



7TH ANNUAL COSTUME GALA

Making Dreams *Come True*

IN MEMORY OF LINDA SHOHATEE

NOVEMBER 10, 2023
TERRACE ON THE PARK

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OUR MISSION • Established in 2017, The Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York, Inc. makes dreams come true to improve the quality of life of individuals living with medical, physical, mental health, or developmental challenges and supports other organizations serving these populations.

Dear Family, Friends, and Supporters,

Welcome to a true celebration of the joy of "Making Dreams Come True," the Seventh Annual Costume Ball & Gala hosted by the Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York. The Foundation was founded to honor Linda Shohatee and improve the quality of life of children, teens, and young adults living with complex medical, physical, mental health, or developmental needs. Since our founding, we have been able to make over 225 Dreams Come True, thanks in large part to your support and the dedication of our volunteer Board of Directors.

We are so very appreciative of each and every individual, foundation, and company that has made our Dream Program possible. Many of our dream recipients live with cancer diagnoses, have had or await organ transplants, or live with other complex needs. Recent Dream experiences sparked by your generosity included a glittering "Sweet 16" dress, an expedition-ready Trek bicycle, the rhythms of a Burna Boy concert at Citi Field, a day of exploration at LegoLand, a family getaway to Great Wolf Lodge, and a weekend at the Jersey Shore.

This year we celebrate two outstanding honorees - Emily Perl Kingsley, a 23-time Emmy award-winning writer who wrote for Sesame Street for 45 years and Jason Kingsley, an author, actor, and advocate for people with disabilities. Emily is a pioneer and innovator in the arena of disability inclusion in media, is a former Board Member of The National Down Syndrome Congress, and is the author of "Welcome to Holland." Jason is the co-author of "Count Us In: Growing up with Down Syndrome," and has been an actor on Sesame Street, The Fall Guy, All My Children, and Touched by an Angel.

Thank you to all of the supporters who have funded Dreams or who will do so tonight by visiting our dream board! Thanks to the social workers, nurses, doctors, child life specialists, teachers, and other professionals who have made Dream referrals. Special thanks to those who have made numerous Dreams Come True, including Corporate Sponsor Calmoseptine, Platinum Sponsors John & Janet Kornreich from the Kornreich Charitable Foundation, and Silver Sponsor Fran D'Agostino, in memory of Peter D'Agostino & Anthony Cali.

Thanks to our fantastic, voluntary Board for giving their time, talents, and financial support to bring the Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York to life. We are forever grateful to everyone for joining us on this wonderful journey, making Dreams Come True by being Fairy Godmothers and Godfathers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Katie Capitulo". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'K' and 'C'.

KATIE CAPITULO PHD, RN, FAAN, IIWC

Founder & President

Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York, Inc.



LINDA'S STORY ★ The Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York, Inc. was created to honor the legacy of an extraordinary young woman, Linda Shohatee (1997-2016). Linda spent more than half of her life in hospitals and despite the obstacles she faced, her story is one of strength and tenacity. Linda saw herself as a “survivor” and was relentless in her determination to live life to its fullest.

The Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York is committed to replicating the kindness and generosity that Linda experienced during her lifetime by granting manageable, meaningful experiences to enhance the quality of life of children and young adults living with medical or developmental challenges.

Linda loved Broadway; she performed with Dancing Dreams, dancing at Lincoln Center in the “Nutcracker in a Nutshell.” She was a fan of Katy Perry, who visited and sang with Linda at New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital (CHONY) when she was hospitalized with a serious illness. Linda made many big trips in her lifetime. She loved going to Camp Sunshine in Maine, where she sang in the Talent Show with her Camp friends. Thanks to the Marty Lyons Foundation, Linda was granted a “wish” trip to Disney World. Linda had a great sense of humor; she was direct and had no hesitation sharing her opinions.

Linda even co-authored an article in a professional nursing journal! A fashionista, Linda loved the Christie & Company Salon in Bayside and everyone there. She had several families: her family of birth, her healthcare families at Mount Sinai, CHONY, and St. Mary’s, her school family at Marathon High School, and the Capitolo Family who met Linda when she was two years old. Ultimately, Katie Capitolo became Linda’s very own “Fairy Godmother.” Although Linda’s life was full of challenges and far too brief, it truly was “Linda’s Happy Life.”

