



JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

The Golub Center
184 Washington Avenue Ext
Albany NY 12203-5306

**20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
JUNE 20, 11:30 AM**

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Jewish Coalition for Literacy

A program of the Community Relations Council of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

THE READING REPORTER | 1999 – 2019

Thanks to *you*, we're celebrating

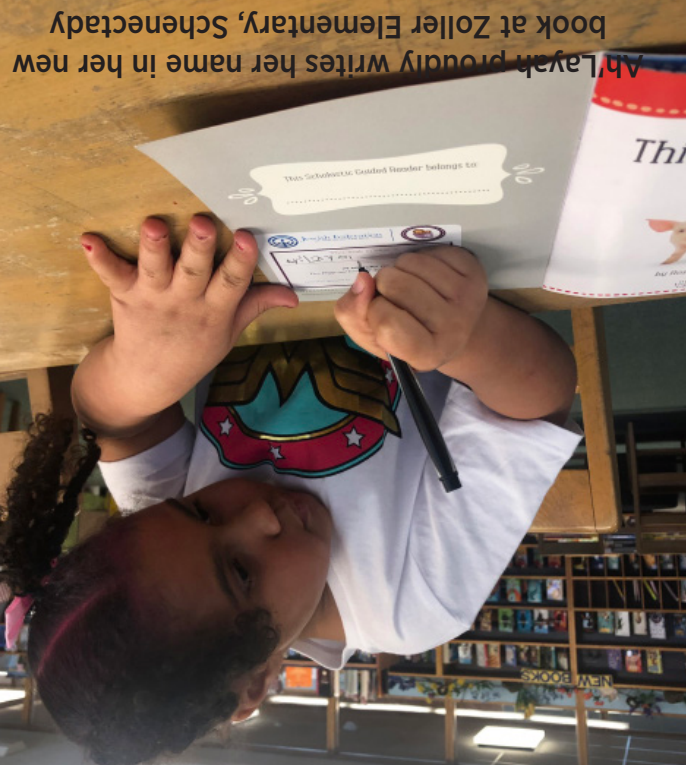


Years

of INSPIRING READERS, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

Special thanks to the Wasserman family and friends for their generous donations to the Ernest H. & Jeannette B. Wasserman Fund for books for the Jewish Coalition for Literacy in memory of Ernest & Jeannette Wasserman, lovers of reading.

Special thanks to the family and friends of Vera Propp and to Congregation B'nai Shalom for their generous donations for books for the Jewish Coalition for Literacy in memory of Vera Propp, former teacher and children's book author. We mourn the loss of special donor Richard Propp (obm).



I don't eat Green Eggs and Ham
But a ROAR reading coach, I am, I am!
I go each week, what do you think of that?
I teach skills and read books, like
"The Cat in the Hat."
I schmooze, never snooze, and have lots of fun
My children can't wait to work with me, one-on-one.
The kids giggle, and wiggle, and feel like biggie shots,
We share, and care, and enjoy each other lots.
I feel lucky to be able to help a child grow,
So with a hug and a smile, each week off I go
Helping my kids learn to read is only a part
Of the giving that comes from sharing my heart.

I AM A READING COACH
*A Tribute to Our Wonderful Coaches
By Karen Rosenkrantz (obm)
Founder and Albany liaison, 2000-2004*



Pine Hills Elementary, Albany

20th Anniversary Celebration | 6.20.19

11:30 AM Luncheon ~ Invitation enclosed

A Message From Lauren Iselin, Chair

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who have helped build and grow the literacy program in the Albany, Schenectady, and Troy school districts. We are fortunate to have you on our team. We hope you will continue to read with the kids and invite your friends to join you. It is only one hour a week and how rewarding it is for all of the volunteers.

It's hard to believe that I have been reading with kids at North Albany Academy, previously School 20, for that many years. When I signed up to volunteer, my three boys were 5, 7 and 10. My boys were all in school and I finally had some free time. I could have volunteered to read with kids in their elementary school, but I felt like I was needed in Albany. I am glad that I made that decision because I have gotten so much out of the many hours I have spent reading with the students. When I initially signed up, I thought that the students would benefit from the time I spent with them. And while that is true, I feel like I am the one who has benefitted the most from this experience. When my boys were younger, reading with my students helped me learn how to be more patient, creative, and engaging. I had to think of new ways to relate to and connect with the kids so that they would trust me and learn from our time together. As my boys got older, and they entered the fun teenage years, it was always nice to be welcomed by the students who were happy to see me. And when my boys went off to college and then eventually moved away, reading with the kids has helped me remember when my boys were young and just learning how to read. I have also been able to continue reading many of my favorite books, like Froggy Gets Dressed, Frog and Toad, Franklin, The Berenstain Bears, Arthur, and many more.

