



The Lisa Libraries

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

Board of Directors

Ann M. Martin, President
Ellen Luksberg, Secretary
Catherine Gordon, Treasurer
Saf Lerman Caruso, Laura Godwin,
Bethany Novak, Diane Roback, Pam
Munoz Ryan, Directors

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, classics, picture books, EZ Readers, and board books.

Are you following us on Facebook?

Have you visited our new website?

Amazon Smile

Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible purchases to The Lisa Libraries. Start shopping at Smile.amazon.com. Enter "The Lisa Novak Community Libraries," as your charitable organization and shop as usual. Start future Amazon visits at Smile.amazon.com, and you will continue to support the Lisa Libraries.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

LisaLibraries@gmail.com

www.LisaLibraries.org

www.facebook.com/lisalibraries



Dear Friends,

Greetings and happy holidays!

We've had another busy and productive year at the Lisa Libraries. We've received several very large donations of books, a number of donations from brand-new supporters, and many continuing donations from our oldest supporters. When UPS makes a delivery we feel like cheering. On the flip side, we've sent out thousands of books to worthy organizations.

This year we noticed a new trend: the request for books to help under-served families build home libraries. This request couldn't make us happier. Did you know that having a home library (in

any kind of home in any neighborhood) gives a child an enormous educational advantage? Furthermore, according to a 2017 article in the Pacific Standard, "Having books in the home has a greater impact on children from the least-educated families. It is at the bottom, where books are rare, that each additional book matters most."

So what could be a greater gift at the holidays than a book? We humbly (because you have been so generous to us in the past) ask you to keep the Lisa Libraries in mind when you're making up your holiday gift list.

Thank you, and happy holidays from all of us at the Lisa Libraries!

GreaterGood

What do you do when you get a call saying that you're about to receive a donation of three pallets – 92 large boxes - of brand new books? If you're Ellen Luksberg, the Executive Director of the Lisa Libraries, you express your extreme gratitude to the donor, hang up the phone, and start making frantic calls to round up volunteers to help unload the pallets and stack the boxes in our office.

The very generous donation came through a unique relationship between GreaterGood and the Coughlan Community Fund who work together to send book donations to children at risk all over the United States. This was not their first, but their third donation to us. So Ellen knew what to expect. In short order she lined up help from some of the Lisa Libraries' good friends. On hand to receive the cartons were

our longtime volunteer Joyce and her husband Bob, four volunteers from People's Place in Kingston, three volunteers through Kingston Kiwanis, and one of our grant writers and her daughter.

Thank you to Danny, Rieley, Caroline, Kim, Joyce, Bob, Ann, James, Linda, Heather, Morgana, and Ellen



Reading With Erma

Who doesn't love a dog? Here at the Lisa Libraries, we are all fans of dogs. So when we received April Taylor's request for books for her program called *Reading With Erma*, we couldn't resist. April and her therapy dog Erma work with children at Title One schools in Florida. They offer one-on-one (plus dog) reading sessions with children who

are underperforming or have special needs. The children love snuggling up with Erma, who is a nonjudgmental listener. April also runs *Erma's Books on the Bus*, which provides books for children to read on the way to and from school. The Lisa Libraries was thrilled to send April 100 early readers, picture books, and science books.

