

MORTGAGE LEADERSHIP
We are #1 on Cape Cod, offering the personal touch plus web efficiency.
Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender
Cape Cod's Community Bank Since 1855



PHOTO GALLERY: D-Y's Dan Springer: Arts Educator of the Year

Photos



Wicked Local photo by David Colantuono Purchase this Photo

Dan Springer, chairman of the fine and performing arts department at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School.

Related Galleries

PHOTO GALLERY: D-Y's Dan Springer: Arts Educator of the Year

LAWN & GARDEN • PET SUPPLIES • NURSERY

AGWAY of ORLEANS

AGWAY Cape Cod
People Who Know - Brands You Trust

FARM SUPPLIES • WATER GARDENS • OUTDOOR LIVING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.agwaycapecod.com

sophomore year he changed his major to set design. "That required a drawing class," he recalls. "The teacher took one look at my work and said I didn't belong in theatre, that I should be majoring in art."

The following year, Springer enrolled at New York City's Parson's School of Art, graduating in 1984 with a bachelor of fine arts in illustration.

After graduation Springer worked for a year in Manhattan before landing a catalogue design job on Cape Cod. "When that work dried up, I headed to Boston looking for freelance work and ended up at Northeastern University," he says.

While earning his master's in English, Springer held a graduate assistantship teaching freshman composition and literature. "Afterwards, I kept finding teaching jobs at different colleges teaching everything from critical thinking to studio art. It never occurred to me to teach in a public school."

Making a difference

But that changed after he spent two summers teaching writing in the Youth Conservation Corps' Graduate Equivalency Degree program. "These were tough kids from [the Department of Youth Services]," he said. When for two consecutive summers Springer's students all passed the writing exam after only four weeks of instruction, state GED Coordinator Ruth Dirfler asked Springer why he wasn't teaching in a public school. "I applied to the alternative track for teacher certification, and in 1995 I was hired at D-Y," he says.

At D-Y, Springer has taught advertising, painting, design, humanities, drama, writing, acting, drawing, printmaking and a college prep portfolio class. "I was first to teach a literature and film class here," Springer says. "I've tried to introduce innovative material that hadn't been taught here before. I like to advise students about how they can take their creative abilities to a professional job, how to connect with the real world. If you include film, we have a significant number of students going on to careers in the visual and related arts."

Springer's own paintings reflect the Cape landscape in its most peaceful forms, capturing clouds and light in "a place dreamlike yet familiar, a place that you go for solitude and strength." He has exhibited at the Provincetown Art Association Museum and the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis, where for the past six years he has taught a portfolio prep class for Cape students pursuing careers in art.

Asked why he teaches, Springer is quick to respond. "I hate ignorance because ignorance has hurt my family," he says. "The Partnership for 21st-Century Skills focuses on problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity. The arts teach all three in a tangible way where there's a product, and I'm proud to be part of that educational process."

Nicole Muller can be reached at nmuller@cnc.com.

By Nicole Muller
The Register

Posted Mar 11, 2010 @ 08:00 AM
Last update Mar 12, 2010 @ 10:34 AM

CAPE COD — Dan Springer never intended to teach art.

In 1979 Springer entered college as an acting major. But two years later, at the encouragement of a professor, Springer changed direction, transferring to Parsons School of Art in his hometown, New York City.

In 1995 Springer was hired to teach at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School and rose to chairman of the school's fine and performing arts department in 2007.

On March 25, the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod will honor Springer as its Arts Educator of the Year.

The award comes as arts programs in the D-Y schools are being eyed as a cost-saving measure.

"The irony of me being recognized for my work here and across the Cape -- at a time when my program and other arts programs are in jeopardy -- is striking," Springer says.

Road to D-Y

Springer grew up in New York City, the son and grandson of Holocaust survivors. "My grandfather [Jakob] was one of the very few to survive Auschwitz," Springer says, "He was in various camps from 1939 until the end of the war, truly miraculous. It certainly colored our lives."

His father Max Springer survived thanks to the Kindertransport, Great Britain's rescue mission of Jewish children nine months before World War II broke out. At age 10, Max Springer was sent to England "to relatives he didn't know and a language he didn't speak."

That background figures largely in Springer's art of solitude, mostly landscapes painted in remote, tranquil settings. But it's not unusual that he turned to teaching. "Research shows that children of Holocaust survivors are public servants," Springer says. "My sister is a special education teacher."

Art was more than coloring books for young Dan Springer. "Growing up in the city, my mother made sure I was exposed to art, music and culture," he says. "By age five, I had probably seen more museums than many people see in a lifetime. Between my junior and senior years of high school, I got a paid summer internship at Manhattan's Metropolitan Museum of Art."

Springer entered Syracuse University in upstate New York as an acting major. Realizing that his height and stature would limit him to character roles,

Tools

Print

Comment

ShareThis

Attend the conference--See the paintings

Dan Springer will be honored March 25 at the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod's Third Annual Collaborative Conference and awards ceremony at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis. For information and tickets, visit artsfoundation.org or call 508-362-0066.

To view Dan Springer's art, visit www.springed.wordpress.com.

- Refinance
- Cash Out Refinance
- Compare Low Rates
- Pay Off Debt
- 30-Year Fixed Rates
- 15-Year Fixed Rates
- 5-Year ARM
- Home Improvement

Current Offers from LendingTree®

Refinance \$400,000 for Only \$1,741/month

Refinance \$300,000 for Only \$1,306/month

Refinance \$200,000 for Only \$884/month



*Terms & Conditions Apply