRYING TO GET EVERYONE IN," SAID WRITERS MANAGER KEN AULETTA. "LIKE LITTLE LEAGUE?"
"YES, AND YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE TEMPERAMENTS OF LITTLE LEAGUERS TOO... AND SOMETIMES THE SKILLS."

The East Hampton Star, August 16, 2001

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 19, 1976

"Artist's manager Warren Bonds: 'I have instructed my team not to practice. We are saving our energy for the game. And we are going to win.'"

The East Hampton Star, August 18, 1973

"... the Artists, once lovely and insouciant, have undergone a transformation, their numbers swelled by well-entrenched stars of stage and screen, collectors, musicians, lawyers who have spent time on the courts, and politicians pursuing the art of the possible."

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 21, 1988

"[P]rofessional John Scammon, the entire stadium both teams with his wry remarks. When Ben Bradlee, editor of The Washington Post, strode to the plate, Scammon said something to the effect that 'he's played football with the Kennedy's, golf with President Ford, hockey with President Carter, and he's been playing softball with the Reagan Administration for the past six years.'"

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 21, 1988

"ANY EVENT THAT ALLOWS POLITICO MARK GREEN AND SPORTSWRITER MIKE LAPICATO ENGAGE IN HIP-HOP-STYLE FIST BUMPS IS WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S FREE."

Selim Algar, *Dan's Papers*, August 20, 2007

"It's not boring not to win. Two years ago, we bought in critics, professional athletes, and we won," said Artists manager Elaine Benson. "Yes, it was unfair and unequal, but it was more fun to win, and only two writers haven't spoken to me since."

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 9, 1979

"... where Eartha Kitt [sang] the national anthem... 'She surprised us all and knocked our socks off,' said [Lag] Hope."

Andrew Hudnash, *The Sag Harbor Express*, August 12, 2010

"WE WRITERS HAVE LINES WE WON'T CROSS, WE COULD HAVE RECRUITED [LOCAL SOFTBALL HERO] PETER MCNEANEY, BUT HE ONLY WRITES A COUPLE OF LETTERS A YEAR AND THE WRITERS SAID HE DID NOT QUALIFY. WE ASKED HIM TO GET THAT NUMBER UP FOR NEXT YEAR. ARTISTS MANAGER LEIF HOPE THINKS PETER QUALIFIES AS AN ARTIST BECAUSE HE MADE A CERAMIC ASHTRAY!"

Ken Auletta, *writer*

"[Ben] Ernst served notice—or whatever artists serve—in the top of the first inning as he did off with an opposite field home run to right. Later in the game, in the seventh, Ernst captured the same theme, sending his bases as John [The World According To Gary] Irving batted his fly on the right field line."

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 30, 1984

"ERIC ERNST REMEMBERS THE TIME HE MADE A COMMON, DIGIT-BASED OBSCENE GESTURE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EMPIRE WHO HAD JUST CALLED HIM OUT. THE OFFENDING CUP? RUDY GIULIANI."

The Sag Harbor Express, August 17, 2012

"[The Writers] have donated an impressive lineup of players, some of whom can write and hit, but can't run, some of whom can write and race, but can't hit, and some of whom can hit to right!"

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 15, 1985



Special to the East Hampton Star

"No longer a comedy of errors, the Artists-Writers annual softball game has become disconcertingly well played in recent years..."

Jack Graves, *The East Hampton Star*, August 29, 2012

"While [the game] raises a lot of money for good causes, I think the truth is that most of the regulars would show up and play with no fanfare, cameras, or spectators. A very enjoyable friendly rivalry has built up over the years."

Randall Rosenthal, *East End artist*

"THE FENCE, IT'S BEEN SET AT A DEFINED LENGTH FOR OVER A HALF-CENTURY... BUT THEN, IN ITS 60TH YEAR, THE ORGANIZERS PICKED UP ON SOMETHING THE WRITERS TEAM HAS USED AS ITS PRIVATE BATTLE CRY ALL ALONG: IMAGINE HITTING THE BALL OVER THE FENCE, THE LONG BALL, THE ONE THAT LEAVES 'EM CHEERING... AND THEY DID."

