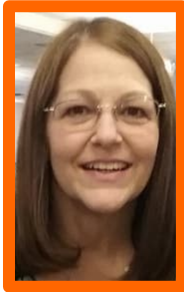


# Young Scholars LPP Mentoring Newsletter



Linda Stewart  
Mentor Coordinator

Newsletter  
January - July 2020



## ***NEW MENTORS***

### ***Welcome:***

***Ebony Stenson-former YS and former mentee***

***Nicholas Salamone-community***

***Devin Sonne-community***

"The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own."

*Benjamin Disraeli*

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Special thanks to First Source Federal Credit Union for their continued support of our mentoring program on a virtual platform.

FSFCU is sponsoring 4 events during July and August.

**GROW BIG DREAMS**

## BOOKS & BINGO AT Utica College March 1, 2020



*This was our last in person event prior to COVID 19. As you can see from the photos we had pizza, prizes and tons of fun!*

*Although we all are adjusting to virtual mentoring, we certainly are looking forward to being able to gather and see our mentees/mentors in person. At this time, all mentoring will continue virtually until further notice. I will be the first one to post on our FB page and group email when we are allowed to meet face to face until then let's embrace what we have and enjoy mentoring in a new way!*







Books.  
Books.  
Books.







PIZZA





## CONNECTION IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

“As a movement committed to relationships and proximity, we are thinking deeply about what the COVID-19 pandemic means for youth mentoring relationships and ensuring they are sustained in ways that are intentional and safe.

As our physical routines are broken and movements are restricted, it can lead to us becoming trapped in an information overload and disconnected from relationships that provide so much we need in times like these. It is important to balance being informed with recognizing and acting on our need to reach outward to the people in our communities so we are there for each other.

In confusing times, when we are enduring something for the first time, being there for each other (even if not in physical proximity), listening to individual and unique concerns, owning what we do and don't know, and showing up in whatever way makes sense is as powerful as ever. You know that and make that a reality every day a million times over in America.

The relationships you have created especially pay dividends in times like these when we need folks to lean on. We just want to make sure we're here for you and that we are elevating concerns and solutions, advocating, and doing all we can to serve those who strengthen our fabric every day”.

David Shapiro  
President & CEO  
MENTOR

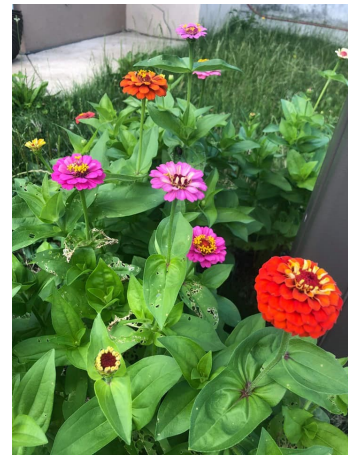
This is only an excerpt of Mr. Shapiro's original letter.  
The letter in its entirety is available at:  
<https://www.mentoring.org/2020/03/mentors-covid-19-announcement/>



## *Seeds of Hope*



We asked mentors to purchase 2 identical packages of either flower or vegetable seeds and mail one package to their mentee with basic planting instructions. The fun part of this has been comparing our plants as they begin to germinate and then grow into beautiful flowers or yummy vegetables. We had great fun and I found out one of my mentees has a green thumb!



Asha took the challenge head on! Quite a garden if you ask me!







**New Mentor**  
**Former Young Scholar**  
**and former mentee**  
**Ebony Stenson**

My name is Ebony Stenson, I am a former Young Scholar student, a graduate from Utica College, and a mentee as well. I currently work as an Activities Director at The Pines at Utica Nursing home. I had a mentor since I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Having a mentor helped me to see things from a different perspective and made me feel as though I can create goals and reach them. My mentor and I now consider ourselves as friends, we still meet for dinner and reach out to each other during the hol-

idays. I decided to become a mentor during this time, because I feel it is a necessity more now than ever to be a remodel for our youth. I sat at my home thinking on ways that I can make a difference, and I suddenly remembered all of the obstacles that were presented to me during my youth, and how having a mentor helped me see things differently. I never saw myself as a director of activities at a nursing home, let alone a graduate from Utica College. I realized the one way that I can make a difference and be a part of the change for our youth is becoming a mentor and giving to the youth what was given to me, a chance to see things from a different perspective, the ability to push through limits, and continue the path of change.

