



# LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

## LITERACY LINK E-NEWSLETTER Issue 15, Winter 2016

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## LV BOARD GETS A LITTLE BIT BIGGER

We are pleased to welcome three new Board members to the Literacy Volunteers Board of Directors.

Yliana Miller is a member of the Valley United Way Corporate Volunteer Council and manages the Shelton branch of Wells Fargo Bank. Jeannette Scinto is a retired community volunteer and resides in Wallingford. Lucille Trzcinski has been an advocate for the Wallingford community where she lives and works for over twenty years. Lucille is the owner broker for Mainline New England Real Estate.

## NITES IN THE CITY

*Meriden event raises funds for adult literacy*



*Proof that Nites volunteers have fun too: Board Vice President, Tony Interlandi and Executive Director, Donna Violante take a moment to sample some of the great wines at the end of a long night!*

Literacy Volunteers was proud to have been named the lead non-profit organization involved with Meriden's Nites in the City fundraiser. The annual event is sponsored by the City of Meriden and the Meriden Rotary.

Literacy Volunteers helped plan and run this year's event with a Committee headed by Board Vice President Tony Interlandi. We recruited over 60 volunteers who worked alongside other organizations as pourers and servers for the Wine Tasting on September 29 and Beer Tasting on September 30.

Donna and Tony accepted a check for \$10,060 from the net proceeds to benefit our Meriden literacy program.

Many thanks to the committee, volunteers,

We look forward to seeing the positive impact these new members have on the future of Literacy Volunteers.

## LVA's NEW HAVEN OFFICE WANTS YOU!



Are you good at greeting people and answering the phone in a professional and friendly manner?

Do you enjoy doing office projects like copying information for meetings, training, and recruitment of volunteers and students?

If you'd like a few hours a week of community service work that could assist Literacy Volunteers, then we **need you** at our New Haven office!

The following hours are currently open:

- Monday 9:00- 1:00
- Tuesday 1:00- 5:00
- Wednesday, mornings and afternoon shifts
- Thursday, morning and afternoon shifts
- Friday, morning and afternoon shifts

If interested, please contact Donna at 203-776-5899.

## VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR!

sponsors, donors, and attendees who made Nites in the City 2016 a very memorable Meriden event.

## LITERACY VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS (AND PLANS FOR 40 MORE!)



*Tutor Andrew McLaren works with his student at Literacy Volunteers' Gateway Community College site.*

Literacy Volunteers' annual drive to raise funds for program expenses kicked off in November and will continue through the first quarter of 2017, which is the **40th anniversary** of our serving the community.

Since 1976, over 40,000 adult learners have taken free classes led by over 4,000 volunteer tutors.

Donors can contribute \$40, \$140, \$240, or ANY amount of their choosing to keep our services alive in the towns where we draw tutors and students. A specific program area can be designated for funding at the donor's request. Please consider giving, either by mail or by credit card on our secure website, [www.lvagnh.org](http://www.lvagnh.org).

Every donation is needed and appreciated to make our budget goal of \$10,000 and to begin building an operating reserve for Literacy Volunteers' future. All donations made before midnight on December 31 are tax deductible on your 2016 return under IRS guidelines.

***Thanks to all of our supporters and partners for their ongoing commitment to improving lives through adult literacy!***

**Did You Know?**

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven will offer New Tutor Training for ESOL (English Conversation) and Basic Literacy (Reading and Writing) Tutors in **February 2017**.

Complete a volunteer application on our [website](#) and learn more about how to get involved!



**2017 New Haven  
Scrabble Challenge**  
**Thursday, March 30**  
**5:30-8:00 PM**

Visit our website for more information, [www.lvagnh.org](http://www.lvagnh.org).

## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

With mixed feelings, we announce that Sarah (Flynn Parke), Literacy Volunteers' New Haven Basic Literacy Program Manager, will be leaving her position to take up a new job with Globe Pequot Press in Guilford.

Sarah has been with LV for the past two and half years. In addition to the program manager's duties - tutor support and student guidance - she also designed and authored our monthly newsletter and refined

You can significantly support Literacy Volunteers' finances by making a monetary donation **in honor of** a friend or family member, **in memorium of** someone's passing, or in **lieu of** a birthday, anniversary or other special event gift.

Please encourage others who are passionate about literacy to do the same!