Bill Collage, *screenwriter*



"THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY AND TONGUE-IN-CHEEK ABOUT A SOFTBALL GAME CALLED THE ARTISTS-WRITERS GAME," SAID LOCAL NEWSPAPER LEGEND DAN RATTIN. "IT'S LIKE A SATIRE ON BASEBALL AND ON SOCIETY."

Joan Ullman, *The New York Times*, August 23, 1998



"[The writer game nights]... Paul Simon hit a deep ball into left field sending Christopher Bruce from second base to home plate, barreling over the catcher to get there."

Andrew Radzinsky, *The Big Harbor Express*, August 12, 2010

"I pitched for a few years and then [famous artist and game organizer] Roy Schneider showed up. It was a no-brainer... who are people going to play to see pitch? Roy was as generous and empathetic as possible. An outstanding man in every regard."

Randall Rosenthal, *East End artist*

"The game is always friendly but at the same time competitive. Writers player-manager Ken Aulista wants the writers to win. He's diplomatic enough to get everyone in the game and all that—and he won't tell you if you screw up—but he wants to win."

Keith Kelly, *NY Post columnist*, June 7, 2013

"WHEN THE ARTISTS GET TOGETHER AFTERWARD, YOU'LL HEAR THEM SAY, 'WASN'T THAT A WONDERFUL GAME? WASN'T THAT A WONDERFUL GAME?' AND THEN SOMEBODY WILL SAY, 'WHO WON?' AND THEY'LL SAY, 'WE DON'T KNOW. DID WE WIN?' DID THEY? AND NO ONE WILL KNOW THE ANSWER. I HEAR THAT EVERY TIME WE PLAY. BUT THE WRITERS... THE WRITERS WILL KNOW."

Game Founder Lelf Hope, 2010



Some categories and players were:

Writers:

Ken Aulista, John Lee, Peter Mann, Avery Comman, Jay McInerney, Luke Lee, Mike Lupica, George Thompson, Jack Graves, John Irving, Jim Brady, Ed Tully, Shon Trenchbaum, Josh Trenchum, Lee Marjorie, Brett Shrocks, Kurt Vonnegut, James Lurie, Neil Simon, Elia Kazan, Willie Keeler

Actors:

Michalis Boudjerski, Dustin Hoffman, Roy Scheider, Sam Birkhead, Carl Singer, Alvi Bullock, Christopher Reeve, Bonnie Platten, Alan Alda, Ed Wollsch, J.J. Burns, Christine Bartley, Christine Hirsche, Mercedes Knoll, Matthew Boudjerski, John Sklar, Chevy Chase, Edward Burns

Journalists:

Albert Zuckerman, Walter Isaacson, Gill Sharby, Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward, Ben Bradlee, Dan Kattner, Alan Zuckerman, Laurence L'Donnell, Richard Rogers, Peter Randall, Peter Isaacson, Laura Brady, Robert Sam Alton, Miff Bennett, Murray Kempton

Composer and singer:

Paul Simon

Television and radio:

Howard Stringer (M.O.), Kathleen Sullivan, Fred Jennings, James Lipton, Ken Burns, Roscoe Aiken, Danny Bonadich, Jerry Belin, Fannie Fannie, John Swinton

Athletes:

Ham Richardson, Gary Towner, Mary Lyons, Wesley Walker, Ted

Architects:

Charles (Wallace) Rensselaer Riley

Artists:

Eric Ernst, Donna Lowrey, Eric Fuchs, Bill Dabham, John O'Sullivan, Bill Hoffman, Nick Tura, Mike Solomon, Jeffrey Mizell, Vance English, John Macdonald, Walter Bernard, Bobbie England, Penny Powers

Politicians:

Bill Clinton, Eugene McCarthy, Alvin Hoffman, Rudy Giuliani, Bella Abzug, Betty Franklin, Charles Rangel

PHOENIX HOUSE social media

TWITTER



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

19 Aug

She's truly an all-star. MT @billcollage Deb McEneaney, prez of @awsoftballgame, gives her heart to @Phoenixhouse et al.



