



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

*BETTER TOGETHER*

## Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners' Program

March 2018

Dear Reading Partners,

It is hard to believe that we are in the month of March already and that Spring is around the corner. In addition to all of the reading hours our volunteers have been accruing with their students, several other events have been happening this winter. Almost 40 volunteers attended our Winter Workshop led by Cynthia Manifold and Monica Lahiri Hoherchak this January. Dr. Polly Rauh, who is a part of the Cradle to Career initiative, and I met to see how we could continue to strengthen the bonds that exist between the Stamford Public Schools, after school programs and Reading Partners. We are in the process of collecting Team Leader feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to offer your own thoughts as Reading Partners!



It may seem a little early, but the time will be here before we know it. Be sure to mark you calendars and save the date for this year's Reading Partners' Volunteer Appreciation breakfast. It will take place on Wednesday morning May 23rd at the JCC. More details will follow closer to the event, along with your formal invitation.

The second half of the school year is also the time to begin to think of people who might be interested in joining our corps for the coming year. One of our most effective ways of recruiting is word of mouth from our current volunteers. If you know of anyone who might be interested in being a Reading Partner, please reach out to them or me and lets get them on board!

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

## Volunteers in Action



Reading Partners attend the Winter Workshop.

It is a power packed morning when Reading Partners from all different schools and grade levels get together to learn and share their experiences. Our readers span multiple professions and generations and are truly devoted to promoting children's literacy. If you have a specific topic that you would like to learn about in an upcoming workshop, or a speaker that you would like to hear from in the Stamford Public School system, please let me know and we will do our best to schedule it into next year's calendar.

## Winter Workshop



ELL Curriculum Associates, Cynthia Manifold (left) and Monica Lahiri Hoherchak (right), led our Winter Workshop.

The Reading Partners' Winter Workshop was held January 25 from 1:30-3:00 PM at the Stamford Government Center. Stamford Public Schools' Curriculum Associates for ELL instruction, Monica Lahiri Hoherchak and Cynthia Manifold, presented on the topic of EL Strategies and how oral language is tied into reading and writing.

The workshop gave an overview of the general school population of Connecticut and specifically Stamford. While the majority of Reading Partners' students are more fluent than the general ELL population of Stamford, we learned how cultural differences and everyday struggles of ELL students not directly related to reading can make their journey to literacy much more difficult. The session was lively and interactive and both Monica and Cynthia felt there was much more left to be discussed.

We look forward to having a Fall workshop with these two educators focusing specifically on hands on techniques for Reading Partners and our population of "on the cusp readers".

## Reading Partners' Spotlight of the Month:

Joan Wexler

Recently I had the honor and pleasure of meeting with Joan Wexler, one of Reading Partners' sponsors and volunteer alum. Joan moved to Stamford from Long Island in 2000 and she became involved with the program through one of our original founders, Audrey Frankenburg. Joan volunteered as a Reading Partner at Northeast Elementary School for many years. Currently she is a sponsor of our annual volunteer breakfast, in addition to contributing yearly funding for our ongoing programming.

Reading Partners is just one of the many ways that Joan helps to make our world a better place. With a Masters in Education and a Masters in Social Work, she has worked with some of the most vulnerable in our society. As a single mom, she not only raised two wonderful boys, but at the same time served as President of the Board of South Shore Association for Independent Living. She worked in halfway houses helping people coping with mental illness reintegrate into society, while encouraging their individual talents and abilities. In addition, she also volunteered in Stamford as a Starfish Mentor.

Joan is also a strong supporter of Israel, and has been involved in multiple initiatives through the family foundation to help various under served segments of society throughout the country. These initiatives included the completion of a library in Jerusalem, the building of recreational centers for Ethiopian Jewry and playgrounds for children. Both Columbia and JTS have also been recipients of funding from the foundation. Joan currently enjoys travelling and spending time with her four adorable grandsons.

## Upcoming School Early Release and Holiday Dates

Wednesday March 14: Early Release

Thursday March 15: Early Release

Friday March 16: Early Release

Wednesday March 28: Early Release

Friday March 30: No School

Monday April 9- Friday April 13: Spring Break/No School