## UNH STUDENTS PLAY FOR LITERACY



*Winning UNH Teams pose with Executive Director, Donna Violante (center).*

The University of New Haven Chapter of the American Marketing Association recently held a Scrabble Challenge on campus to benefit Literacy Volunteers.

Twenty teams of four competed at the Student Center in a challenge organized by the AMA Club Officers. Fraternities, sororities, various university clubs and professors participated. The teams learned a lot that evening about the significant need for improving adult literacy and how we empower adults with our free classes. The event raised an impressive \$430 for Literacy Volunteers' programs.

The highest scoring team, **Never Good at Crosswords**, took first place with a score of 702 points. The first place team is also invited to attend the 2017 New Haven Scrabble Challenge on March 30, 2017. The **APO Eagles** took second place with 646 points. All winning players took home Amazon gift cards courtesy of the AMA.

Special thanks to senior Taylor Edgecomb, President of the UNH AMA Chapter for putting together a great event, and Professor Pete Peterson, marketing professor and advisor to UNH's AMA Chapter.

## CHECKING IN WITH THE

our web and social media presence.

Sarah recently published her first novel, [The Mourning Ring](#). It is a story based on the Brontë children's youthful writings, and is equal parts historical fiction and fantasy. It contains the Brontë's Angria/Glass Town games and Sarah's own imagining of their adventures within. Sixteen-year-old Charlotte Brontë becomes a thoughtful heroine and the story is magical.

Sarah's quick wit and cheerful disposition lit up our space at the Literacy Resource Center. So we are sad/glad that Sarah is moving on. We wish her the best of everything and will look forward to "Our Sarah's" future accomplishments.

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

This past fall we also said goodbye to Denise Codianne Calabrese, the Data & Development Manager who had worked with Literacy Volunteers for nearly 10 years.

We are pleased to announce a new addition to LV Staff, Deborah Mitchell of New Haven. Deborah is a former Yale University employee, now filling the role of Data and Development Coordinator. Deborah will be managing our multiple databases and supporting fundraising efforts and special events across all three of our program areas.

### Literacy Volunteers Offices

4 Science Park  
New Haven, CT 06511  
P: (203) 776-5899

14 West Main St

# COMMUNITY BOOK BANK



**The Literacy Volunteers Community Book Bank, located in an actual vault at our Meriden office, has been busy fulfilling requests over the past several months.**

The Community Book Bank has supplied children's books to Meriden's Community Day, Biker's Against Cruelty to Animals, Meriden Airports Flyover, Touch a Truck Events, and many other programs.

Two community volunteers helped sort and organize over 6,700 books in the CBB's storage room as part of the United Way of Meriden/Wallingford's Day of Caring. Literacy Volunteers would like to thank Georgette MacQuarrie and Melody Espada of Gaylord Hospital for their great work. Gaylord also donated school supplies.

The Roger Sherman Elementary School in Meriden conducted a book drive for the CBB in the fall. If your organization is interested in hosting a book drive, please contact one of our Book Bank volunteers at

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




[BookBank@lvagnh.org](mailto:BookBank@lvagnh.org) for more information.

If you live in the Meriden/Wallingford area and are interested in spending a couple hours a week helping our at the Book Bank, submit a volunteer application through our website: [Book Bank Volunteers](#)



**Helping Hands**  
Community Thrift Store & Furniture Bank



## DONATIONS WANTED

TO HELP SUPPORT: 

### LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

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- ♥ Downsizing? Buying new furniture? Clothes no longer fit? Let Helping Hands turn your gently used things into cash for LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN. Donate to LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN through Helping Hands and when your donation is sold in the Helping Hands Thrift Store, a portion of the sales price will benefit LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN.
- ♥ Your donation is tax deductible
- ♥ Helping Hands has a central location in Orange for donation drop offs and shopping, or you can call 203-782-4800 for a FURNITURE AND LARGE ITEM PICK-UP
- ♥ You can also drop off your donations at Tzedakah House, 8 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge (203-387-2266)

ORANGE  
334 Boston Post Road  
Telephone: (203) 298-0499

HOURS: M-F 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM  
SAT 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM  
SUN 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

 Visit our Website at [www.helpinghandsctfb.com](http://www.helpinghandsctfb.com)

 Find us on Facebook



Please mention **Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven** and our **#339** when you make your donation so that we receive the benefit.

Visit the [Helping Hands Website](#) for more information.