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

16 Aug

#FF TGIF! @awsoftballgame @eastendhospice @RetreatDV @michellesuna @billcollage @LeadershipARL @FORDHealthWonk @BillEduTheater @drugnews

Expand



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

16 Aug

@RetreatDV @eastendhospice @awsoftballgame @WEHMRADIO @Hamptons @27east We're ready too! Can't wait for the big game.

View conversation



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

16 Aug

@billcollage @danspapers @awsoftballgame @RetreatDV @eastendhospice We're so grateful for Deb's support!

View conversation



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

15 Aug

Join us @awsoftballgame at Herrick Park this Saturday, 8/17 – 12 noon batting practice, 2PM First Pitch!



Phoenix House @Phoenixhouse

12 Aug

It's finally here! MT @eastendhospice SO excited for @awsoftballgame this weekend!! check out @charitybuzz for #auction items & support us!



Phoenix House

► Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game Exhibition at Guild Hall Celebrates 65 Years of Tradition

Thursday, June 6th, 2013

Print this page:



The [Artists & Writers Softball Game](#) in East Hampton takes place on August 17th 2013 – the showdown is in its 65th year. Until the game's opening pitch, what better way to celebrate this beloved east end tradition than with a special exhibit at The Museum at [Guild Hall](#) chronicling the game's history, stellar roster of participants, and their acclaimed works. [Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game](#) runs from June 15th to July 28th showcasing the artists' creative talents off the field, as well as their sporting efforts at this annual event benefiting local charities. Game memorabilia through the years, famous works of art, vintage photos, news clips, photography, personal recollections, Hollywood screenplays, and best selling books from celebrity participants from the entertainment, publishing, and sports fields past and present give a glimpse into the eclectic artists colony of East Hampton and their participation on and off the field in the community. Notables such as Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Kurt Vonnegut, Eric Ernst, Woody Allen, Ed Burns, Alec Baldwin, Carl Bernstein, Chevy Chase, Roy Scheider, Mike Lupica, Josh Charles, and many more notables are featured. This is truly a wonderful opportunity to view and touch history with memorabilia on display for fans of all ages. Don't miss it!

The Artists & Writers Softball Game supports [Phoenix House Academy of Long Island](#), East End Hospice, East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, and The Retreat

➤ Catch Artists & Writers: They Played The Game Exhibit at Guild Hall Museum

Saturday, June 15th, 2013

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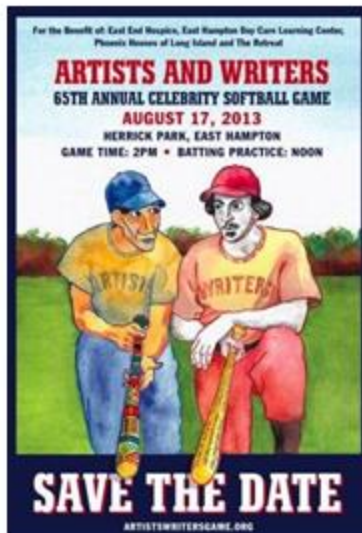


The history of the Artists & Writers Game, its celebrity competitors, and their acclaimed works are now on view to the public. Join the [celebration](#) at The Museum at Guild Hall for Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game exhibit now through July 28th showcasing the artists' creative talents off the field, and their sporting efforts at the annual event benefiting local charities, now in its 65th year. Game artifacts, famous works of art, vintage photos, game clippings, personal

➤ Join Us At The 65th Annual Artists & Writers Celebrity Softball Game in East Hampton on August 17th

