



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

LITERACY LINK E-NEWSLETTER Issue 11, Dec. 2015

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SAVE THE DATE: 2016 SCRABBLE CHALLENGE



Dust off those Scrabble Boards, count out your tiles, and mark your calendars for the 2016 Scrabble Challenge.

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

5:30PM - 8PM

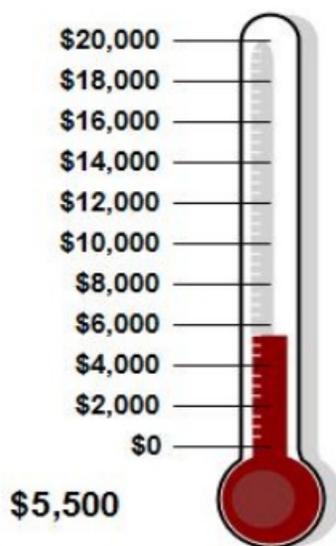
**at the JCC of Greater New Haven,
Woodbridge**

The 2016 Scrabble Challenge promises to be bigger and better than ever as we combine players and sponsors from Meriden/Wallingford, New Haven and the Valley! Proceeds from the event go to support our literacy programs in all three regions.

This year's Honorary Chairs for the Scrabble Challenge are Tony Rescigno (GNH Chamber of Commerce President), Sean W. Moore (Midstate

Annual Appeal

Amount Achieved To Date



We are a little over a third of the way to our goal of

\$15,000.

All amounts are appreciated and donors can **specify the program area** they would like their contribution to support.

NEW DONORS ARE

WELCOME! If you have a friend, co-worker, or family member who would like to contribute to our Annual Appeal, please have them contact us or go to www.lvaghn.org Donate Now!

Consider **making your gift by 12/31/15** so that you can claim the charitable deduction on your **2015 taxes**.

Thanks to all who continue to provide the financial support we need to keep serving our communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES REYNOLD ALI

Reynold Ali has joined the Literacy Volunteers Board of Directors as a Member at Large. Ali is Supervisor of Manufacturing Production

Chamber of Commerce President), and Bill Purcell (Valley Chamber of Commerce President).

Register your 4 person team for just \$100 per table! Check out our [website](#) for forms and details.

Start practicing TODAY!

Know someone who would like to be a Scrabble Sponsor?

To learn more about the levels and benefits of a Scrabble Sponsorship visit the [Scrabble Challenge page](#) of our website or give us a call at 203-776-5899.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS RENEWED FOR 2015-16

Literacy Volunteers would like to thank the [Community Foundation for Greater New Haven](#) and the [Valley Community Foundation](#) for their continued support. In December, we received approval that we had been granted \$25,000 from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and \$20,000 from the Valley Community Foundation for a second year as part of a three year grant. Thanks to the support of both foundations, we will be able to continue offering our literacy programs to adults who wish to improve their reading, writing, and English speaking skills in the New Haven and Valley communities.



**The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven**

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven is a philanthropic institution that was officially established in 1928. The foundation grants and

Industries Methods and Standards at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation in Stratford.

He was born in Trinidad and lived as a child in Canada before coming to the US. He currently resides in Naugatuck with his wife of eleven years and his two young daughters.

Ali has been involved with tutoring university students from various countries and has experience with grant writing.

He is in the process of completing an online doctoral program in Management Leadership & Organizational Change Specialization through Walden University.

"Walden is very focused on social impact. A lot of their [doctoral candidates] are on Boards. [Volunteering on a Board] was the most critical thing missing in my life and career. I thought I would engage myself, giving up my time to help people."

"I want to be a role model to my family...I live my life so that my daughters will look at me like a hero and a role model."

Ali is extremely interested in Literacy Volunteers' mission, in serving the communities where we deliver programs,

distributes approximately \$20 million each year, carrying out the intentions of donors and organizations, while responding to community needs and taking advantage of emerging opportunities.



The Valley Community Foundation launched in 2004 to be more responsive to and proactive among the Valley's unique five cities and towns (Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton, Connecticut). The Valley Community Foundation is affiliated with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, one of the country's oldest and largest community foundations. This relationship gives the Valley access to the strength of The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven's professional staff and investment management. The Valley Community Foundation is dedicated to making the Valley a better place to live and work, both now and in the future.

LITERACY COALITION FORUM HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING EARLY LITERACY HABITS



Julia Erwin presenting. Photo Credit Brokk Tollefson

and having a positive social impact.

Welcome to the team,
Reynold!

WHAT'S COOKING AT LITERACY VOLUNTEERS



Each month, this section features a recipe written and submitted by a Literacy Volunteers student, volunteer, or staff member.

December's LV Celebrity Chef is Denise Codianne Calabrese, our Data and Development Manager. She shares a simple recipe that works great as a side for holiday parties and/or potlucks. YUM!