Making Dreams *Come True*

7:00-8:00 PM

COCKTAIL HOUR
SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLES
DREAM BOARD

8:00 PM

GALA OPENING
Dancing Dreams Performance
Joann Ferrara, Director

Viktor Leshchenko, Emcee

Welcome, Board Introduction, Acknowledgments
Dr. Katie Capitulo, President

AWARDS

Emily Perl Kingsley – Dream Maker Honoree
Jason Kingsley – Dream Maker Honoree

8:45 PM

DINNER & DANCING
Music by DJ Mike Hope
J&L Photobooth Sponsored by Dana's Kids, Inc.
Performance by Mercedes Riege

9:30 PM

COSTUME PARADE & AWARDS
Sponsored by Dr. Lynda Olender

10:30 PM

SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ PERFORMERS ★



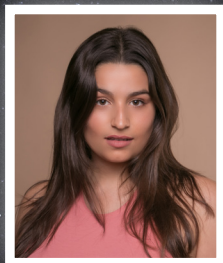
DANCING DREAMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides dance classes and performance opportunities for children ages 3-21 with medical or physical challenges, enhances leadership skills and self esteem of teens ages 13-18, and provides community outreach and education in the area of disability awareness and tolerance. Dancing Dreams has performed at all of the Fairy Godmother Foundation Costume Galas and was founded by Joann Ferrara, RPT, who received the 2019 Dream Maker Award from the Foundation. To learn more, visit dancingdreams.org



DANCINGDREAMS

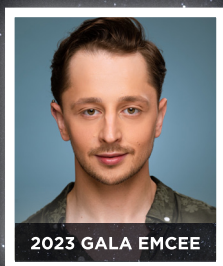
Dance for Every Child

★ PERFORMERS ★



MERCEDES RIEGÉ is a New York-based actress and singer. Born and raised in Rosario, Argentina, Mercedes moved to the city and attended the American Musical and Drama Academy's Conservatory of Musical Theatre, and is now finishing her BFA in Musical Theatre at The New School. She made her NYC debut in M. Can Yasar's new queer folk musical, "Only Place I Belong" (The What Co.), originating the role of Mom. She participated in various readings (Lime Arts Productions' "Twenty by Twenty Fringe Festival", and others) and cabaret shows ("Chasing Dreams" at don't tell mama, and others). During the 2022-2023 season, Mercedes worked at Manhattan Theatre Club as the Special Events Trainee.

In February of this year, Mercedes was a featured artist in Paper Kraine's "Bygone Dreams" – a performance at the Kraine Theater benefiting the Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York, in which artists explored passions of the past, present, and future. There, she met Katie Capitulo and began collaborating on projects for the Foundation. Mercedes is delighted to be here tonight as a performer and thanks everyone who made this wonderful event happen. If you want to get to know Mercedes better, check out her website www.mercedesriegé.com or her social media (Instagram, YouTube, TikTok): @mercedesriegé



VIKTOR LESHCHENKO is an actor and performer in NYC, born and raised in Ukraine. Just 3 years ago Viktor was doing safety demonstrations for passengers onboard Boeing-787 Dreamliner aircraft and traveling all over Europe. The COVID-19 pandemic sent his airline into bankruptcy and became a blessing in disguise. It forced him to pursue his life-long dream – acting, having eliminated the 'flight attendant' as the last item on his list of plan-B jobs.

After finishing the AMDA, Viktor recently had his NYC theatrical debut, originating the role of Valentine in "Someone Has to Die" at Teatro Latea. Today he's a proud member of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus and he's inviting you to see their winter concert! A singer on a pink bus during the day, he clowns on the weekends at children's parties. He believes every child deserves to pursue their dreams, and live their lives to the fullest. He's immensely honored to be a part of this event.