By reading with my students, I am able to see how far they have come from September to June. It is amazing to see kids who, in September, did not know all of the letters of the alphabet start reading words and, eventually, short books. I would like to take all the credit, but I have to say that the teachers I have worked with have been amazing, and they give so much of their time and effort to help their students learn and love to read. I am able to work one-on-one and reinforce what they are learning.

Because of Federation, I am able to give my students one book EVERY TIME I read with them. For many of these kids, these are the only books they have at home, and with Federations' help, they are building their own libraries. They love picking out the books and writing their names in the nameplates. This is an added bonus to this program.

I hope I will see you at our 20th Anniversary Celebration and that you will bring a friend with you so we can show others what a great program we have. Thank you to Robyn Easton for EVERYTHING she does to make sure we all succeed.

A Message From Robyn Easton, Literacy Director

I want to thank each and every volunteer (both current and former) for making ROAR—(now) Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL)—as AMAZING and successful as it is. Over the past 20 years, we have practiced *tikkun olam* and all of you have taken part in repairing our world. The acts of kindness, love, and sharing yourself with another person to help educate and enlighten him/her is truly a beautiful gift. One by one, you have helped build our community into a place filled with love. It has no boundaries of age, race, gender or religion.

Our program continues to grow. We placed 20 new volunteers this year! Last year, we added a summer pilot program, a partnership with RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus) for a six-week reading program within its summer camp. More than 25 volunteers participated. Because of YOU, we will make this an ongoing program every summer.

I am so very proud to be a part of this program! The last eight years, my life has been enriched with my involvement in JCL. I have met countless volunteers and children who share stories of happiness and joy all tied together through reading. One by one, all of you have shown me that the world is a good place to live. We could not exist without your generosity of time and love in your heart. Thank you so much for all you do. You are an inspiration to our community and the world!



Judy Miller & Judy Thorpe

"When you do something that you love to do and then you are honored for it, it's amazing."

– Bea Fox, Literacy Co-Chair, 2014-2016



"The program is very stimulating for the Massry Residence reading coaches. It makes them feel amazing. To listen to their comments about their students' progress is wonderful."

– Faye Silton, Massry Residence Coordinator, 2005-2011



– Valerie Tabak, Literacy Co-Chair, 2014-2016

"One of the joys of my semi-retirement is having the opportunity to participate in this program. I love being a part of a team that works to teach and strengthen reading skills, sharing beautiful books, and receiving armfuls of hugs and love from children."

"After retiring from being a school social worker, I was looking for meaning in how I spend my time. The opportunity to read with children has been incredibly rewarding. I enjoy watching the students grow from the beginning of the year to the end. I particularly love the opportunity to give them a book to take home, to own—one that they have chosen and learned to read. It is a great program to inspire and enjoy reading together."

– Robin Lippman-Scharf

"Volunteering as a reading coach for two fourth-grade students in Albany has been an uplifting experience. I've forged a bond with them that hopefully will help them succeed in school and life, and I've gotten the satisfaction of doing my bit for social justice. Even more, it has been a learning experience for me. Through the books we've read together, I've learned about everything from Minecraft to Nelson Mandela, Maya Angelou to dragons. And I've learned about lives that are far different than mine and my family's, and about the dedicated teachers and school staff trying to make a difference. I leave the school each week with a smile and full of hope."

– Linda Barnas

"We all can recall the joy and enthusiasm in the faces of the students we tutor as their self-confidence and abilities to comprehend what they are reading increased as the year progressed."

– Ellen Zirin, Literacy Chair, 2008-2013



"It is a very rewarding experience to work with students who are at many different levels of reading skills and help them improve. Their enthusiasm is very enjoyable."

