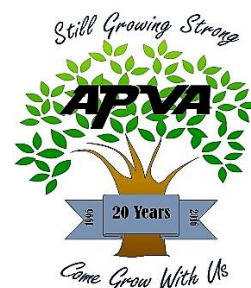




APVA Member Spotlight



November 2016

www.apvali.org

Colleen Moseman, Director -Long Island Toy Lending Center for Children with Disabilities

I was hired by the Nassau Library System in 1986 to run the Lekotek Center (Swedish for play Library) for children with disabilities at the East Rockaway Library until funding was cut in 1991. I have a Master's Degree in Special Education and learned through experience and professional workshops offered by organizations such as APVA how to succeed. After facing many challenges of funding and relocation, I incorporated the Center as a not for profit agency, the Long Island Toy Lending Center for Children with Disabilities. As the sole member of the staff for 30 years, I rely upon the kindness of others to help maintain services at the Center. Volunteers from local High Schools assist with the children for respite programs helping with preparing meals, crafts and playing games. Volunteers devote their time as aides working in the office helping with administrative duties, fundraising events and toy inventory.

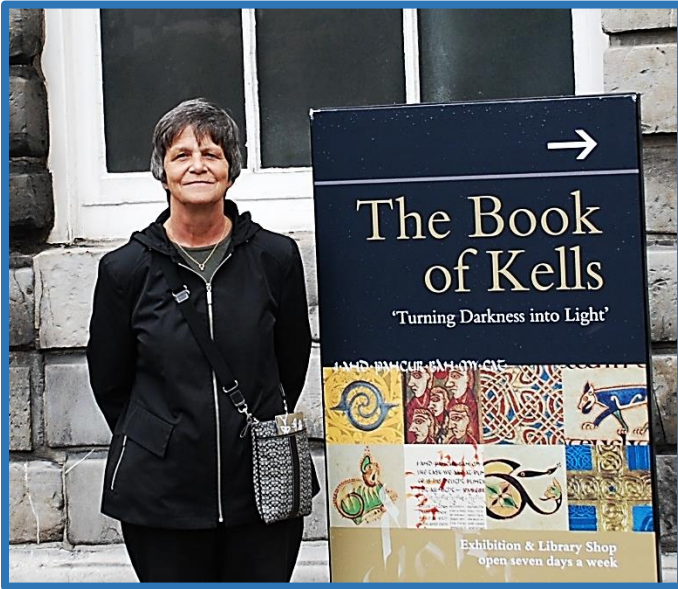


About Long Island Toy Lending Center for Children with Disabilities

The Long Island Toy Lending Center for Children with Disabilities is a resource center located at the Town of Hempstead East Marina and the Farmingdale Public Library since 1996. The Center provides children with disabilities toys and equipment to help include them in the family and community through play. In monthly play sessions, toys are selected from an inventory of adapted and conventional toys. The Center also offers time for play groups, respite and a social group for older members who have graduated from individual play sessions. The Center is funded through grants from the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities and private foundations. Much of the funds come from fund raising events such as the Dance by the Sea.



LITLC Volunteer- Kathy Tolan



I'm sorry to say I am honoring Kathy Tolan posthumously as an outstanding volunteer whom I have known since the inception of the Toy Center at the East Rockaway Library. She continued to remain connected after the Center relocated and began volunteering at the marina site a few years before she retired in 2012. I appreciated the sheepish grin and question "what are we doing today?" as she walked in the door. She learned over time that could be a loaded question.

Some days I was calling on her expertise of computer skills to create a flyer or work on a grant application and other tasks could involve soliciting for raffle prizes. I would call her a Renaissance woman as we're repairing a screen, assembling and marking toys or helping with the children whenever I

needed the extra pair of hands. She was always sensitive to the needs of the children and marveled at the strength of the parents who walked through the door with the optimism and resilience she admired. She was my rock, my anchor, my "go to person", and the pillar of wisdom.

I will never forget her generosity in helping with the recovery of the Center after Superstorm Sandy devastated the building. Kathy was there to clean up, clear out and pack up the contents of the building for renovations. She was willing to help knock down a wall or cut sheetrock. She saw the unending challenges of renovating the Center by volunteers who had little more time to give. She handed me a donation to hire a carpenter to finish the job. Kathy was a huge part of organizing our fundraising "Dance by the Sea" and was generous in her time of whatever it took to have a successful event. It has been said, "Your life is your message" and the truth is it came through loud and clear saying little, acting much in the lowest of tones for the good of all. Kathy is sorely missed at LITLC and we are forever grateful for her kindness.