Recipe: Denise's Broiled Tomatoes

Country of Origin: USA

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil, extra virgin preferably
- 2 Tablespoons Red Wine Vinegar

On Thursday, Nov. 19, the Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Psychology Department and its Journal of Student Psychological Research held a Forum on **Early Literacy Experiences, the Brain, and Child Development.**

Held at the Adanti Student Center at SCSU with support also from the Literacy Coalition of Greater New Haven, the event featured a panel of the following speakers: 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 and senior scientist, Haskins Laboratories; and Laura Reynolds, Ph.D., associate professor of special education and reading, SCSU; research affiliate, Haskins Laboratories (moderator).

It was an evening of shared scholarship and best practices for an audience of educators and community activists who understood the importance of developing positive literacy practices in young learners.

[Read the Full Article at New Haven Independent](#)

4 WAYS TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Re-gifting isn't always a bad thing!

At one point in your life, parents, teachers, and mentors gave you the gift of literacy. Isn't it time you paid it forward?

For the past several months we have been encouraging you to cash in your spare change and help support Literacy Volunteers. **This is our LAST CALL!**

- 1 Tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil, you could use dry basil, teaspoon or two
- 3 Bay Leaves
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 to 6 Tomatoes, halved horizontally
- Oil for greasing the pan (or Pam)

Cooking Instructions:

1. Preheat Broiler.
2. Combine olive oil, vinegar, basil, bay leaves, garlic and salt. Stir well and set aside.
3. Place tomato halves cut-side down directly on greased broiler pan. Broil until they start to char and blister, about 4 minutes.
4. Using tongs or a spatula and spoon, carefully turn tomatoes over and broil 2 more minutes.
5. Remove cooked tomatoes from heat and place cut-sides up in baking dish, pour oil and vinegar mixture over tomatoes.
6. Set aside to marinate at least 1 hour or cover and refrigerate up to 5 days. Serve at room Temperature.

**HELP US EARN \$
EVERY TIME YOU
MAKE AN AMAZON
PURCHASE**

The North Haven Branch of Connex (off Route 5) has committed to donating 100% of their standard coin counting machine collection fees to Literacy Volunteers between October 1st and December 31st!

To those of you who have already cashed in, we thank you! There's still a few more weeks to make those pennies count, so stop by Connex in North Haven TODAY at 412 Washington Ave (Rt 5), just north of the Big Y Supermarket.

Don't have any spare change lying around?

Here are some other ways you can help support Literacy Volunteers in the New Year:

- [Make a donation](#) to our Annual Appeal. Donations received by December 31, 2015 can be claimed as a charitable deduction on your 2015 taxes.
- Choose [AmazonSmile](#) for your shopping this holiday season. Select "Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven" as your charity and a portion of each AmazonSmile purchase will be donated to Literacy Volunteers. See sidebar for more details.
- Become a Volunteer! If you've got two hours a week to spare, consider donating your time as a volunteer tutor. Submit your application on our [website](#) and attend our New Tutor Training in February.

Literacy is a problem for as many as 30% of adults in the New Haven County, doubling the state average. Every donation we receive helps us provide FREE literacy classes to adults in our community who want to learn to read and write, or speak English.

Last year we served nearly 1400 adult students with the help of 244 volunteers. With your help, we hope to reach and help even more learners in the coming year!



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



SEEKING REFERRALS FOR A VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER ROLES

At Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven we are always looking for talented, self-motivated individuals to assist staff members with projects and special events. These volunteer opportunities are great ways to get involved in your community (and boost your resume!)

Starting January 2016, we are looking for volunteers in the following roles:

Basic Literacy and ESOL Tutors - work with small group classes to teach reading or English conversation. New Tutor Training begins the first week of February.

Book Bank Volunteers - Our Meriden office is looking for volunteers to supervise the Community Book Bank on Mondays from 9am to 1pm.

Digital Photographer - individual must have their own equipment and a flexible schedule. Working knowledge of photo editing software is a plus.

Grant Writers - individual must be organized, detail-oriented, and have some knowledge of the grant researching and writing process.

E-Journalists - ideal candidate has experience writing short articles (250-500 words) for blogs or newspapers. Must be able to meet monthly deadlines for inclusion in e-newsletter.

Administrative Support - Seeking front desk coverage for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 4 Science Park in New Haven. Our

office at 14 West Main Street in Meriden is also looking for someone to help with office tasks on Fridays from 9am to 1pm. Tasks include phone coverage, word processing, basic knowledge of Excel, and assisting staff with projects.

Scrabble Committee Members (short term) -

ideal candidate is a creative problem-solver who enjoys word games! Particularly seeking individuals from Meriden, Wallingford, and the Valley towns to help plan and implement our 2016 Scrabble Challenge Event!

Interested in one of the opportunities listed above? Want to refer someone you know? Send an e-mail with a brief cover letter introducing yourself to Donna Violante at donnaviolante@lvagnh.org.