Wednesday, June 26th, 2013

Print this page: 




Mark your calendars to join us at the 65th [Annual Artists & Writers Softball Game](#) on August 17th at Herrick Park in East Hampton. [Phoenix House Academy of Long Island](#) is among the beneficiaries of this star-studded east end tradition, along with East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, The Retreat, and East End Hospice. Celebrities stepping up to the plate this year for the cause include: Tom Colicchio, Matt Lauer, Josh Charles, Ed Burns, Christie Brinkley, Gregg Bello, Carl Bernstein, Rod Gilbert, Lori Singer, Bob Balaban, James Lipton, Jim Leyritz, Walter Bernard, Eric Ernst, Ken Auletta, Mike Lupica, and many more, including founder Leif Hope. Batting practice starts at noon, with the game kicking off at 2:00 PM. We are proud and grateful to be longtime participants at these festivities. Come enjoy a fun afternoon of entertainment, fierce competition and star sightings on the field and in the stands – we look forward to another great outing. Don't forget the special exhibit at [Guild Hall](#) leading up prior to this year's game, [Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game](#), chronicling sixty-five years of art, memorabilia, and history celebrating this fabulous event. The artists and the game they play are a living tribute to the East Hampton artists colony.

Phoenix House Academy of Long Island is a residential treatment program serving adolescent males struggling with substance abuse, with a fully accredited on-site academic program allowing clients to earn credit towards their high school diplomas or catch up on their studies. We strive to help our students prepare for productive, self-sufficient, drug free lives.

► Join Us at the Artists & Writers Panel Discussion at Guild Hall in East Hampton on Sunday

Thursday, July 11th, 2013

Print this page: 



Relive history with fascinating, funny, and wild game anecdotes of the [Artists & Writers](#) charity softball game with its celebrities at Guild Hall on Sunday morning, July 21st from 11:00-12:30PM. This special event is moderated by Ed Bleier featuring the Writers panel of Mort Zuckerman, Carl Bernstein, Fred Graver, and Juliet Papa; Leif Hope, Ed Hollander, Eric Ernst, Walter Bernard, and Lori Singer will be on the Artists panel. While you're there, see the [Artists & Writers: They Played The Game](#) exhibit running through July 28th.

On August 17, the 65th Annual [Artists and Writers Game](#) will be held at East Hampton's Herrick Park. This year's celebrities on the field and beyond include: Edward and Brian Burns, Ken Auletta, Mike Lupica, Carl Bernstein, Mort Zuckerman, Jim Leyritz, Chef Tom Colicchio, Rod Gilbert, Lawrence O'Donnell, Mark Green, Richard Wiese, Leif Hope, Eric Ernst, Ed Hollander, Christie Brinkley, Anthony Wehm, Josh Charles, Walter Bernard, Joel Perlman, Gregg Bello, Randall Rosenthal,

Nathan Sawaya, Lori Singer, Matt Lauer, Juliet Papa, Bob Balaban, James Lipton, Fred Graver, with Dan Rattiner and NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly among the Umpires. An event which began as a picnic in 1948 has grown to become a mainstay of East Hampton community culture. Hope you can join us for all the fun; [Phoenix House Academy of Long Island](#) is among the beneficiaries, along with East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, The Retreat, and East End Hospice.

► Final Week – Catch Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game Exhibition at Guild Hall

Wednesday, July 17th, 2013


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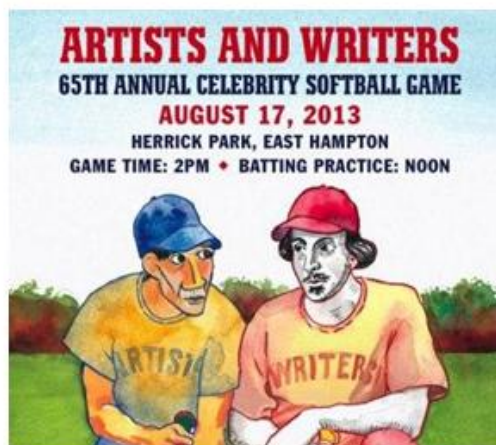


