



# LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

## LITERACY LINK E-NEWSLETTER Issue 8, Sept. 2015

### IN THIS ISSUE...

[Boscov's Gala for a Good Cause](#)

[Download Hear Our Voices 2014-15 Successes](#)

[From Tutor to Teacher](#)

[The Hunt is over for Valley Program Manager](#)

[Have a Fine Time at Main & Vine](#)

[Importance of Family Literacy](#)

### WANT TO BECOME A LITERACY TUTOR?

*NEW TUTOR  
TRAINING BEGINS IN  
SEPTEMBER*

Complete an online application ([HERE](#)) and schedule your Orientation TODAY!

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

**As we begin the 2015 Fall Semester I'd like to share some of the outstanding program accomplishments achieved by Literacy Volunteers in our last fiscal year:**

- The number of students served in greater New Haven, Meriden, Wallingford and the Valley grew by 8.6% to a total of 1396.
- Our adult students represented 75 different countries including the USA.
- 73 new tutors were trained for ESOL and Basic Literacy classes.
- 241 total tutors volunteered their time and talents at 36 different tutoring sites.
- 93 students contributed their writings to "Hear Our Voices", which can be read on [www.lvaghn.org](http://www.lvaghn.org)
- 63% of students with both pre and post testing achieved a four or more point gain in reading, compared with 61% in 2013-14 and 58% in 2012-13.

Thank you to every one of our volunteers, Board

All new tutors must complete a three-part training in their area of choice.

### ESOL

ESOL 101	Tues. Sept. 15	5:30-8 PM
ESOL 102	Mon. Sept. 21	5:30-8 PM
ESOL 103	Varies by Area	

### Basic Literacy

BL 101	Wed. Sept. 9	5:30-8 PM
BL 102	Wed. Sept. 16	5:30-8 PM
BL 103	Varies by Area	



## SEND US YOUR SELFIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

September 21 - 26 is National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

Help us promote literacy by

members, Staff, partners and funders who have made this possible. Your passion for literacy is changing and improving lives in our communities.

Congratulations to our students on their persistence and courage as they strive to reach their goals. We hope that in the coming year, Literacy Volunteers will do even more to help make their dreams come true.

-Donna Violante, Executive Director

## TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: KIERNAN MICHAU



New Haven ESOL tutor Kiernan Michau has been a tutor at Literacy Volunteers' Gateway Community College site since September 2013.

There are hundreds of non-profits in New Haven, and even more volunteer opportunities, but two years ago, when she moved to New Haven after graduating college with a degree in Comparative Literature, Kiernan chose Literacy Volunteers.

"Literacy Volunteers seemed like the perfect opportunity to combine my interests in languages and teaching while learning a bit more about my new city."

submitting your #LiteracySelfie to our Selfie Contest.

Take a picture with your current book, in your favorite reading space, or of any activity that captures the spirit of adult education and family literacy. Creative captions encouraged!

Submit your photo between September 21-26 to the **Literacy Volunteers Facebook Page**. Be sure to include the hashtag #LiteracySelfie !

One winner will be chosen at the end of the month. The photo that best captures the spirit of literacy in a fun, creative way will **win four (4) tickets to the Science Museum in Hartford.**

## **SUPPORT LITERACY FOR THE PRICE OF A COFFEE!**

Like to shop  
with friends?

Like music and  
free gifts?

Like to support

Literacy Volunteers?



Though she was excited by the challenge of working with adults from around the world, Kiernan admits to having her concerns about how instructing such a diverse group of students would work.

[Click Here to read the full article on our Blog](#)

### **Want to become a Literacy Volunteers' tutor like Kiernan?**

Visit our website and complete a tutor application. New Tutor Training is just around the corner, so submit your application TODAY and start making a difference in your community.

[Complete a Tutor Application](#)

## **THE VALLEY WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM MANAGER**

Literacy Volunteers is pleased to welcome Kathi Hunt as the new Program Manager for the Valley. Kathi will manage the ESOL and Basic Reading programs in the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Seymour and Beacon Falls.

Kathi resides in Shelton with her husband of 28 years, Bob, and her two dogs , Dixie Bell and Roo. She has had a long career in nursing, working with the elderly, and clinical pastoral education.

Kathi has owned and operated a business in Shelton and is a graduate of the Valley Leadership Program, through the Valley Chamber of Commerce and United Way. She loves music and dancing, and has fun as a DJ

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@lvaghn.org](mailto:rosemarypilch@lvaghn.org) or call 203-776-5899 to purchase your tickets **for just \$5. Talk it up and bring your shopper friends!**

## HEAR OUR VOICES

**2015 Edition Now**

"on the side".

Welcome to the team, Kathi!

# NITES IN THE CITY IS COMING!



**Mark your calendars for Oct. 1st when Literacy Volunteers will be hosting the Main & Vine Event in Meriden.**

This year will be Literacy Volunteers' first year as a participating organization in the Meriden Rotary's annual Nites in the City, a two-day fundraising event featuring Main & Vine (a wine tasting event) and Silvercity Brewfest.

Part of the proceeds from Thursday's event will go toward Literacy Volunteers to help deliver services in Meriden.

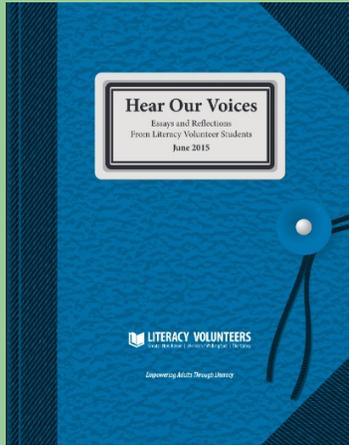
We are NOW selling advance tickets for Main & Vine for **\$20 each**. Buy your tickets TODAY and **save \$5** at the door!

We are also looking for volunteers to help out the night of the event.

Please spread the word and buy your tickets today by calling Denise at 203-776-5899.

[Click here to visit the NITES IN THE CITY Facebook Page](#)

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  
MAKE AN AMAZON  
PURCHASE**



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

**Literacy Volunteers Offices**

# **FAMILY LITERACY: THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT SUCCESS**

New Haven's Mayor Toni Harp is on a mission to make New Haven the city that reads. With the help of local organizations like Literacy Volunteers, New Haven Reads, and Read to Grow, Mayor Harp hopes to tackle the issue of low reading levels and illiteracy both in the classroom and the community.

One of the ways to combat widespread illiteracy is to promote family literacy. Studies have shown that more reading at home and greater access to books in the home promotes better reading habits in children. If reading habits are modeled for children in the home then kids are more likely to experience success reading independently.

Even pediatricians are seeing the benefits of literacy in child brain development and promoting reading at home. Reading to children between the ages of 3 and 5 years-old --even picture books-- causes greater brain activity in the region of the brain responsible for integrating sound and visual stimulation. These same children are shown to have greater language skills.

But for those children in New Haven whose parents aren't able to read to them, they face setbacks and disadvantages before they even enter the K-12 classroom.

That's where Literacy Volunteers can help. Our mission is to provide personal, goal-oriented reading instruction to adults in our community, with the hopes that our adult students will take what they learn in class and apply it in their homes. Our free classes are small to allow for more direct

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



instruction, and flexible to accommodate the busy schedules of our adult students.

If you know someone who could benefit from our Reading & Writing or English conversation classes, contact one of our program managers to find out about our FREE classes. Call 203-776-5899 or visit our website: [www.lvangh.org](http://www.lvangh.org)

Want to learn more about the brain studies mentioned in this article?

[Click HERE to read Perri Klass, M.D.'s "Bedtime Stories for Young Brains"](#)