



# 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.

### 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.

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## Dear Friends,

As I write this, Thanksgiving is just weeks away, and I'm thinking about gratitude. After a couple of years that, due to the pandemic, were unusual for the Lisa Libraries, to say the least, I feel that we got solidly back on our feet in 2022. This is due almost entirely to our very generous donors, who came through with thoughtful and varied donations of glorious new children's books. We received everything from large shipments of multiple copies of a single title, to cartons full of board books, books in Spanish, fantasy titles, nonfiction, series, titles in both hard and soft cover. It's because of this wide range of donations that we're able to provide organizations with books that are tailored to their needs. On the next two pages you'll see some enthusiastic notes from recipients, thanking the Lisa Libraries for fulfilling some



very specific requests. Recipient Rachel Lysne, felt that her donation had been "hand-picked". And it was hand-picked, by our director Ellen Luksberg. Ellen is responsible

for putting together our outgoing shipments, and she meticulously fills each order, whether it's a request for bilingual books to assist immigrant families, a request for "culturally responsive literature so students of diverse backgrounds can see themselves in the literature", or even a request for assorted books plus knitted hats and scarves for the children of a town in southern Appalachia.

So ... a big thank-you to all of our donors, and a big thank-you to Ellen. Whether you're at the beginning or the end of the book-giving chain, you're responsible for all the contented, engaged faces you'll see on the next two pages.

Happy holidays!

*Ann Martin*



## The Many Ways of Giving

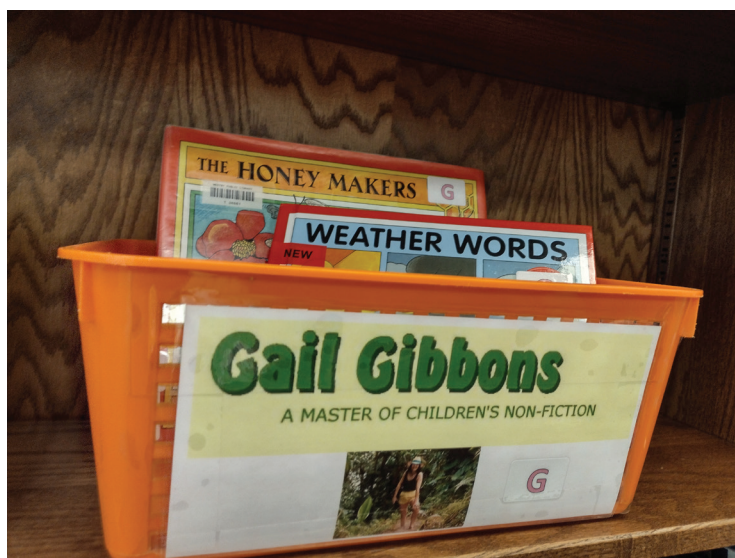
Last summer our good friend Lisa Petty, who volunteers with Bryan's House in Dallas, and who in 2021 helped orchestrate a donation of Lisa Libraries books to them, wrote asking if we would like some handmade bookmarks that could be included in donations to other organizations. Lisa, a talented needleworker, soon sent us 16 beautifully cross-stitched bookmarks to be given away as surprises to lucky readers.

Thank you, Lisa!



## Gail Gibbons Fans in Wisconsin

When Rachel Lysne - the new director of the Bekkum Public Library in Westby, a tiny town in Wisconsin in which nearly half of the elementary school students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch - first wrote to the Lisa Libraries, we were impressed with her enthusiasm and dedication. "I am passionate about high-quality literacy experiences for our youngest learners," she wrote. "I am working diligently in my new position to add colorful, relevant, and literary-rich titles to our children's fiction collection. I'm currently weeding outdated materials and re-organizing our fiction area by 'islands'. In each island, children's books are categorized by topic or author." Rachel went on to name authors



whose work she wished to add, including titles by Gail Gibbons.

Ellen Luksberg had a conversation with Rachel before packing up a donation of eight cartons of Lisa Libraries books for Bekkum. When the boxes arrived, Rachel wrote again, this time to say, "To my

extreme delight, Ellen came through for me! My Gail Gibbons collection went from four titles to double digits literally overnight! I am grateful to showcase this author-illustrator's quality work, as I yearn to instill a leaning towards nonfiction in my young patrons. . . . You accepted my application for children's materials, you listened to the types of materials I was seeking, and you delivered hand-picked and stunning works

across genres, age groups, and formats."

We were happy to help Rachel, and thanks to generous donations of books to the Lisa Libraries we were able to supply her with just what she needed.

## Books for Two Generations

UTEC, originally known as United Teen Equality Center, but now serving a broader range of young people in the Lowell, MA, area, was founded in 1999 with the mission of trading "violence and poverty for social and economic success." Today the organization also works with young children, since many of the at-risk youth served are parents. 2Gen, a two-generational center, helps young families facing a range of challenges from residential instability to mental health problems to parenting issues. The new Parenting Center within 2Gen includes a classroom for children up to age 5, and the Lisa Libraries was happy to provide nearly 200 books for these littlest readers and learners, some of which will be given to the families during the holidays. Happy reading and happy holidays!