2023 DREAM MAKER AWARD

★EMILY PERL KINGSLEY★

Emily Perl Kingsley is an American writer who joined the Sesame Street team in 1970 and continued to write until her retirement in 2015. Her experiences with her son Jason, who was born with Down Syndrome, inspired her to include people with disabilities into the Sesame Street cast, including Tarah Schaeffer, an actress who uses a wheelchair, and Jason himself. In 1987, Kingsley wrote “Welcome to Holland,” a widely published and translated essay which compares the experience of a parent learning their child has a disability to that of a person traveling to Italy and having their trip rerouted to Holland. The same year, Kingsley wrote “Kids Like These,” a film about a middle-aged couple who have a son with Down Syndrome, which won numerous awards after premiering on CBS.

Kingsley has written over 20 children’s books and two Sesame Street home video releases (Kids’s Guide to Life: Learning to Share and Elmo Says Boo!). She has won 23 Daytime Emmys for her work with Sesame Street, three Equality, Dignity and Independence Awards and a Grand EDI Award from Easter Seals, and an award from the National Theatre of the Deaf. In October 2008, Emily received a special award from the Department of Health and Human Services in recognition of her groundbreaking work including individuals with disabilities on Sesame Street.



★ JASON KINGSLEY ★

Jason Kingsley co-authored “Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome” with friend Mitchell Levitz in 1994, detailing their experiences with Down Syndrome. In 2017, he co-starred with his friends Yaniv Gorodischer and Raymond Frost in the film “Far From the Tree,” based on the New York Times bestselling book by Andrew Sullivan. The film explores the relationship between parent and child, particularly regarding differences in abilities. Jason, an advocate for people with special needs and disabilities, is sought after as an inspirational speaker and has appeared on the TODAY Show.



★WELCOME TO HOLLAND★

BY EMILY PERL KINGSLEY

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

“Holland?!?” you say. “What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I’m supposed to be in Italy. All my life I’ve dreamed of going to Italy.”

But there’s been a change in the flight plan. They’ve landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven’t taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It’s just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It’s just a different place. It’s slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you’ve been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills... and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they’re all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, “Yes, that’s where I was supposed to go. That’s what I had planned.”

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn’t get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things... about Holland.

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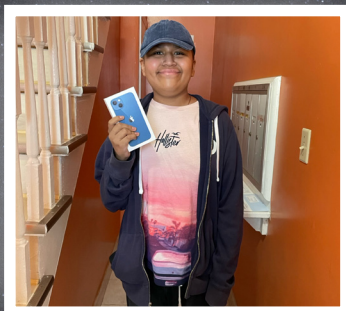
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**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED, MADE DONATIONS,
BID IN THE AUCTION, JOINED THE COSTUME CONTEST,
AND HELPED US MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Fairy Godmother
FOUNDATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

Making Dreams
Come True



RECENT DREAMS

FAMILY WATER PARK DAY at American Dream Mall with limo transportation and custom t-shirts for a child with cancer and family.

WEEKEND TRIPS to the Poconos and Jersey Shore for 3 different children with cancer and their families.

SHOPPING SPREES for a teenage girl needing a new wardrobe after transplant, a teen with renal failure awaiting transplant, and other children with complex medical needs.

BUILD A BEAR BIRTHDAY PARTY and dinner for a 4 year-old with a genetic disease.

BIRTHDAY PARTY at home and ambulance transportation for a child with complex medical needs living at a children's hospital.

BURNA BOY CONCERT tickets for a 12 year-old who spent months in the ICU after complex surgery.

AMUSEMENT PARK TRIP as respite for a family caring for a child receiving in-home hospice care.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM for a 17 year-old with leukemia

EYE EXAMS AND GLASSES for several children aged 7-10.

IPADS AND IPHONES for several children with cancer to enable in-hospital communication

LAPTOPS for several teens with cancer and and those who have undergone transplants.

BEDROOM FURNISHINGS for a 12 year-old with a severe blood disorder.

DISNEY ON ICE EXPERIENCE complete with princess attire and meals for a 3 year-old with complex medical needs and her family.

LIVING ROOM FURNITURE for a child with medical and developmental needs.

ELMO EXTRAVAGANZA for a child who has had multiple transplants (chair, toy chest, bedding, outfits, shoes, table)

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT car seat, stroller, chairs, and toys not covered by insurance for children with various complex medical needs.