Now in its final week, come join the [celebration](#) at The Museum at [Guild Hall](#) for [Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game](#) exhibit through July 28th showcasing the artists and writers on and off the field at this annual east end tradition benefiting local charities, now in its 65th year. Famous works of art, photos, game artifacts, news clippings, recollections, Hollywood screenplays, and signed best sellers from the entertainment, publishing, and sports fields spotlight the artists colony of East Hampton. Celebs include Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Kurt Vonnegut, Alec Baldwin, Lori Singer, Josh Charles, Woody Allen, Bill Clinton, Carl Bernstein, Christie Brinkley, James Lipton, Regis Philbin, Chevy Chase, Roy Scheider, Bert Sugar, Mike Lupica, and many more. Truly a rare opportunity to view and touch history for fans of all ages. Come on down and then get ready for the 65th Annual [Artists & Writers Softball Game](#) in East Hampton at Herrick Park on August 17th – another action-packed year of

➤ 65th Annual Artists & Writers Celebrity Softball Game at Herrick Park – East Hampton August 17th

Wednesday, July 31st, 2013

Print this page: 



Join us at the annual summer classic - the 65th [Annual Artists & Writers Softball Game](#) on August 17th at Herrick Park, East Hampton. Batting practice starts at noon, with the first pitch at 2:00 PM. Come enjoy a fun afternoon of entertainment, fierce competition and star sightings on the field and in the stands – we look forward to another great tourney. Celebrities stepping up to the plate this year for the cause include: Tom Colicchio, Matt Lauer, Josh Charles, Ed Burns, Christie Brinkley, Gregg Bello, Carl Bernstein, Rod Gilbert, Lori Singer, Bob Balaban, James Lipton, Jim Leyritz, Walter Bernard, Eric Ernst, Ken Auletta, Mike Lupica, and many more. [Phoenix House Academy of Long Island](#) is among the beneficiaries of this star-studded east end tradition, along with East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, The Retreat, and East End Hospice. We are proud and grateful to be longtime participants at these festivities.

Phoenix House Academy of Long Island is a residential treatment program serving adolescent males struggling with substance abuse, with a fully accredited on-site academic program allowing clients to earn credit towards their high school diplomas or catch up on their studies. We strive to help our students prepare for

➤ This Saturday – Artists & Writers Celebrity Softball Game at Herrick Park in East Hampton

Thursday, August 15th, 2013

Print this page: 




Game day is almost here... Come join us at the [Artists & Writers Softball Game](#) this Saturday, August 17th at Herrick Park in East Hampton. [Phoenix House Academy of Long Island](#) is among the beneficiaries of this star-studded east end tradition, along with East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, The Retreat, and East End Hospice. Batting practice starts at noon, with the game kicking off at 2:00 PM. We're so proud and grateful to be longtime participants at the game; come enjoy a fun afternoon of entertainment, fun competition and star sightings on the field and in the stands. Check out the awesome online auction on Charity Buzz featuring many one of a kind items and experiences with stars of the game [here](#).

Phoenix House Academy of Long Island is a residential treatment program serving adolescent males struggling with substance abuse, with a fully accredited on-site academic program allowing clients to earn credit towards their high school diplomas or catch up on their studies. We strive to help our students prepare for productive, self-sufficient, drug free lives.

Find out more about the programs and services offered at our [Long Island Academy](#), or call our toll-free number today: 1-800-378-4435.

