



# The Lisa Libraries

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## 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, classics, picture books and board books.

### Volunteers

The Lisa Libraries needs you! Specifically, we are in great need of a volunteer to help with grant writing, a job that can be done remotely. We also need local volunteers to unpack and sort books, and to put together libraries to be donated. Please contact us for more information.

### Amazon Smile

Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible purchases to The Lisa Libraries. Start shopping at [Smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://Smile.amazon.com), and you will continue to support the Lisa Libraries.

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## Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that the Lisa Libraries was established more than 25 years ago. In that time we've outgrown my spare bedroom – the Lisa Libraries' first home – and moved to a space in Kingston, NY, that's lined with bookshelves and has plenty of room for volunteers. In all those years, though, our mission has remained the same: to put new books into the hands of underserved children, some of whom may never have owned a book before. Libraries have been established in

prison visiting rooms and Head Start centers; books have been donated to food banks and to children in the foster care system.

Read on to find out what's been happening at the Lisa Libraries in the last few months, starting with a donation of books and audio CDs to students in Homer, LA.

Happy reading!

*Ann Martin*

## Bookworms: Homer, LA Donation



***Homer High School students selecting books as incentive prizes at their awards assembly at the end of the grading period***

In Homer, LA, where all the schools are Title I, where 100% of the students qualify for the free lunch program, and where 82% of the student population is classified as economically disadvantaged, bookworms abound! The books in their Lisa Libraries' donation were given to students at both the elementary and high school levels as incentive rewards for academic excellence.

Suddenly students began participating in the Accelerated Reader program and working to improve their grades.



As the librarian at Homer High School reported, "Our students were truly surprised and delighted to receive the young adult fiction books. Many of our students do not have personal funds to purchase their own books...They were so excited to receive them."

*"As a teacher who has always hunted for books in the bargain bins or clearance aisles at bookstores... to be able to hand a student a brand-new book of their own – that was a fabulous feeling!"*

– Lisa Owens, Librarian  
Homer High School

# Literacy Day

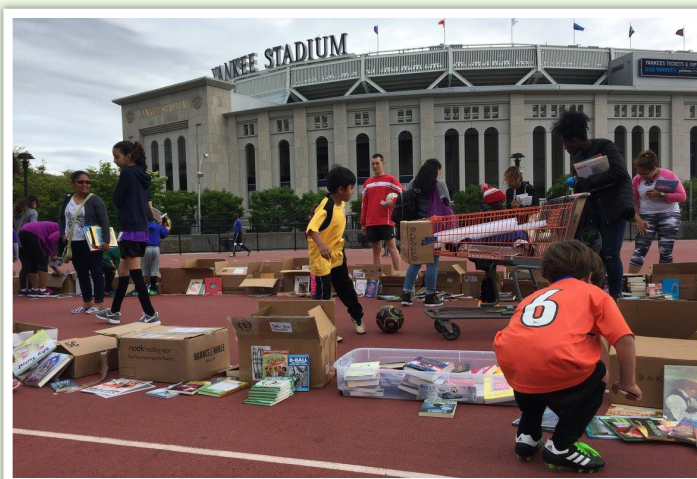
Yankee Stadium might be home to Aaron Judge and CC Sabathia, but once a year the lucky students participating in South Bronx United's Literacy Day are welcomed to Macomb's Dam Field across from the stadium for soccer activities and games – and the opportunity to take home free books.

In May, the Lisa Libraries donated 600 books to the 7th annual Literacy Day, serving children in a community with the highest poverty rate in the country, and one of the lowest graduation rates.

More than 600 young people and their families attended the event, at which high schoolers read to younger children and books were put into the hands of the students, after everyone let off steam on the soccer field.



*High school students and SBU leaders conduct reading circles*



*Children and their families selecting books after soccer activities and games*

## Recent Donations

It's only August and already the Lisa Libraries has made more than 40 donations of books to organizations from San Francisco to DC, from Bena, MN, to Arlington, TX. Among the recipients were:

- The **Hopewell Food Pantry** in Chester, VA, where volunteer Jeannine Commander told us "Our clients are thrilled and amazed that their children actually get to keep the beautiful new books they have chosen."
- The **AJ Williams-Myers African Roots Center** in Kingston, NY, newly established to promote literacy through learning about the African roots experience.
- The **Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shing School** in the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota, serving Native American students, 25% of whom are in the school's special education program, and 100% of whom qualify for the free lunch program.
- **Dr. Jordan Nash**, a pediatrician in West Virginia serving one of the neediest populations in the country. In addition to quietly providing his clients with everything from car seats for infants to money for medication, he makes sure that each of his young patients leaves his office with a book to read. The Lisa Libraries donated 200 brand new books to Dr. Nash.