– Jerry Sykes

A look through the past 20 years



As I reflect back to the very beginning of the Capital Region Jewish Coalition for Literacy, I must say that it was always a labor of love for the volunteers, Jewish Federation, and me as well.

Originally, the federation wanted to jump on the bandwagon of a very successful program that was piloted in the Boston Federation area. They were looking for someone to give this literacy program a try in a much smaller Jewish population, knowing that the Jewish values are constant throughout the world: *tikkun olam*, love of children, and love of education. It could work!!!! My very good friend, Karen Rosenkrantz, approached me, knowing I was in between jobs and I had a masters in reading. Thus, along with Shelly Shapiro and the support of Jewish Federation, the ROAR program began.

Twenty years ago when Shelly and I went to the Schenectady and Albany superintendents of schools' offices, we did not know what to expect. As the years went on, the extraordinary volunteers appeared each week bringing with them love and instruction.

As the ROAR program evolved, it opened my eyes to the goodness in people. Those people include volunteers who are willing to trudge out in the snow and give instruction to children, thus enabling them to help themselves. We are also appreciative of the many donors who make our giving books possible, to Shelly, Robyn, and Jewish Federation who gave and give the program the support it needs to be successful.

Anyone who was involved or is involved in the JCL should be proud of themselves for improving the world as we say, "one child at a time."

– **Susie Sommer, Founder and Chair, 1999–2009**

2004 Literacy Thank You Event

L-R Susie Sommer, Karen Rosenkrantz (obm), Elaine Houston-Channel 13 News Anchor, Linda Goodman, Leah Gaies (obm)



Special Thank You to our liaisons through the years!*

Shirley Arensberg, Albany liaison, 2005-2008

Linda Goodman, Schenectady liaison, 2001-2006

Alice Gorowitz, Schenectady liaison, 2006-2013

Margo Strosberg, Union College Hillel liaison, 2001- 2009

Bonnie Cramer, Union College Hillel liaison, 2010- 2013

Leah Gaies (obm), Troy liaison, 2001-2006

**We will be honoring all of our leaders and volunteers at our 20th celebration!*



"The time goes by all too quickly. But in this short amount of time you have spent with your children, I "hear" loud and clear the special bonding that has taken place and the progress these children have made in just a few months. Sometimes this success may appear minimal to you and you long to do more, but the impact you have made on a child's self-esteem, confidence, and achievement is immeasurable. How proud each and every one of you should feel!"

– **Carol Peretz (obm), Albany liaison, 2009-2014**

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Albany City School District

Susan Backer
Judi Barlow
Linda Barnas
Evalyn Basloe
Joseph Basloe
Dan Bernstein
Trish Bernstein
Sally Bratspis
Barbara Bray
Diane Burman
Selig Corman
Lorraine D'Aleo
Barbara Dangman
Judy Doling
Jasmine Eldridge-Flescher
Leslie Feinman
Marcy Feinman
Lauren Finkle
Lisa Finkle
Bea Fox
Francine Frank
Laurie Gold
Sol Goldstein
Millie Grossberg
Audrey Hoffman
Lauren Iselin
Marty Kaback
Debbi Kahn

Marcy Katlan
Gail Kendall
Leslie Kesner
Anne King
Rachel Kretser
Gittle Laber
Criss Macaione
Sharon Masciocco
Ruth Mendel
Jill Messner
Sheree Mirochnik
Larry Moss
Robin Moss
Wendy Palat
Wendy Perlmutter
Louis-Jack Pozner
Rona J. Pozner
Debbie Ratner
Mark Reeder
Jill Rifkin
Anne Rosenfeld
Garry Sanders
Joan Savitt
Ann Shapiro
Nancy Siegel
Jan Silverman-Pollow
Linda S. Simkin
Phyllis Smith
Lew Sperber
Susan Sperber

Arleen Stein
Charlie Stern
Bettina Stoller
StephenStrosberg
Beth Swartz
Jerry Sykes
Valerie Tabak
David Taylor
Gail Taylor
Terry Tyson
Lynn Warheit
Dona Wildove

Hebrew Academy Tracy McQuay – liaison 6TH Graders

Hannah Berkun
Freya Dubose
Shayna Malsan
Yair Sasson
Aaron Wrzesinski
Chana Wrzesinski
7TH Graders
Jesse Graber
Layla Israel
Dov Kovach
Joshua Marx
Shoham Randall
Ayelet Rosenblum