➤ Phoenix House Academy in Long Island at the 65th Annual Artists & Writers Softball Game

Monday, September 9th, 2013

Print this page: 



[Phoenix House Academy in Long Island](#) clients and staff were among the volunteers joining the crowd at the 65th Annual Artists and Writers Charity Softball Game at Herriek Park on August 17th in East Hampton, as the Artists beat the Writers 8-6. Our clients and staff worked the food and refreshments concession during the game. A few had the opportunity to meet former President Bill Clinton, who was making a surprise return visit to the star-studded ballpark. Other celebrity participants included *Today Show* host Matt Lauer, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Carl Bernstein, James Lipton, Juliet Papa, Ken Auletta, Mike Lupica, Jim Leyritz, Lori Singer, Ed Burns, and many more.

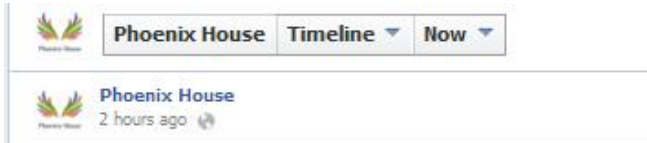
This year's outing raised an unprecedented \$150,000—almost ten times more than past years—through game tickets, souvenirs, pre-game party, silent and live auctions, and raffles to benefit Phoenix House Academy in Long Island, East Hampton Day Care Learning Center, East End Hospice,

and The Retreat. We extend our warmest thanks to game organizers Leif Hope and Debby McEneaney for their years of friendship and generosity; we are proud and grateful to be longtime participants at this fun Hamptons summer tradition.

Phoenix House Academy in Long Island, located on the East End, serves adolescent males struggling with substance abuse. Our Academy model is designed to help young clients prepare for productive, self-sufficient, and drug-free lives. Residents complete treatment while taking part in the Academy's fully accredited on-site academic program, which allows clients to catch up on their studies or earn credit toward their high school diplomas.

Find out more about the programs and services offered at [Phoenix House Academy in Long Island](#), or call our toll-free number today at: 1-800-378-4435.

