

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Siena School Hosts 18th Annual Celebration

Siena honors artist and dyslexia advocate Gil Gershoni along with local key supporters

Silver Spring, Maryland, and Oakton, Virginia, October 20, 2023 — The Siena School held its 18th annual Fall Celebration and Awards Evening on October 19, 2023, in person on both campuses.

Each year, the Siena community celebrates school achievements and recognizes important contributions to both Siena and the wider field of dyslexia education. This year for its 18th annual celebration, Siena honored [Gil Gershoni](#) for his creative and dedicated advocacy on behalf of the dyslexic community.

Gershoni is Founder and Creative Director of Gershoni Creative & Dyslexic Design Thinking. His [Dear Dyslexia](#) postcard project showcases the diversity of the dyslexic experience and has activated “a global community around the unique strengths and perspectives that dyslexia offers—what we call **hyper-abilities**.” To highlight their hyper-abilities. Siena students have participated in Gershoni’s project, joining many other schools nationally and internationally in trumpeting their strengths and creativity as dyslexics.

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To date, Gershoni has received almost 1,600 postcards from people around the world from ages 6 to 82. In accepting the award, Gershoni stressed the importance of being oneself and leaning toward one's strengths and creativity. Gershoni talked about his own dyslexia, evolution of the Dear Dyslexia project, and ongoing advocacy work. "Celebrate the gift of your dyslexia," he said in closing.

In addition, [Dr. Lorrie Ness](#) and Oakton community member Bill Poulos received Siena's Key Supporter awards. Silver Spring Head of School Katie Douglas thanked Dr. Ness for being a steadfast "partner in our shared work of expanding possibilities...through early identification, understanding the gifts of this profile, and connecting families with Siena so we can work together to benefit our students."

Northern Virginia Head of School Jennifer Betts thanked local resident Bill Poulos for his supporting efforts—both on behalf of Siena and the larger Oakton community. "We are so grateful to have our neighbors invest in our mission and our growth," Betts shared. "Bill helped make it possible to offer a high-quality, exciting, student-centered program to more families here in Northern Virginia."

[See here](#) for past Siena Cypress and Key Supporter awardees.

About The Siena School

[The Siena School](#), a leader in dyslexia education, serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences. The school was established in 2006 in [Silver Spring, MD](#), where it currently serves students in grades 4-12. The [Northern Virginia campus](#) serves grades 3-11. The [Silver Spring Satellite Campus](#) will serve grades 3-4 beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state, and local education leaders and professionals. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression, or math. For further information, visit www.thesienaschool.org.

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