BIKE AND HELMET for a teen with complex medical needs.

THANK YOU

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*Thank You.
Katie!*

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HER REMARKABLE KINDNESS
AND UNYIELDING ABILITY TO
MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE



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Remembering
John Waranis



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Linda



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Angelina Monell, MS, LMHC

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I have been practicing Mental Health therapy in New York since 2013. I have always found myself in the field starting from my time in the U.S. Navy. I have over 20+ years working, living and learning internationally as well as domestically. My practice focuses on adults experiencing anxiety, career changes, struggles with family dynamics and phases of life changes.

All sessions are Teletherapy (Video) where space is given for reflection and exploration. Sessions are held weekly to biweekly for 50 minutes. I provide a combination of Talk therapy with CBT or person centered. Treatment goals are always a collaborative effort.

I consider it an honor to have a client entrust their inner thinking and act as witness to their journey in life. As always, nothing begins until you take the first step. So in therapy as in life, the individual should always direct their steps. I provide full autonomy with the space to collaborate and receive feedback/suggestions.

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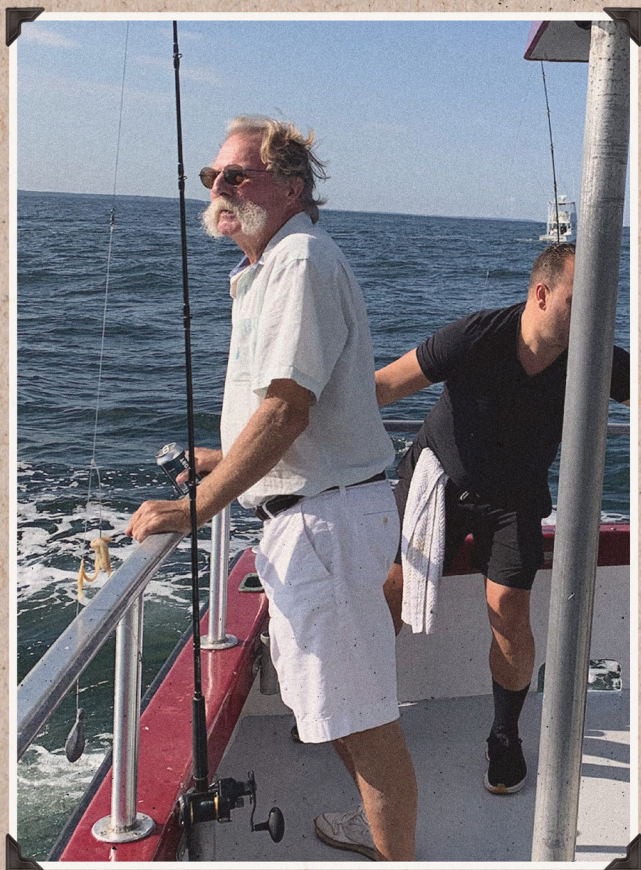
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KEN MARTIN

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our greatly missed brother-in-law,

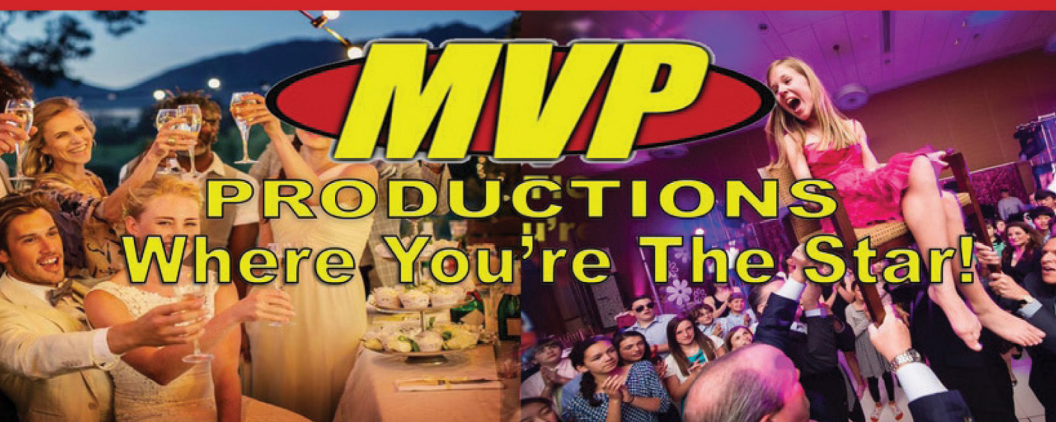


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Congratulations to the Fairy Godmother Foundation of New York on another successful year!