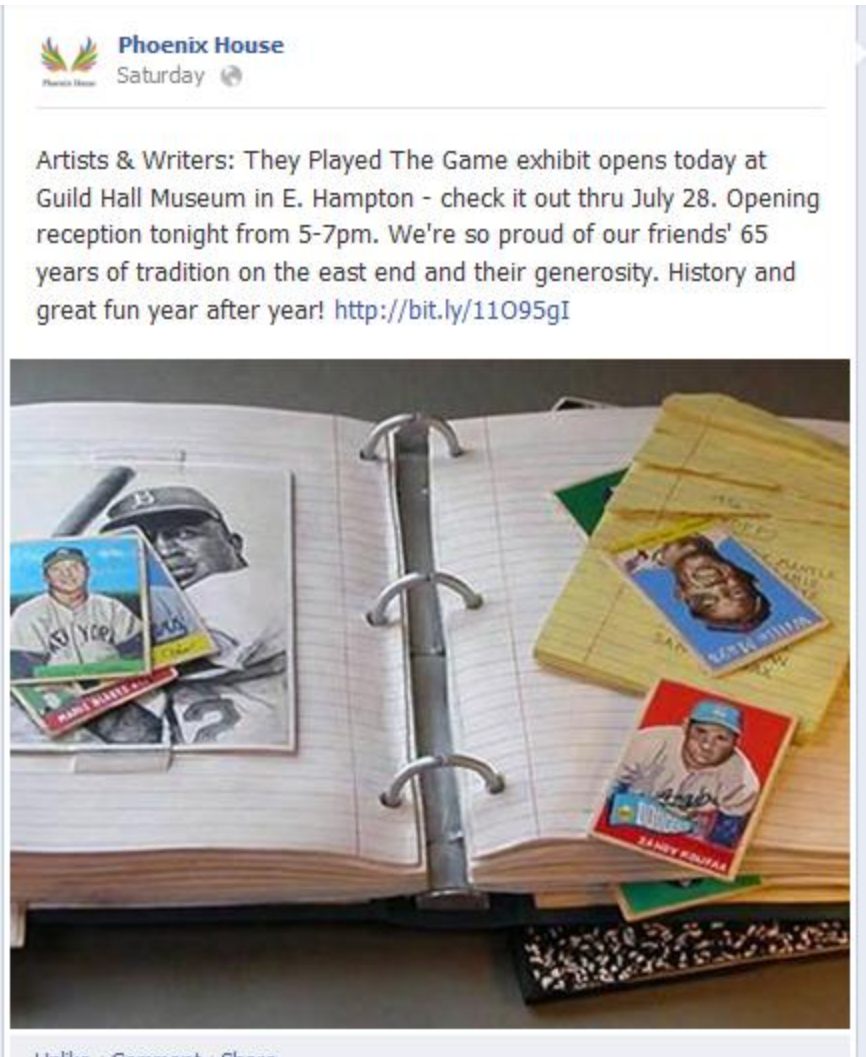
FACEBOOK



6/6/13

Check out the amazing Artists & Writers: They Played In The Game exhibit from June 15-July 28 at the Museum at Guild Hall in East Hampton. Artwork, photos, books, memories, celebs - such history! Our friends are celebrating 65 years of the game this year on August 17th - don't miss these great events! <http://bit.ly/18OHBcP>

6/15/13



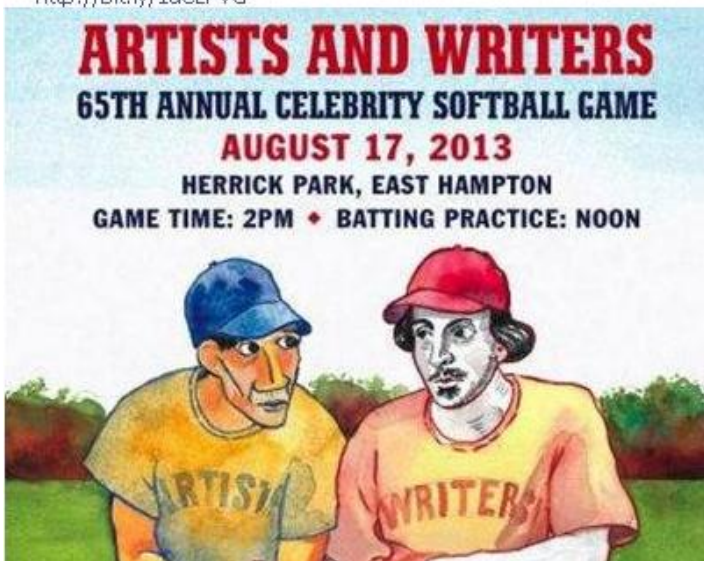
7/11/13

Join us at Guild Hall in East Hampton this Sunday for a special panel discussion with celebrities from the Artists & Writers Softball Game - many wild game stories in the heat of battle will be revealed! 😊
<http://bit.ly/13QIRge>



The star-studded game is a few weeks away - Aug. 17th, Herrick Park in East Hampton. We're so proud to have friends like Deb, Leif, & all the Artists & Writers Game supporters for so many years. Fun, food & always an exciting game - see you there! 😊
<http://bit.ly/1dCLPVG>

Hurry...check out the Artists & Writers: They Played in the Game exhibit now thru July 28th. We're looking forward to the big game on Aug. 17, & the pre-game party on the 16th! Celebrate 65 years of fun & tradition benefiting Phoenix House and other East End charities... 😊
<http://bit.ly/18jmAXX>





Phoenix House

At last, the big game is this Saturday at Herrick Park in East Hampton - celebrities, athletes, fun, food, all benefiting east end charities, Phoenix House Academy of Long Island is proud to participate at the Artists & Writers Softball Game! 😊 <http://bit.ly/1cFAWqZ>