Massry Residence

Christine Vaughn – Coordinator
Adrienne Rockwood
William Rockwood
Sandy Sussman
Lois Thomson

Schenectady City School District

Eric Bieber
Jeanette Davidson
Judy Falcone-Miller
Barrie Handelman
Mark Handelman
Fern Hayden
Steve Jarrett
Carol Kahn
Robin Lippman-Scharf
Peggy Parascandola
Judy Thorpe

Troy City School District

Marc Cohen
Judy Ehrlich
Marion Greenberg
Wendi Gross
Linda Jones
Judy Linden

Thanks to our generous corporate sponsor



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Special thanks to The Little Book House
for its support of our program!



Linda Barnas & Wendy Perlmutter



"For me, there is no greater delight than to build relationships between literacy volunteers and schools. Every week, Jewish Federation's Literacy volunteers bring their love of reading and light up the day for their students in each of our 12 schools. That they keep coming back to see the same students, to check in with them and to bring them new books to read together, is pure magic in a child's life when all they need to help them focus on learning is just a bit of personal attention.

We are so grateful to you all for coming and making such a huge impact in the lives of our students and their school communities."

- Fiona Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator for the City School District of Albany



Francine Frank and Yahya,
North Albany Academy

Located in the Pine Hills neighborhood of Albany, the RISSE mission is to equip refugees and recent immigrants to build sustainable, independent lives by offering language and literacy instruction, as well as support with life skills and integration into U.S. culture and community.



JCL was proud to partner with RISSE for a six-week summer reading program. More than 25 volunteers participated, and we plan to make this an ongoing partnership.

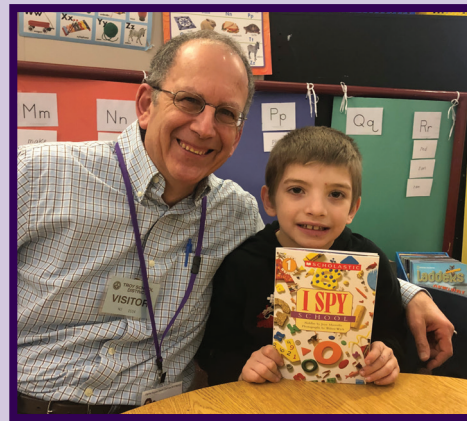
RISSE Volunteers

Judith Barlow	Criss Macaione
Dan Bernstein	Ruth Mendel
Trish Bernstein	Louis-Jack Pozner
Sally Bratspis	Rona Pozner
Barbara Bray	Mark Reeder
Joel Blau	Nancy Siegel
Toby Clyman	Joan Savitt
Barbara Dangman	Linda Simkin
Lauren Finkle	Phyllis Smith
Bea Fox	Susan Sperber
Francine Frank	Arleen Stein
Laurie Gold	Valerie Tabak
Lauren Iselin	Dona Wildove

RISSE Summer 2019, July 8 – August 16



Robin Lippman-Scharf and
Carter at Zoller Elementary,
Schenectady



Mark Cohen and Chase at
School 14, Troy

"As a teacher in the City School District of Albany, for several years now I've had the privilege to work with volunteer readers through Jewish Coalition for Literacy. It has been a wonderful partnership that has provided many of our students with highly valuable one-on-one reading time every week.

The special relationships that are developed between the readers and students have a significant impact."

- Agija VanDerwiel - ESL Teacher,
North Albany Academy



Isaiah, Shoham Randall, and Jionna

This year, 12 middle school students from Hebrew Academy of the Capital District visit Tammy Keough's class bi-weekly. The Eagle Point Elementary students love receiving new books and reading with their buddies!

- Tracy McQuay, Hebrew Academy liaison



Angelina, Freya
Dubose, and Julia



Special thanks to
Shara Siegfeld, who
was Hebrew Academy
liaison when the
program started!



Thank you to Faye Silton who
founded the Massry Residence
Literacy volunteer program...
and special thanks to Christine
Vaughn who makes sure this
program is a continued success!



Christine Vaughn, Coordinator, Sandy Sussman, Lois
Thomson, Adrienne and Bill Rockwood,
2018-19 Reading Volunteers