In honor and appreciation of my 3 beautiful children Jeffrey, Susan and James and their families, including my 7 wonderful and successful grandchildren, Erin, Taylor, Isabella, Matthew & Margaux, Alexa & Lauren!

We all wish you continued success moving forward!

LYNDA OLENDER PHD, APRN, FNYAM



Congratulations to the 2023 Honorees

**JASON KINGSLEY
&
EMILY PERL KINGSLEY**

With thanks to

Katie Capitulo, PhD, RN
President, Fairy Godmother
Foundation of New York

...and my amazing colleagues on its
Board of Directors for their spirit of love,
kindness and generosity, doing their
magic, always reaching for the stars!



DAMA NANCY J. INDELICATO
LCSW, EOHJSJ, OMHS

Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian-
Columbia University Medical Center

Board Member, Fairy Godmother
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CLAN LEASK

*Congratulates the 2023
Fairy Godmother Gala Honorees*

EMILY PERL KINGSLEY &
JASON KINGSLEY

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*Thank you for your
generosity to our families!*

-Dancing Dreams

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Emily Perl Kingsley
&
Jason Kingsley



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Sarah Frances Harris

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



GARY REDAVID

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

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A. Scott Harris, MBA

Wendy Harris Jicman, BSHS, BSN, RN

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Sarah Frances Harris

*In Remembrance of Our Parents
May their memory be eternal!*

Steve (Savas) Polydorou & Christine Polydorou.

Steve fought on The Burma Road in WW2 and was general Joe Stillwell's chef. He baked the general a chocolate birthday cake in the middle of the jungle with the inscription Happy Birthday Uncle Joe, which made the local papers in New York.

Christine made pills for the war effort at a factory on 22nd Street and Second avenue in New York City and had a picture taken, as a result of my father's birthday cake gift to the general.

Robert Scott & Juana Vicens Scott

Robert Scott, served a mine sweeper in WW 1. He never caught the Flu of 1918 and passed away just short of 100 years.

Juana was a school teacher. They met at a dance at International house in New York City.

Nick & Marjorie Polydorou

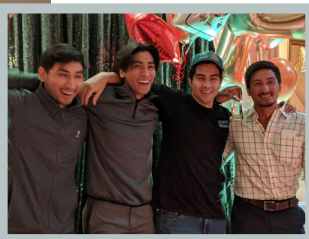
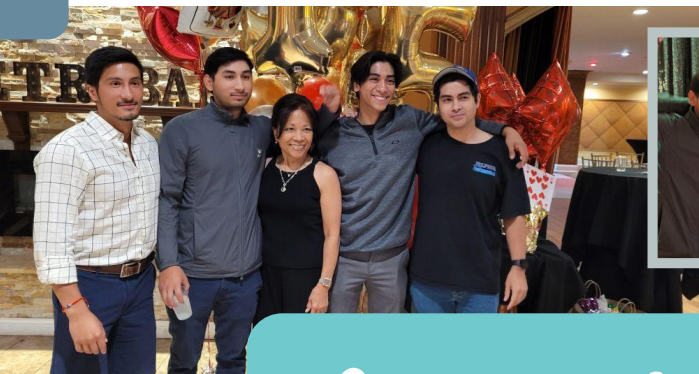
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Integrative Pediatric Associates LI
Mariel Nasis-Matuza, CPNP

Hampton Atrium Professional Center
188 West Montauk Highway
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Vitality Center
35 Arkay Drive
Hauppauge, NY 11788

integrativepedsnp@gmail.com
631.314.8317





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