8/15/13



📅 Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 4:00pm GMT-4 • 🌐



Phoenix House

23 hours ago 🌐

Congrats to the triumphant Artists on their win at the 65th Annual Artists & Writers Game yesterday with a score of 8-6! Our warmest thanks to all our friends at A&W, especially Deb and Leif for a very successful series of events & fundraisers celebrating the 65th - we're so proud to be participants. Check out POTUS 42 Bill Clinton with our own Brian Gillam at the game! Fantastic day! 😊

8/18/13



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👍 2



Phoenix House

September 9 🌐

Big Congrats to our friends from the Artists & Writers Charity Softball Game - breaking all fundraising records at their 65th game! Phoenix House Academy in Long Island clients and staff were among the volunteers joining the crowd as the Artists beat the Writers 8-6. We're truly grateful for your years of friendship and support. 😊 <http://bit.ly/16fY5uO>



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Famous writers, artists, other stars descend on the Hamptons for annual charity softball game

BY FRANK ELTMAN, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AUGUST 10, 2013

STORY

PHOTOS (1)



In this Sunday, July 21, 2013 photo, participants discuss the upcoming 65th annual East Hampton Artists & Writers Softball Game that benefits Long Island charities, in East Hampton, N.Y. From left to right are: publisher Mort Zuckerman, WINS radio reporter Julet Papa, comedy writer Fred Graver and journalist Carl Bernstein. (AP Photo/Frank Eltman)

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. - Its roster of participants is impressive: former President Bill Clinton, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, three Baldwins, Dustin Hoffman, Paul Simon, Jackson Pollock and Kurt Vonnegut, to name just a few.

Organizers of the annual East Hampton Artists & Writers softball games are a little fuzzy about when they got their start — most peg it to around 1948, when artists including Pollock, Willem de Kooning and others organized casual pickup games on summer afternoons in their yards. Today they have become one of the premier events in the Hamptons, New York's summer resort for the haves and have mores.

"I've played against some of the greatest house painters in the world," jokes reporter Carl Bernstein, making a common, good-natured accusation that his opponents pepper their rosters with "ringers" to gain a competitive advantage.

This year's game, billed as the 65th and slated for Aug. 17, is expected to draw thousands to watch writers such as Bernstein, Richard Reeves and Mike Lupica play artists including Domingo Zapata and Eric Ernst and actors Josh Charles, Lori Singer and others. With the support of corporate sponsors and deep-pocketed donors, the game is expected to raise \$100,000 for eastern Long Island charities.

"Like professional wrestlers, we pretend we want to kill our opponent," says author Ken Auletta, the longtime captain of the writer's team. "We mock how the other side cheats. We act like winning is all that matters. Winning does matter. But so does the camaraderie forged over many games and many after-game beers.

"And most of all, so does the money we raise at the game for needy local charities."

As the game has grown in popularity, celebrities have increasingly clamoured to play. Batting practice begins at noon, where competitors are sized up by captains Auletta and Lief Hope, the longtime helmsman of the artists' squad.

Over the years, there have been regular disputes over what constitutes an artist or a writer. Boxer Gerry Cooney once played, organizers recall, because he worked on canvas (nyuk nyuk) and a pair of power-hitting attorneys played one year for the writers, qualifying because they wrote "legal briefs." Another year, the artists squad recruited a couple of semiprofessional women's softball players, including a pitcher who threw laser beams at opposing players.

Paul Simon, who only played a couple of years, is considered among the better competitors. "The line, 'Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?' is self-referential," Bernstein jokes. And former Jets behemoth lineman Marty Lyons is remembered for hitting perhaps the longest home run in the lore of the game. Among the many gags played during the contest is a moment when a cantaloupe or turnip is substituted for a softball and thrown to a batter.

"Recently, the splatter across home plate caused by Willem de Kooning's hit sold for \$500,000," jokes Fred Graver, a former National Lampoon editor-in-chief who wrote for David Letterman and Jon Stewart.

To commemorate the 65th anniversary, organizers last month held an art exhibition at East Hampton's Guild Hall, where they displayed works from artists such as Pollock, de Kooning, Ernst and Hope.