



United Jewish Federation®  
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

*BETTER TOGETHER*

Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor  
Reading Partners' Program

January 2018

Dear Reading Partners,

Happy New Year! I want to wish you all a healthy and fulfilling New Year. Thank you for the effort and time that you will be spending with our students in 2018. Without you, Reading Partners simply would not exist. Without Reading Partners, hundreds of children would not be receiving the support and love that you bring to each reading session.



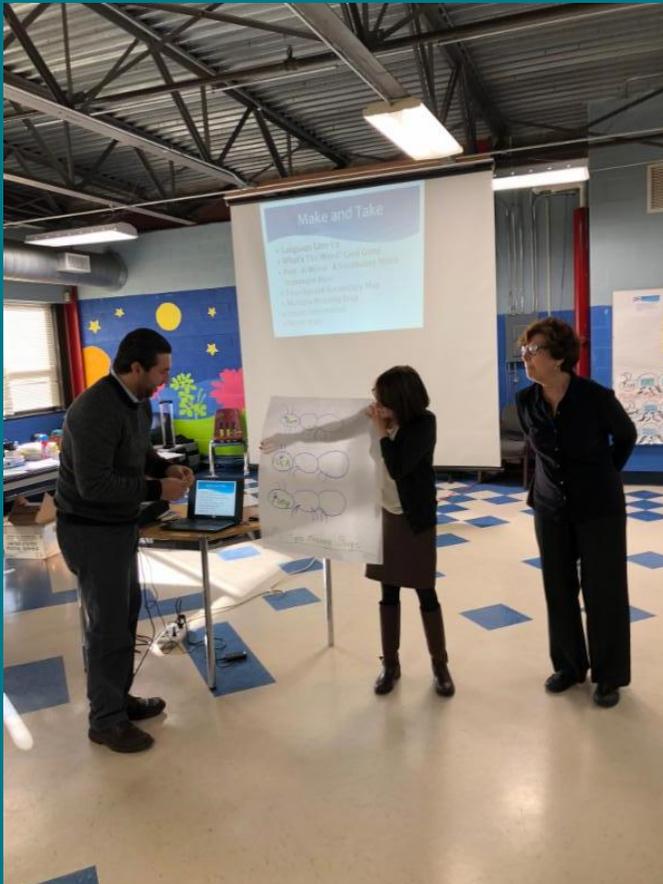
2017 was a wonderful and busy Fall season for our almost 100 volunteers. The program was in full swing with partners and students reading in 12 Stamford elementary schools and at the Fish Church Creative Learning after school program. At the end of November, the Stamford Public Schools, in conjunction with the Cradle to Career Initiative, conducted a one day training session for organizations involved in increasing early grade reading literacy. Several Reading Partners participated in the interactive day and learned about the power of a large vocabulary in the building of literacy. Reading Partners also participated in the Federations' Super Sunday, with Team Leader Anita Katz volunteering at our table, to discuss the program and reach out to interested volunteers.

You all should have received the save the date email for our Winter Workshop. It will be held January 25 from 1:30-3:00 PM at the Government Center. Stamford Public Schools' Curriculum Associates for ELL instruction Monica Lahiri Hoherchak and Cynthia Manifold will present on the topic of EL Strategies and how oral language is tied into reading and writing. Please check your email for the formal invitation in the next few days.

As always, feel free to drop by or get in touch if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. I am in the office most Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Thank you for all that you do and Happy Reading!  
Lenore

## Stamford Public School Training



Meg Mocar (right) and Betsy Gordon (left) demonstrate Multiple Meanings Bug game.

On November 28th, Stamford Public Schools conducted a full day training session led by Lisa Armstrong and Natalie Elder. The workshop was open to members of the Early Literacy Community Action Network (CAN) of Cradle to Career, and their staff and volunteers.

Trainees learned about the different ways that schools assess students' reading progress and the goals that the schools have for each student. A major area of focus was on how building student vocabulary can increase reading proficiency.

Attendees were taught new games to play with students. Afterwards they facilitated the actual playing of these games in groups. At the end of the training everyone was given time to create versions of these games for their own students.

Anyone who is interested in learning about these games or would like the materials to create them, please email [readingpartners@ujf.org](mailto:readingpartners@ujf.org)

## UJF Super Sunday



Anita Katz volunteers at the Reading Partners' Table during Super Sunday.

Super Sunday took place on December 3rd this past year. It is the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's annual campaign fund raising event. The donations received on this day are what enable Federation to continue many of its programs and charitable giving.

Different volunteer groups that Federation supports were there to discuss their programs and recruit new volunteers. Reading Partners, a project of the Gibor Foundation, was represented by Rogers School Team Leader Anita Katz.

## Reading Skills Struggles throughout the World

It is not only in America that students are struggling to learn to read. According to recent studies it is a world wide issue. Below is the link to an article addressing this issue.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/reading-skills-falling-in-israel-us-canada-france-study/>

While the statistics are somewhat discouraging, there is hope! Educators were uplifted and inspired at the SPS workshop when Natalie Elder spoke about a school in Tennessee with tremendous success at raising the literacy rate.

When Ms. Elder began work at the school in the year 2000, she was the 11th principal in 15 years. The reading and writing scores were at 10%. She formulated a plan with her leadership team and school staff to hold everyone accountable and implement change. By 2009 these scores had increased to 90% and the school shot from the lowest performing school in Tennessee, to the highest in the state in math and social studies' scores.

## Upcoming School Early Release and Holiday Dates

Monday Jan. 15 MLK Day Vacation  
Wednesday Jan. 24 Early Release  
Wednesday Feb. 15-20 Winter Vacation  
Wednesday Feb. 21 School Resumes  
Wednesday March 14 Early Release  
Thursday March 15 Early Release  
Friday March 16 Early Release  
Wednesday March 28 Early Release