



# The Lisa Libraries

77 CORNELL STREET, ROOM 109, KINGSTON, NY 12401 • (845) 334-5559 • LISALIBRARIES@GMAIL.COM

## Donate Online

You can now donate online to the Lisa Libraries. Please visit our website, and with just a few clicks you can make a secure financial contribution. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

[www.LisaLibraries.org](http://www.LisaLibraries.org)

## WISH LIST

### Books

We would appreciate donations of new hardcover and paperback books for children ages 6 months to 18 years. Areas of special need are Spanish language and bilingual books, reference books, classics, picture books and board books.

### Volunteers

Please contact us for more information.

[LisaLibraries@gmail.com](mailto:LisaLibraries@gmail.com)  
[www.LisaLibraries.org](http://www.LisaLibraries.org)



[www.facebook.com/lisalibraries](http://www.facebook.com/lisalibraries)



## Dear Friends,

The new school year has started—with new teachers, new classes and friends, and all the possibilities of a fresh start.

At the Lisa Libraries, our mission of donating books to organizations working with children in need keeps us particularly busy at this time of year. We donate books across the country to Head Start centers, agencies serving

children in foster care, homeless shelters, prison visiting rooms and food pantries.

We are happy to share with you some of the exciting happenings at The Lisa Libraries.

Happy autumn reading!

*The Lisa Libraries*

## Feed the Body, Feed the Mind

When Elisa received a request from Sarah Schmidt for a donation of books to a small organization in Covington, WA, called The Storehouse, which provides food to struggling families, and began an email exchange to find out more about the needs of the organization, she had no idea she was corresponding with a 13-year-old.

According to Elisa, “This was one of the best applications we’d ever received. Sarah included all the information we requested on the web site, and then immediately responded to my questions about the specific donation.”

In the end, the Lisa Libraries donated 350 books to The Storehouse to be given



**Sarah and her sister Breeana at the Back-to-School BBQ**

away at their annual Back-to-School BBQ, which is typically attended by 1000 people, about 600 of which are children, and for which Sarah volunteered to collect and organize books. The people of Covington are lucky to have you in their community, Sarah!

## Family Success Centers

In Trenton, New Jersey, where over 90% of students qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches, where the median family income is less than half of the median income for the rest of New Jersey, and where in 2014 students did not score as proficient in any grade in math or language arts, the Children's Home Society seeks to make a difference in the lives of needy families.

They operate two Family Success Centers, described as "one-stop neighborhood centers" where struggling families can access a range of services to meet basic needs. Starting in 2015, twice monthly Reading Groups have welcomed more than 20 children with their parents or grandparents for an interactive story time, which includes crafts and a snack in addition to stories. Now, with a donation of books from the Lisa Libraries, children attending the Reading Groups can choose books to take home and keep. And next year, the Children's Home Society will receive a second donation, this one for the bookworms attending the summer Reading Groups.



*Pictured above, three happy clients at one of Trenton's Family Success Centers.*



*SUNY New Paltz students donate their services to help The Lisa Libraries.*

## Alternative Spring Break

For a handful of students at the State University of New York, New Paltz, spring break means something other than beaches and vacations. For the sixth year in a row, students applied for the Alternative Spring Break Program. Those selected stayed on campus during March in order to volunteer for service projects. This spring, the ten selected students completed 500 hours of service at area organizations, including the

very lucky Lisa Libraries. In a single afternoon, the students unpacked and organized dozens of cartons of titles in the Baby-sitters Club and Little Sister series, a project we had been meaning to get to ourselves for, oh, eight years. Thanks to these generous and selfless students, we are now much closer to being able to donate complete sets of the series to young readers in poverty stricken areas.

