



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

BETTER TOGETHER

Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor
Reading Partners Program
March 2017



Dear Reading Partners,

Things are humming along nicely here at our Federation office and I hear "from the field" that things are progressing well out there too. It's very gratifying to get notes and pictures from you so please keep me updated about your service.

Several years ago, Natalie Elder and Lisa Armstrong, administrative leaders in Stamford's Public Schools, addressed us at a workshop. One of Natalie's strongest points was that in order to reach children who are learning to read, you have to find their "cookies", i.e, what it is that is sweetest for them and thus will motivate them. I thought these were wise words from a creative administrator.



Lisa Armstrong (left) Natalie Elder (right) at
a Reading Partners Workshop 2015

Flash forward to this school year and as Director of our program, I was asked to participate in a partnership called Stamford Cradle to Career. The goal of the partnership is to "collectively align (local) resources to ensure that all youth succeed in education, career and life..." Like many communities, Stamford is blessed with a strong public school system and many non-profits that support the community with educational and cultural programs. The idea of bringing these various programs together is to ensure that we are not duplicating services and are creating the strongest system possible to support our youth through the stages of life.

There are 6 "Key Outcome Areas" in the Cradle to Career initiative and we are in the Early Grade Reading area. The latest data we have shows that 49% of Stamford's third graders have reached proficiency reading levels on state tests. So we know that programs like ours are still very vital and important to support the schools. We are seen as an important partner and going forward, we will be working more closely with the Stamford Public Schools' literacy programs. Through my work with you and all the schools, I've been able to contribute to the mission of Cradle to Career and will keep you informed to the initiative's progress.

Regards,
Marlyn

In Memory of Doris Freundlich



Doris Freundlich, Reading Partner since 2010 and co-team leader at Davenport School passed away in January from Pancreatic cancer. She was a longtime Stamford resident known for her creative knitting skills, curious mind, close longtime friendships and strong support of Israel.

For 30 years she worked at the N.Y. Social Security Administration and was known for "going the extra mile" for her numerous clients. Doris was always involved with helping others and an active participant in Federation programs and events.

She is survived by her husband Lester, father Alexander Kayne, sister Fran Kayne, daughter Andrea Aviles and 3 beloved grandchildren. One of her most delightful activities was attending her grandchildren's ice skating events.

We Love Earrings thanks to Janet Schneider



One of our volunteers, Janet Schneider, found a way to interest several of her young readers. Author Judith Viorst has written a book, "Earrings." From Goodreads: "She wants them. She needs them. She loves them...a delightful tale that perfectly captures the yearnings of a young girl in desperate need of beautiful, glorious earrings!" (Does this sound like something Natalie Elder would approve of?)

Janet caught the spirit of what we do and it looks like her students are excited and beaming to be a part of our program. I know all of you are doing similar creative things and I'd love to get pictures and stories for you to share with all of us.

We will miss Doris' frequent visits to our office and her everpresent enthusiasm and presence at Reading Partner events.

Thanks to Janet and her young reading partners at Springdale School.

From Lillie Pope's Guidelines to Teaching Remedial Reading

The tutor's goals:

- ~ Teach her to read automatically from left to right
- ~ Teach him a basic vocabulary that he may recognize at sight
- ~ Teach her to sound out unfamiliar words
- ~ Teach him to analyze the structure of words as an aid to reading
- ~ Help increase her vocabulary
- ~ Help increase his comprehension of reading matter
- ~ Build and maintain her interest in acquiring reading skills



Students must be given the opportunity to read aloud to the reader. This will give him the satisfaction of displaying his achievement to himself and the teacher. When the purpose of the lesson is to have the student sound out a word for which he has learned the rules, it is important not to read the word for him, but rather to help him figure it out...Be careful to criticize or correct only when it is obvious that the student has misinterpreted the meaning of the word.

Save The Date and Reminders

* Please update your team leaders with any changes in your email address or change in students. This will help us with year end planning for book orders, survey forms and the year end parties.

** Mark your calendars for Monday, May 22, 2017, for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. It will be at the JCC from 9:30-11:30 AM and will feature guest speaker Lou Ursone, Exec. Director of Curtain Call in Stamford. Separate invitations will be coming in April. Hope to see you there!

*** YOU are our best recruiters for the program and I appreciate names of potential reading partners that you send along. Right now we are collecting names for our 2017-2018 cohort and I contact them for an initial call. In the summer I start the in person interviewing process.

I enjoy your visits and stories when you come to the office --please continue coming; just call ahead to make sure it's one of the days I'm here.

Warm regards,
Marlyn

203-321-1373 x 115
Readingpartners@ujf.org