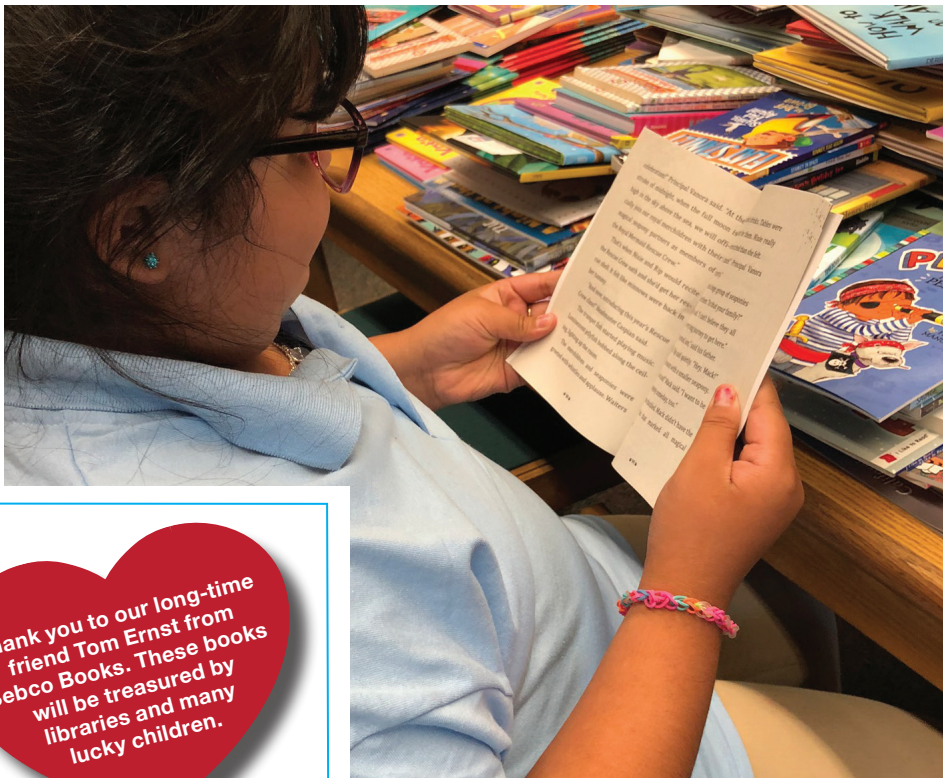


Erma

Building Home Libraries

In Redwood City, CA, 38% of students fail to complete 12th grade, and one in five adults reads below the 8th grade level. Enter *Project READ*, an intergenerational literacy program reaching 400 children, over 90% of whose families are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch. *Project READ* youth can participate in tutoring programs,

enrichment programs, and early intervention programs year round. One goal of the project is to encourage families to build home libraries; participants in the program get to choose books to take home and keep. In August, the Lisa Libraries happily shipped *Project READ* 300 brand new books for young readers.



Thank you to our long-time friend Tom Ernst from Sebco Books. These books will be treasured by libraries and many lucky children.

Book Day!



Gabriella Bracamontes, Director

The Read-Aloud Volunteer Program in San Pablo, CA, serves K-2 students who attend several Title One schools, and whose families earn 75% less than California's median income. Each child is paired with a volunteer who supports independent reading and a love of literacy - and who, every other week, gives the child a brand new book to take home and keep. Said the parent of one program participant, "My daughter loves books and I believe the bigger the library, the greater the mind." And one happy first-grader said, "I love it when it's gift book day and I can take a book home and show my mom!" The Lisa Libraries provided *Read-Aloud* with 150 books to help build home libraries.

Prescription: Read

The Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) provides services to nearly 9,000 low-income, underserved people, including 1600 children up to the age of 12. In addition to addressing health and wellness needs, SNAHC seeks to improve youth literacy at annual well-child visits by providing each patient a new book to take home and keep. However, there were no funds in their budget for books, so the Lisa Libraries sent SNAHC 200 books to help promote literacy skills in their youngest patients, as well as to enrich family ties through reading.



Lucia reading to her children

A grateful shout-out to our very special friend Dav Pilkey, creator of Captain Underpants and Dog Man, who has shipped us a beautiful assortment of his books. These are sure to delight many children at the holidays.

My students love to read . . .

. . . but our library budget is zero.”
Venita Tomlinson is the media

specialist at a Title One school in Paterson, NJ, and in her years at *School 21, Turnaround*

School, there has never been a budget for the library. Ms. Tomlinson spends as much as \$700 of her salary purchasing supplies and used books for the library. Her students are culturally diverse and include many English Language Learners and children with disabilities, and all of them receive free breakfast and lunch. Her “struggling yet enthusiastic” students wanted a range of reading material - picture books, fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels. And that’s exactly what the Lisa Libraries sent them in order to boost their love of reading.



Grant Writers

The Lisa Libraries is pleased and incredibly grateful that we now have not one but four grant writers assisting in winning grants for us - and they are all volunteers. We are pleased to introduce:



Christine Taylor, our head grant writer, who has over seven years of experience in the field,

and believes that writing grant proposals is a privilege, and the reward is in winning grants for us.

Vera Gutmann, a professional

grant writer, who formerly worked at the Kansas City Public Library and "became passionate

about opening up the world of literacy and literature to children in need."



Alexandra Julson, a Bronx native and an Army Reserve Vet, who has over ten years of experience in

the human services field. She currently sits on two boards in Kingston, NY, for which she writes grants for "programs that empower the community."

Heather Ohlson, whose degree is in education, and who has "conducted all aspects of grant application,

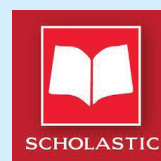


administration, and reporting." She now dedicates volunteer time to literacy and community efforts.

A world of thanks to Christine, Vera, Alexandra, and Heather. And a shout-out to Nicole Todini, our former grant writer who got things started for us with a \$1,000 grant from her employer, Hiscox Insurance Company.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for our grant writers – they will happily follow up on your suggestions.

Thank you to some of our largest book donors



In support of literacy, the design & printing of this newsletter was donated by ColorPage
(845) 331-7581 www.colorpageonline.com

Book & Publication Printing for Writers & Industry