*Pictured: Back row – Franchesca, Audrey, Liz, Ali, Giselle, Scott, Monica. Front row – Yoshi, Yuan, Tshering.*

## Kids R Kids Feeding Program

In Beacon, New York, nearly half the children enrolled in the school district qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The mission of Kids R Kids Feeding Program is to combat childhood hunger, and the Summer Meals Program helps fill the gap

during the months when school meals are unavailable by providing activities and lunches at the low-income housing sites in the city. Approximately 125 children ages 4-13 are served every day. This summer the Lisa Libraries donated 200 books

to the Thinkin' Thursdays reading program begun in 2015. The books were used during read-aloud time, and at the end of the program given to the children to take home and keep. We will continue to donate to Kids R Kids throughout the year.

# Welcome Ellen!

*We are so excited to welcome Ellen Luksberg to the Lisa Libraries. As our new Assistant Director, Ellen's hard work and creativity is already helping the Lisa Libraries grow and become more efficient in our mission to bring new books to underserved children across the country. Ann Martin interviewed Ellen to help introduce her to you.*

**Ann:** Please tell us about your family and your background.

**Ellen:** I grew up in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, during a wonderful time when neighborhood kids could play safely outside from daybreak to "first to see the streetlights go on," knowing I would someday be a teacher. My 7th grade English teacher was my ultimate inspiration, and I graduated from American University in Washington, DC, as an English teacher.

I met my future husband on my first day of college and followed him to the Hudson Valley when we graduated. While raising my two sons, Joshua and Jeremy, I taught Freshman Composition at both Ulster County Community College and SUNY New Paltz. I began my full time position teaching 7th grade English at M.C. Miller Middle School in Kingston in 1998 and retired from that position in June of 2015.

**Ann:** How did you come to work at the Lisa Libraries?

**Ellen:** I loved teaching, and I loved retirement - for about four months! I knew I needed something more than retirement had to offer - and luckily that is when I found out about an opening at the Lisa Libraries.



**Ellen Luksberg & Ann Martin.**

**Ann:** What was the most surprising thing you found when you started working at the Lisa Libraries?

**Ellen:** When I realized that the Lisa Libraries was located in the building that my family used to own when my husband and his father manufactured handbags I felt like this new adventure was meant to be. In my new life, I get to connect children with books - what could be better than that! I also get to work on various projects - from public relations to fundraising - with the respect and support of an amazing team of co-workers.

**Ann:** Do you have any thoughts about the future of the Lisa Libraries?

**Ellen:** It would be a blessing if all children had access to all books at all times - but until that happens I hope I can help the Lisa Libraries continue to grow.

**Ann:** Ellen, thank you! We are delighted-and grateful-that you've joined the team.

## Rhythm and Rhyme

When Valarie Graham took over the position of librarian at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, the first grant she applied for was a collection of picture books from the Lisa Libraries. Many of the inmates have children with whom they try to stay connected by reading to them over the phone. Ms. Graham noted

that the number of children's books in the collection was small, and that the stories didn't always work well when the children couldn't see the illustrations. She wanted stories for a new read-aloud workshop, and asked for books with rhythm and rhyme, stories that could be understood over the phone. So the

Lisa Libraries shipped them a bouncy selection of titles by Dr. Seuss, Mark Teague, Eric Carle, Simms Taback, and other favorite authors. Children of incarcerated parents are among the highest risk populations in the country, and we applaud Ms. Graham for her efforts to improve childhood literacy.



*Thank you*

## Gratitude to Gail Carson Levine

Author Gail Carson Levine donated 19 boxes of her books to the Lisa Libraries—almost 750 copies of her titles, among them the Newbery Honor-winning *Ella Enchanted*; *Dave at Night*, an ALA Notable Book and Best Book For Young Adults; her popular *Princess Tales*; picture books *Betsy Red Hoodie* and *Betsy Who Cried Wolf!*; and *Writer to Writer*.

*Pictured at left: Gail and her husband David loading carton after carton of beautiful books into Elisa's car.*

## Amazon Smile

We are excited that the Lisa Libraries has been approved to be an “Amazon Smile” charity. Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible purchases to The Lisa Libraries. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service.

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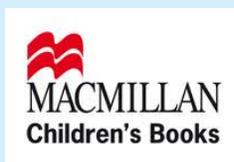
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