# Community Awards

The Lisa Libraries is honored to have received two community awards in 2017. For a number of years we've partnered with Gateway Community Industries Employment Services by providing volunteer opportunities to people with varying abilities who are eager to enter or re-enter the work force. In February two members of the Gateway team arrived at our office to present us with a handsome plaque.

Thank you, Gateway, both for the honor, and for sending dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers our way!

The Lisa Libraries was also honored to be chosen by the Kingston Parks and Recreation Commission to receive an award recognizing us as an organization that contributes



***Marsha Sebro,  
Director Employment  
Services, presenting to  
Ann M. Martin***



***Kingston Mayor Steve Noble presenting  
the award to the Lisa Libraries. Volunteer  
Angela DiBella is accepting the award***

to the Commission's mission of "creating community through people, parks, and programs." Our volunteer team joined us at the Andy Murphy Midtown Neighborhood Center to accept

the award and to have our picture taken with Steve Noble, the mayor of Kingston, NY.

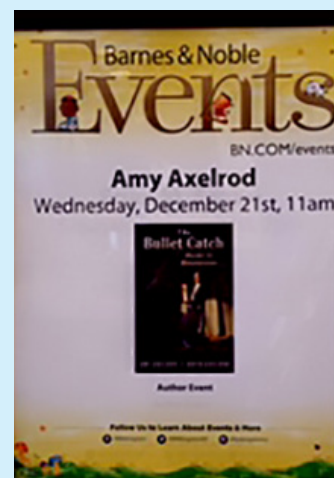
Thank you, everyone! We are very grateful.

# Our Friends at Barnes and Noble

Each year at the holidays our friends at the Barnes and Noble store in Kingston, NY, offer not-for-profit organizations the opportunity to provide gift-wrapping services to store customers in exchange for donations. The Lisa Libraries was lucky enough to be selected for a morning of gift-wrapping last December. Ellen Luksberg and Ann Martin, along with five volunteers, including local author Amy Axelrod, greeted customers, spread the word about the Lisa Libraries, and wrapped books, CDs, and board games, as well as several spatially challenging gifts. In addition, Amy signed copies of her most recent book,



*The Bullet Catch*, while Ann signed copies of *The Doll People Set Sail* and *Missy Piggle-Wiggle and the Whatever Cure*.



At the end of our shift the Lisa Libraries had made several new friends, and our tip jar was full!

# Thank you for your support!

## GOLD BOOKMARK

Klock Kingston Foundation  
Brian Selznick and David Serlin

## SILVER BOOKMARK

Catherine and Peter Gordon  
Patsy Jensen  
Kingston Kiwanis Club  
Librarians for Social Justice

## BRONZE BOOKMARK

Nina Agel  
Florence and Michael Barkan  
Marjorie and Jeff Bauml  
Adam Engle and Ellen Feinstein  
Vicki Erwin  
Susan and Larry Feldman  
James Howe  
Deborah Rice Jensen  
Daniel Kaufman  
Joan and Peter Kaufman  
Ellen and Marc Luksberg  
Barbara Marcus  
Henry Martin  
Mary McCarthy  
Helen Mendoza  
Mercedes Benz of  
Wappinger's Falls  
Joyce Nicol  
Rhinebeck Bank  
Ella Schaap  
Stewarts Foundation  
Carol Tabasko and  
Matthew Parrinello  
Thomas Thaler  
Randi and Jerry Tisch

## COPPER BOOKMARK

Stephanie Calmenson  
Barbara and Joseph Cohen  
John Culshaw  
Andy Douglas  
Marge and Daniel Gagnon  
Eli Goldner  
Greg Holch  
Karen and Randy Hesse  
Marcia Leonard  
Andrea Lurie (Esopus  
Strength & Fitness)  
Elyse Mansfield  
Nadina Milicevic  
L.Montano and Sons  
Constance Novek  
Beverly Parra  
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