

As the leaves change this October, consider how your pocket change could make a positive impact on literacy in our community.



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

LITERACY LINK E-NEWSLETTER Issue 9, Oct. 2015

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SUPPORT LITERACY FOR THE PRICE OF A COFFEE!

Like to shop
with friends?

Like music and
free gifts?

Like to support



BRANFORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES GRANT FOR ESOL PROGRAM



**Branford Community
Foundation**

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven has received a grant of \$5,500 from the Branford Community Foundation in support of the 2015-2016 adult literacy program in Branford.

It was approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The grant will be used to recruit and train additional volunteers for the program that

Literacy Volunteers?

Then purchase your **\$5 ticket to Boscov's Gala Preview for a Great Cause at Westfield Meriden.**

When: Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 from 10 AM-9 PM

Where: Westfield Meriden, 470 Lewis Ave, Meriden, CT 06451

For just \$5, you can access the new department store for a **private event** with family-friendly entertainment, light refreshments, and a free gift for each ticket holder. Children under 16 will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

100% of ticket proceeds will go back to our organization, with opportunities to win bonus awards based on the number of visitors to the Gala with our name on their ticket.

Contact Rosemary at rosemarypilch@lvagnh.org or call 203-776-5899 to purchase your tickets **for just \$5. Talk it up and bring your shopper friends!**

MERIDEN AND WALLINGFORD WELCOME NEW PROGRAM

will focus on teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL). The program will be located in the Branford High School and at the Blackstone Library.

In Branford, there are a growing number of adults who have trouble not speaking English well, making it difficult to find well-paying jobs or help their children in school. Improved conversational skills and reading levels help adults take a more active role in their community. Literacy Volunteers has made a positive impact in the past with the financial commitment of the Branford Community Foundation.

The Branford Community Foundation is a non-profit, charitable trust supporting local non-profit organizations with funds that will provide for educational, cultural, health, social and civic needs in order to preserve and promote the quality of life for Branford residents.

[VISIT THE BRANFORD COMMUNITY FNDN WEBSITE](#)

Save the Date
Thursday, November 19, 5:30-7 p.m.

Forum on
Early Literacy Experiences, the Brain, and Child Development

featuring:

Perri Klass, M.D.
National Medical Director of Reach Out and Read; Columnist, *New York Times*

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Early Childhood, State of Connecticut

Julia Irwin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, SCSU; Senior Scientist, Haskins Laboratories

Hosted by the SCSU Psychology Department and its *Journal of Student Psychological Research*
More details on the location/parking to be announced

Free and open to the public; registration requested

The poster features a dark background with a light blue and red abstract graphic of interconnected lines and circles on the right side.

TUTOR TRAINING PREPARES VOLUNTEERS

MANAGER

Literacy Volunteers is pleased to welcome Martha Colaresi as the new ESOL Program Manager for Meriden/Wallingford.

A lifelong Meriden resident, Martha comes to us from Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc., where she was Program Director. Prior to that, she was grants manager for LEAP, Inc. in New Haven. She currently serves as Advancement Committee Co-Chair and a Board member and St. Joseph School in Meriden, and a Board member of the Meriden Historical Society. She is a founding member of the Meriden Writers' Network, and plays piano once a month at MidState Medical Center as part of their Music Therapy program.

Three of Martha's favorite activities are reading, writing and studying new languages, and she tells us that she applied for her current position in order to "share the love" with speakers of other languages in the Greater Meriden/Wallingford area.

Martha and John, her husband of 41 years, are the parents of a grown son, also named John, and an elderly cat named China.

Welcome to the team, Martha!

TO BEGIN CLASSES WITH CONFIDENCE

Ask any of the Literacy Volunteers staff members and they will tell you that September is a crazy month for literacy.

Not only is September host to International Literacy Day (Sept. 8) and National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (Sept. 21-26), it is also a time when most of our free classes begin a new semester.

We see a lot of new students each fall, and an influx of new volunteers. That is why we hold a three-part tutor training session during September. We also offer tutor training in February and April, so volunteers have three opportunities each year to receive training and start tutoring.

This past September, Literacy Volunteers trained 27 new volunteers in the following program areas:

New Haven ESOL	12
New Haven Basic	10
Meriden/Wallingford ESOL	4
Valley ESOL	1

Literacy Volunteers is unique in terms of volunteer organizations because we offer extensive training (12-14 hours) plus classroom observations prior to a tutor being assigned to a class.

Last Saturday at the final training session for the newest "class" of New Haven ESOL (English as a Second Language) tutors, a number of volunteers expressed their appreciation for the depth of training provided by Literacy Volunteers. Tutors said the extensive training

OCTOBER TUTOR WORKSHOP: *IMPROVING STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION*

**Join us on Wednesday,
October 14, 6:00 - 7:30, at
the Energize CT Center, 122
Universal Drive North, in
North Haven.**

Workshop presented by author and editor Maureen Gaffney, who has been a Literacy Volunteers tutor for both Beginner and Advanced ESOL students.

Gaffney has studied speech therapy and holds an MA in multi-cultural education. She also developed the curriculum for her Advanced Pronunciation class with Literacy Volunteers.

