



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

BETTER TOGETHER

September 2016

Reading Partners

Marlyn's Message

Greetings partners, supporters and friends,

This is a special year for us as we enter our 18th year of service to the Stamford community. In Jewish tradition, 18 represents "Chai" = Life. When we toast one another, we raise our glasses and proclaim "Le Chaim" = To Life.

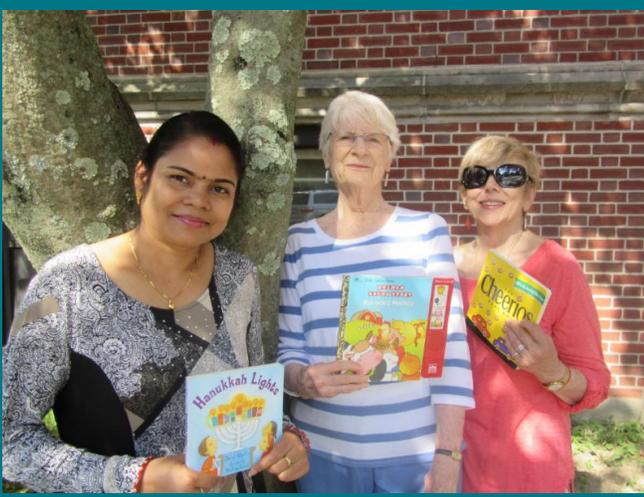
I am proud to be associated with this program and raise my glass to all of you who contribute to the Life of the program. We have readers who make time each week in their calendars to go to school; we have volunteers who interview prospective readers and work on events and parties; we have supporters who make generous donations so our supplies and events have a positive impact; we have the support of the staff at United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien who assist me to get the word out to you; and ofcourse, the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Foundation, which makes it possible for me to oversee all of this.

We started out in 1999 with 2 lay leaders at 2 schools with 12 volunteers. This year we'll be in all 13 elementary schools and 2 after school programs. Our current volunteer count is edging towards 120. To all of you----Le Chaim and thank you for your continuing presence and committment to the program.

With warmest regards,
Marlyn Agatstein

**Volunteers Welcome
The New School
to our Partnership**

Welcome New Partners!



L-R: Mausumi Patra, Ann Rosenbaum and Sallie Kuh gathered at the new school



New and seasoned partners at the opening training September 11, 2016

The New School at Strawberry Hill is the 13th and newest elementary school to join in partnership with our program. Principal Frank Rodriguez, formerly of KT Murphy, was most enthusiastic when Reading Partners suggested creating a reading team at the new school. This year the school has grades K& 1 and expects to add a new grade each year up to 8th grade.

Currently, this school is an extension of the Rogers International School on Blachley Road. International Baccalaureate schools are authorized by their parent administration in Switzerland and their mission has a global component. At present there are 4000 such schools around the globe.

The RP team at The New School consists of parents at the school, seasoned readers who live nearby and several new volunteers. Lois Dreyer is the Team Leader and Tressa Kinahan is staff liaison.

Opening events for the 2016-2017 school year began in September with a training/workshop at the JCC and a 2nd workshop at Stillmeadow School. Altogether, 50 Reading Partners attended these sessions.

Sarah Santasiero, RP liaison from Stark School, presented a workshop for new and seasoned volunteers on September 11 at the JCC. She had the crowd very involved in the reading of "That is Not a Good Idea" by author Mo Willems. She also demonstrated a number of ice breakers to use with children and taught us about various literacy games we can play with students to keep them amused and involved.

A second workshop was presented by Iuliana Roata and Lauren Vauvolidis at Stillmeadow School. They also modeled a reading session and delved more into the benchmarks for students in grades K-2.

Lord and Taylor Fundraiser Saturday, November 19, 2016

Finally! We hear that construction is nearing completion at Lord and Taylor on High Ridge Road! Just in time for our annual participation in their "Shop Smart

Do Good" charity event. This year, Ena Sarkar, co-team leader at Hart School, is heading up this event again.

Each year we participate by selling \$5 tickets which contain discounts for great shopping deals in the store. In addition to the discounts, if you shop on that day, there are make over events, fine food merchants, personal shopping opportunities and lots of fun energy. For those who want to shop but can't go on that day, you can shop and use your discounts starting the week before and pick up your items the week after.

Calling all men! (or people who like to shop for men!) Have you seen the makeover of the entire first floor at L&T? It's all about you and apparently that's the new trend—that men are doing more of their clothes' shopping.

You will all be given tickets to sell at your orientation meetings. This is your opportunity to fundraise for us and in the process, to represent RP. There is no obligation to sell but we want you to have the tickets in case someone is interested. All monies collected, with their validation stubs, need to come back to your Team Leader, Ena Sarkar (esarkar001@optonline.net) or to the UJF office. Good Luck and thanks!



Jewish Holidays 2016-2017

- Oct. 3 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 4 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 12 Yom Kippur
- Oct. 17 Sukkot
- Oct. 18 Sukkot
- Oct. 24 Shemini Atzeret
- Oct. 25 Simchat Torah
- Apr. 11 Passover 1st day
- Apr. 12 Passover 2nd day

Apr. 17 Passover 7th day
Apr. 18 Passover 8th day
May 31 Shavuot
June 1 Shavuot Yizkor

Please mark your calendars for these Jewish Holiday dates, as this is when our UJF offices are closed and we don't service the community on these dates. In addition, we don't conduct any "business" (telephone calls, workshops, meetings) on Shabbat--which is Friday after sunset to Saturday until sunset.

Wishing all who celebrate these holidays and to all our partners of every tradition,
A Healthy, Happy Season!

My door is always open and whenever you are in the neighborhood, please stop by. I work part time, just call first.

Marlyn Agatstein
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