



THE LITERACY COUNCIL
OF LANCASTER-LEBANON

Nomination Form

2016 Jay Lathem Organizational Literacy Award

Please return nomination form via email or snail mail to:

The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon
Attn: Jay Lathem Award Committee
24 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
cheryl@getliterate.org

Due Date: June 30, 2016

Purpose: The purpose of the Jay Lathem Organizational Literacy Award is to recognize an organization that has been instrumental in supporting adult and family literacy education in Lancaster and/or Lebanon County. This support could take many forms including financial support, donations of space or materials, personnel support, or any type of support that has made a significant impact in addressing the educational needs of low-literate adults and their families.

Background: Thomas Jefferson underscored the critical importance of literacy when he said, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be. An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.”¹

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, over 15% of people 16 years and older in Lancaster and Lebanon counties lack the basic literacy skills to be safe and productive in their lives.² The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon is committed to helping adults acquire the education and training they need to function effectively in their roles as workers, family members and citizens. One aspect of that commitment is formally recognizing individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in addressing the needs of low-literate adults in the two-county area.

About John Brace Latham – 1939 – 2012



All who knew Jay Latham agree that he was funny, kind, considerate, gentle, highly intelligent, and above all, creative in everything that he undertook. Born and raised in New York City and Connecticut, for many years Jay lived in New York finding great meaning in his friends, art, travel, books, good food and conversation, and the art of cooking.

Jay both collected and created beautiful things throughout his life. He made pottery and dishes, produced paintings and drawings, and loved preparing wonderful foods for his

¹ <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/officers/past/kranich/demo/quotes>

² <http://nces.ed.gov>

friends. As he grew older, he acquired antique porcelains, ceramics, and books. Jay also discovered a passion for antique clocks.

In the mid 1980's Jay's interest in clocks led him to Lancaster County, where he studied clock repair and construction at Bowman Technical School. Already an avid collector, he single-handedly designed and constructed two clocks: a stunning shelf clock and a more ambitious tall-case regulator. Jay relocated to Lancaster County where he became involved with the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, PA and served as a trustee of the Von Hess Foundation, an organization charged with oversight of Wright's Ferry Mansion in Columbia.

Jay's home was filled with English and French ceramics, rare books and antique and reproduction furniture – much of which he designed himself. The walls were adorned with the work of contemporary artists whom he admired, and each room resounded with the melodic ticking and chiming of his antique clocks.

A true Renaissance man, Jay delighted in sharing his knowledge and his world with others. It was this generosity of spirit that led him to volunteering as a tutor with the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon. Not only was Jay passionate about reading and writing, he felt the need to help others to do both, and to do them well. Jay loved his students, many of whom were from other countries and came to the Literacy Council to learn English. While he taught, he relished learning about his students' lives, interests and their cultures. His voracious reading, love of travel and passion for the arts allowed him to connect with learners of all types and brought tremendous breadth and depth to his instruction. Among his students, Jay was beloved for his joie de vivre, gentleness and compassion. In every way, Jay exemplified the spirit of a community literacy leader.

Selection Process and Criteria: Nominations are solicited annually between April 1st and June 30th of each year. Nominations are reviewed by the Jay Lathem Award Committee, which is comprised of board members of the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon and past award recipients. Award recipients are formally recognized during National Literacy Week in September of each year.

The following criteria are used to evaluate nominations for the Jay Lathem Organizational Award:

Each of the following criteria will be scored as follows:

- 5 points – Nominee has consistently demonstrated community leadership in this area
- 3 points – Nominee has demonstrated significant community leadership in this area on at least one occasion
- 1 point – Nominee has supported the community in this important area

1. This organization has been instrumental in helping the community to recognize the magnitude of its literacy problem and the impact low-literacy has on community and economic development in the region.	
2. This organization has contributed significant resources (e.g., money, people, materials, time) to addressing adult and family literacy issues in Lancaster and/or Lebanon County.	
3. Due to the efforts of this organization, low-literate adults and their families in the region have been better able to achieve their educational goals.	
4. This organization serves as a literacy leader exemplar for other organizations in Lancaster and/or Lebanon County.	

Nomination Form Directions: Please complete the following nomination form providing as much detail as possible and citing specific examples, as appropriate. The nomination narrative should not exceed 5 pages, single spaced. Up to 5 (optional) letters of support may be included with the nomination narrative.

Organization being Nominated:	Nominated by (please include name, affiliation, phone and email)
Nominee Address:	Nominee Contact Person (please include name, title, phone and email):
Does the nominee contact person know his/her organization has been nominated for this award? ___ yes ___ no ___ I don't know	Has this organization previously received the Jay Lathem Literacy Award? ___ yes ___ no ___ I don't know

Application Narrative

1. Please describe how this organization has helped the Lancaster and/or Lebanon County community recognize the magnitude of its literacy problem and the impact low-literacy has on community and economic development in the region.
2. What resources has this organization contributed toward supporting the needs of low-literate adults and their family in the region?
3. How has this organization helped low-literate adults and their families achieve their educational goals?
4. In what ways does this organization serve as a literacy leader exemplar for other organizations in the community?
5. Please include any additional information about this organization that you believe would help the award committee understand how this organization has served as a literacy leader in Lancaster and/or Lebanon County.

Please limit the nomination narrative to 5 pages, single spaced, with one inch margins and a minimum font size of 12.