The workshop will explore practical ways to help students deal with pronunciation issues, including producing sounds their native languages may not use, as well as deciphering the frequently problematic spelling of English words. It will provide a brief overview of phonetics, demonstrate ways to help students master the six most difficult consonant sounds, and suggest how to use songs and rhythmic poems to teach

helped them feel confident and prepared to begin working with their students.

Literacy Volunteers also offers on-going training--a sort of professional development--for tutors throughout the year with free workshops, tutor round-tables, and other events. Our next FREE tutor workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 14th in North Haven (see flyer on side bar for more details). We are able to offer this support and training thanks to generous donations from our funders.

At Literacy Volunteers, we humbly recognize that we wouldn't be able to do the work we do without the time and dedication of our tutors. That's why we make it a priority to support our volunteers, whether they are just beginning their tutoring journey or they've been involved for years!

For more information on the next tutor training and how you can get involved, visit our website [HERE](#).

CONNEX CHOOSES LV AS COINS-FOR-CHANGE CHARITY

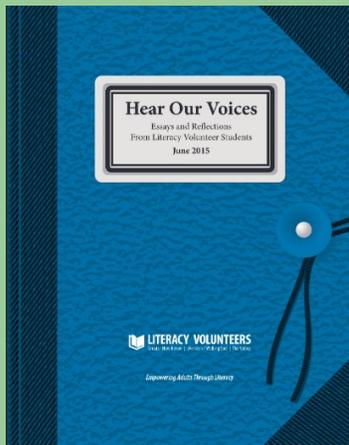
phrasing, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Please RSVP to Kathleen at KMckenna@lvagnh.org, or phone 203.776.5899.

HEAR OUR VOICES

2015 Edition Now

Available for Download



Each year, Literacy Volunteers asks students from both programs (ESOL and Basic Literacy) to contribute pieces of writing to our student publication, *Hear Our Voices*.

Visit the Literacy Volunteers website to download your PDF copy of *Hear Our Voices* TODAY!

[Click HERE to go to the Literacy Volunteers Website](#)

HELP US EARN \$ EVERY TIME YOU

YOUR SPARE CHANGE CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S FUTURE.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven

Cash in during: October – December 2015

When you cash in your change at a Connex coin counter, you're also helping to raise money for a good cause.

This quarter, Connex will donate the North Haven Branch coin counting fees to Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven. The more people who participate, the more money we'll raise.

Thank you for your support!

North Haven Branch

412 Washington Avenue

Monday - Wednesday: 8am - 3pm

Thursday: 8am - 6pm

Friday: 8am - 5pm

Saturday: 9am - 12pm

#CoinsforChange



CONNEX CARES

1-800-CR-UNION   www.connexcu.org

Federally Insured by NCUA



Between October 1 - December 31, CONNEX's Coins-for-Change initiative will donate their standard collection fees from their coin counting machine at the North Haven branch. The branch is located on Rt 5 in North Haven (near Fantasia Catering facility just North of Big Y).

When you use the coin counting machines, Literacy Volunteers will receive 5% of the coins counted from CONNEX members and 7% of the coins counted for non-members who come in.

NEW PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR LV BOARD

At the Annual Meeting for Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, Patricia A. Scussel took the helm as the new Board President.

Scussel will oversee board responsibilities and

MAKE AN AMAZON PURCHASE



For complete details about the AmazonSmile program, please visit [Program Details](#).

Literacy Volunteers Offices

4 Science Park
New Haven, CT 06511

P: (203) 776-5899

14 West Main St
Meriden, CT 06451

P: (203) 235-1714

415 Howe Ave
Shelton, CT 06484

P: (203) 924-6651

20 Church St
New Haven, CT 06511

P: (203) 285-2621



continue expanding resources for Literacy Volunteers to advance adult literacy in the Greater New Haven community. She is the Vice President of Community and Business Development for Start Community Bank, as well as a lifelong resident of East Haven. Scussel has made a positive impact volunteering for non-profits and serving on local boards and committees.

Scussel has long-standing experience in leadership positions with knowledge of communications, development, marketing, events management, and publishing. At Start Community Bank, Scussel serves as a community liaison working with various non-profits providing financial literacy classes to youths and seniors. She has also spent eleven years as the Executive Director of Leadership programs at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm honored to be leading Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven," said Scussel, who first got involved with Literacy Volunteers as a tutor more than 15 years ago. "It is notable that 30% of adults in New Haven County struggle with literacy -- which is double the state average. As Board President, I hope to draw greater attention to the need for more tutors and programs, while continuing to focus on our mission to create a community where 100% literacy is the norm."

Other Officers on the Literacy Volunteers Executive Committee are: Vice-President, Melissa DeLucia of Albertus Magnus College; Secretary, Lisa Sarubbi of UI Holdings Corporation; and Treasurer, Nicholas Iwanec of Beers, Hamerman, Cohen, & Burger, PC.

Board Members include: Bill Armstrong of New Haven Public Library; Claudia Bedoya-Rose of Gateway Community College; Paul Flinter of Wallingford Adult Ed; Joyce Ghiroli of Gastroenterology Center of CT; Tony Interlandi of Law Office of Anthony J. Interlandi, LLC;

Shohag M. Khandaker of Webster Bank; Past
President Janet Ryan; and Shane Smith of
University of New Haven.