



# The Lisa Libraries

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## 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, leveled readers, and board books.

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## Dear Friends,

I think it's safe to say that everyone who works at the Lisa Libraries is a bibliophile. So being surrounded by books during the hours we're at the LL is just one of the many things we love about our work. We know our work would go faster if we didn't constantly stop to announce titles that amuse us as we unpack cartons of donated books. A recent favorite - *Hush, Little Trucker*. We pause to look through lush, gorgeous books about plants and animals and space, and wonder whose hands they'll wind up in. We're amazed - and heartened - to see books for even very young readers about everything from yoga to community gardens to welcoming immigrants. Every now and then a day is made even brighter by a visit from an author, personally bringing in copies of their own books for us. Most recently, Matthew Holm came by with cartons

of *Babymouse* and *Sunny* titles, and I had a quiet fangirl moment.

Thursday is my day at the Lisa Libraries and I work with the incomparable Joyce and Arlene. Joyce has been thrilled to watch her grandchildren become bibliophiles in their own right. As for Arlene, see below for the story of a lifelong book-lover. We grew up loving reading and loving libraries. We are all proud book nerds - Joyce, Arlene, Val, Barbara, Ellen and I.

Thank you to all of our supporters. Your donations of new books, and your financial contributions, will give underserved children the opportunity to join the ranks of bibliophiles.

Gratefully,

*Ann Martin*

## Volunteer Corner

Two years ago I started "work" at the most rewarding volunteer job ever. That of course is the Lisa Libraries.

When I was a child growing up in Brooklyn there were not as many opportunities to play outside as we have here in our rural areas, but I was very fortunate because even as a young child I loved books. A good portion of my summers at that time were spent on the fire escape, covered with a blanket to block the sun, and reading a book. My mother used to say that if I did not have a book, I would read the back of a cereal box.

When I was eleven we moved to Dutchess County in NY and I discovered that the local library was only two miles away. My trusty Schwinn bike and I would make that round trip several times a week while I devoured all of their Nancy Drew mysteries.

As I grew older, my love for reading never wavered. My husband and I married in 1964 and moved to our present home in Hurley shortly after. Two children and over 45 years working first as a registered nurse and then

as a hospice nurse kept me busy, but I managed to fit in the things I loved, namely tennis, skiing, biking, and of course reading. When my grandson was three I watched him one day a week and would give him the choice of an afternoon activity - the park, playground, or library. He always chose the library! Once he was in preschool and I retired from Hospice, I decided to give back to my local library, and I ran for their board. That was fourteen years ago and I am still very active there.

And thanks to Ellen Luksberg, whom I met playing tennis, I have found another passion that involves books: the Lisa Libraries. Kudos to all the volunteers I have met there. I like to think that with every book we ship we are reaching out to a young person somewhere, like I was, helping to inspire them to enjoy a lifelong love of reading.



Arlene Ryan



February 24, 2022

Ellen Luksberg  
Lisa Libraries  
77 Cornell St STE 109  
Kingston, NY 12401-3649

Dear Ellen,

**Thank you! You are amazing!**

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your thoughtful grant to support our KidsBridge Summer Learning Program. Your gift of 100 books to Inspiring Minds will help us tremendously!

Since 1963, Inspiring Minds has supported students academically and socially. Our summer learning program, KidsBridge, will begin on July 11 this year. We're expecting 100 rising kindergartners for a six week, full-day experience.

At KidsBridge, we teach four and five-year old students how to be kindergartners. Our program focuses on the norms and routines in kindergarten- riding the bus, entering the building,

circle time, learning centers, lunch, itinerants and more. Everything students (and their families) need to know!

Thank you for your gift. We plan to distribute the books to students during the summer learning program. We'll send a final report with photos in August.

Thank you for thinking of us; it will make a real difference in the lives of the kids we serve.



With gratitude,

Melissa Emidy  
Executive Director

## A note from Ann Martin:

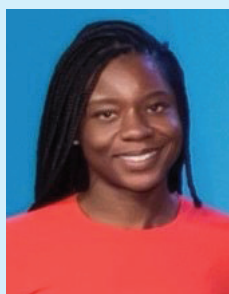
In 1990, when the Baby-sitters Club series was flourishing, I was looking for a way to give back - but hadn't yet figured out to whom or how. I just knew that, having grown up with parents who volunteered and gave back in many ways, I wanted to follow in their footsteps. Then in March of that year Lisa Novak, a dear friend and publishing colleague, died suddenly. After several months of thinking, and with the

help of many other friends and colleagues, two organizations were established - The Ann M. Martin Foundation (AMMF), dedicated to benefitting children, education, literacy, and homeless people and animals; and The Lisa Novak Community Libraries, now called simply the Lisa Libraries (LL), that would put brand-new books in the hands of underserved children.

The AMMF drew to a close

25 years later so that I could concentrate on the LL, a more time-intensive, hands-on - and fun - project. Then in 2021, six years after the AMMF drew to a close, Ellen Luksberg received an email from a young woman named Obi Ibekweh, writing to say that as a student she had received financial assistance from the AMMF. Now she wanted to give back to the LL. Intrigued, Ellen invited Obi to tell her story...

*Thank you for this opportunity!*



*The LL and the AMMF have played a pivotal role in my success, undoubtedly, and will always have a special place in my heart.*

*I was first introduced to the AMMF as a freshman in high school. My family had fallen on hard times and one of my counselors recommended I apply for assistance through the organization. I applied and ended up receiving a scholarship that covered the balance of my tuition beyond what financial aid covered. I'm pretty sure that without this funding, I would have had to transfer schools due to the inability to pay tuition. I am so thankful to Sister Virginia Lake for connecting me to such a wonderful organization!*

*Over the years, I developed a relationship with the people at the AMMF, sending holiday cards regularly to Ann and Elisa [Geliebter, who worked with both the AMMF and the LL] and keeping them abreast of my progress in school. Around the time of my graduation, I remember meeting these two ladies and thinking, "they were so nice, warm, and supportive. ... I'm glad to have them in my corner." I remember feeling a sense of determination and added them to my list - I would one day make them proud too!*

*The AMMF continued to support me beyond high school and throughout my undergraduate education. I attended The Johns Hopkins University and even through tough times when my grades were less than stellar, they were there. I appreciate the fact that their belief in me never faltered. With their support and the support of my friends and family I was able to turn things around, graduating with a degree in Biomedical Engineering in four years.*

*As soon as I was in a place to give back, I wanted to make sure I did so in a way that was meaningful to me. I tracked down the AMMF and though I could not find it, I did find the LL. I was so happy to see that all the great work around educating and supporting underserved youth was still happening, and I couldn't wait to do my part.*

*So here I am, still so grateful for the connection that my counselor made for me all those years ago and forever grateful to Ann and Elisa for supporting me, and more importantly, believing in me. I will never forget their impact and look forward to continuing to give back in any way that I can.*

*Sincerely,  
Obi*

Remember that you can make a donation to the Lisa Libraries for any occasion - and we are happy to send an acknowledgement to both you and the recipient. Memorial donations, graduations, marriages, holidays, promotions, new baby, new job, new home - whatever the reason, let us help you show you care.



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