## Starting Over in Kentucky

2022 has been a year punctuated by severe weather events, and over the summer, catastrophic flooding devastated several counties in Kentucky. Three months later, the Lisa Libraries received an email from Ashley Allen, a third-grade teacher at Sebastian Elementary School. "I have 24 students in my classroom," she wrote. "We are a title 1 school and we are located in Breathitt County in Eastern Kentucky. Poverty levels here are quite high and we are currently still recovering from July floods that

nearly destroyed our entire county. I have students in my classroom that lost everything in this flood." Ashley wondered if the Lisa Libraries could provide books for her classroom. "These books would be used every day as part of our guided reading center rotations and also during any point in which silent reading can be utilized in the classroom."

We were happy to help, of course, and sent a variety of age-appropriate books for these very engaged readers.



## The Jonnycake Center

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly, RI, provides social services, programs, and supplies including food, clothing, and household items to people in crisis situations, working with them toward a goal of self-sufficiency. Last summer, Leslie Rovetti, the Director of Development, reached out to the Lisa Libraries requesting books to give to the children in their client households, and we were able to provide her with over 300 books for kids of all ages. Shortly after, we received this enthusiastic letter from Leslie:

*"The books we received proved so popular that most of them have*



*already been taken by children in our client households.*

*Included in our donation were books that represented several different cultures, and that representation*

*was so appreciated by our parents. Your donation coincided with the start of school, which was a great way to switch into the school-year learning mode, and it fit perfectly with our programming for our school meal program in the food pantry. We are very grateful to the Lisa Libraries and its donors, and we have seen firsthand how this program has been a positive influence on the children of our client households."*

We hope that this is just the first of many donations to The Jonnycake Center!

## A few words from our tireless volunteers:

### Francesca Fiore



Francesca

Books have always been a huge part of my life, and they have made me who I am today. My earliest and best memories are of my mother taking me to our neighborhood library in Queens and my father reading stories to

me before bed. When I was old enough to go to the library on my own, I would carry shopping bags with me so I could fill them with books. Both of my parents were teachers, and I owe a big part of my educational and professional success to the love of reading they instilled in me. I have dedicated my career to running programs at colleges and nonprofit organizations that connect people to educational access and opportunity.

Several years ago my husband and I moved to Woodstock, and during the

pandemic I started looking for ways to give back to my new community. I came across a profile of the Lisa Libraries and knew this was where I wanted to get involved. I've been helping to support the Lisa Libraries' fundraising activities ever since. I feel strongly that access to books and all the benefits that come from them are a right, not a privilege, and it is such an honor to work with Ellen and all the fantastic volunteers to help get books into the hands of so many children in need.

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## Barbara Graff

I am a retired licensed clinical social worker and have worked in many facilities over the years. Most recently I've managed a traumatic brain injury program for Gateway Community Industries in Kingston, NY, been a social worker for Ulster County Mental Health, and done homecare for a



Barbara

variety of agencies. I've served on the board of the Children's Home of Kingston, currently serve on the board of the Mental Health Association of Kingston, and am a

member of Rotary.

My favorite volunteer job was visiting a number of agencies, including nursing homes and schools, with my therapy dog Eddie. I'm the newest volunteer at the Lisa Libraries, and I enjoy helping because I believe in their mission and also enjoy reading and evaluating books.

## Joyce Nicol

I enjoy volunteering at the Lisa Libraries as I can participate in an effort to benefit an important cause. My love of reading was the reason I was a literacy tutor for 20 years. I have volunteered at the Lisa Libraries for



Joyce

over nine years. I enter newly arrived books into inventory and shelf them. In my working life I was a public school art teacher for primary and middle school grades. For many years I was a potter and now am a pastel painter. My husband and I have two daughters and four grandchildren. We love to travel to places all around the world.

## Arlene Ryan

I first volunteered at the Lisa Libraries in 2020. Since I'm a lifelong avid reader and also enjoy computer work, it was a perfect fit for me. Before volunteering, I was a registered nurse for more than 30 years (having gone back to college after I was married and had two children). Prior to that I was a secretary for IBM. At the Lisa Libraries I work with Ann Martin and Joyce Nicol, and we truly are a team.



Arlene

In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors - tennis, skiing, biking,

and enjoying the beauty of our Hudson Valley.

Knowing that all of us here are making a difference in a child's life is the best reward.

## Valorie Todd

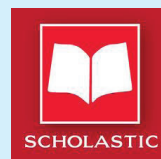
I retired as an occupational therapist with the Kingston City School District in 2013. Currently I volunteer at both the Lisa Libraries and the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network. I am so happy to box up and mail so many beautiful books to children who tell us how much they enjoy them. My special treat is to help keep the books shelved and organized! I really do look forward to my Tuesdays at the Lisa Libraries.

I live in Stone Ridge with my husband and daughter and love to visit with my son and his family on Long Island. I enjoy spending time building rock walls and walkways in my gardens; and when the weather is colder I take joy in designing and embroidering tote bags for my friends. I have been lucky enough to travel to many places and have even visited with friends in Nicaragua nine times.



Valorie

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