I cannot emphasize enough how much I felt like I was in a whole different world when I had people from Young Scholars and my mentor pushing me and helping me see my potential and my abilities. It really helped to play apart in shaping me into the women that I am today, thus which brings me to feel such passion to give back. I do understand, that due to the current circumstances, I will be participating in a virtual mentoring experience, I find this very creative and also a great way to build a rapport with my mentee, while still being able to be a support during these difficult times. I hope that I can accomplish my goals as being a mentor and I hope to help assist my mentee with accomplishing her goals as well. I will be forever grateful to help Young Scholars and all of those who have played a part in helping me to succeed. I am happy that now I can finally give back in any way that I can, and will continue to build from here! Thank you Young Scholars, HEOP, Utica College, and my friend, my mentor Ann Kent- Kwasniewski.



Even during a pandemic our students were able to find a way to give back! They made cards on the computer and we had them printed and sent to hospitals all over the United States!

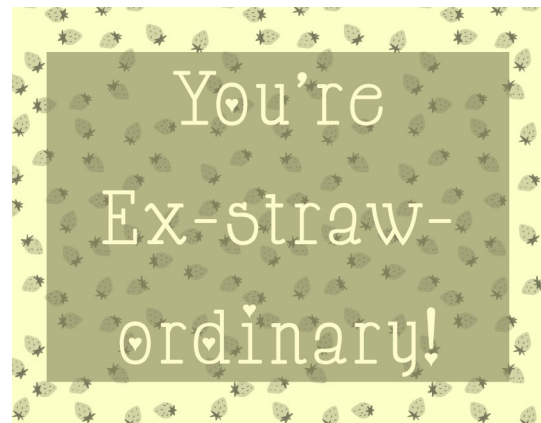


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This is a just a sample of some of the cards from several of the students.

# VOLUNTEER

This year for the first time we asked our mentors/mentees to create fundraising baskets as a community service project. I was so surprised at how many joined in the fun and also how creative the baskets were. Here are just some of the baskets the mentors/mentees came up with.







GENEROUS  
 GIVING  
 BUILD  
 AWARENESS  
 ASSISTANCE  
 CARE  
 MORAL  
 RESPECT  
 TOGETHERNESS  
 HOME  
 HELPING  
 CHARITY  
 ALTRUISTIC  
 LIFE  
 VOLUNTEER  
 COMMUNITY  
 CONTRIBUTION  
 SUPPORT  
 HOPE  
 TEAMWORK  
 PERSON  
 MISSION





## FEATURED MENTOR

I am a retired Utica elementary teacher. I learned about Young Scholars because as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, I had the privilege each year of nominating students to possibly be selected as Young Scholars. While teaching, one of my accepted students asked me to be her mentor. That was quite a few years ago. Presently I am mentoring 4 girls – sisters Kouboura and Sadia, Hel K and Lin. I met Kouboura and Sadia when they were in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Their brother was in my class at Donovan. Imagine my surprise when 7 years later I attended the welcoming for the new cohort of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and there was Kouboura! We connected and I offered to be her mentor. I invited her to welcome a fellow Young Scholar to join us and that was how I met Hel K. I then discovered that her sister Sadia had already been in YS for a year so she joined in along with her friend Lin. We have become like a family. We do community service together, like Christmas on Main St. My favorite fun activity we do every year is shopping the sales at the Mall during winter break. Recently I was able to help Sadia obtain her working papers which was a challenge with schools closed. We have developed a bond that will last well beyond high school graduation. I love these girls!!

**Deb Martin, Mentor**



**This year Young Scholars LPP had 6 Teen All Stars!**  
**Three of the 6 also were fortunate to have amazing mentors.**

“This awards shows that student-athletes in my school can find that balance between school and sports.”

**SALEH ELYTAYEB**



**Eltayeb balances academics, sports**

He is a student-athlete at Thomas R. Proctor Senior High School who is a member of the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award team. He is a member of the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award team. He is a member of the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award team.

Long before I became their mentor, Phillip and Saleh were on the way to success. Both are intelligent, friendly, athletic, and involved. Family, friends, school, coaches and of course Young Scholars have helped keep them on a good path. They will be starting at Hamilton College this Fall and I'm looking forward to see how they will shine. True Teen All Stars.

Though I will be moving this Fall, I know we will keep in touch. Sometimes with a text. Sometimes just showing up at one of their sporting events. Sometimes just knowing that there's someone around if they have a question or need help.

Patrick Knapp, Mentor

Teen All Star  
 Saleh Elytayeb  
 Mentor: Patrick Knapp

“Core values are a source of greatness that can define success for many people.”

**MARIA HTOO**



**Htoo inspired by sister to join NJROTC**

Thomas R. Proctor Senior High School senior Maria Htoo does not shy away from challenges. By participating in leadership programs, joining NJROTC, plus having a rigorous workload, extracurricular activities and soccer, she's gained a confidence in herself that prepares her to expand her horizons and embrace her future.

“With ambition, also comes determination and a venturesome mindset.”

**PHILLIP LE**



**Le driven by ambition**

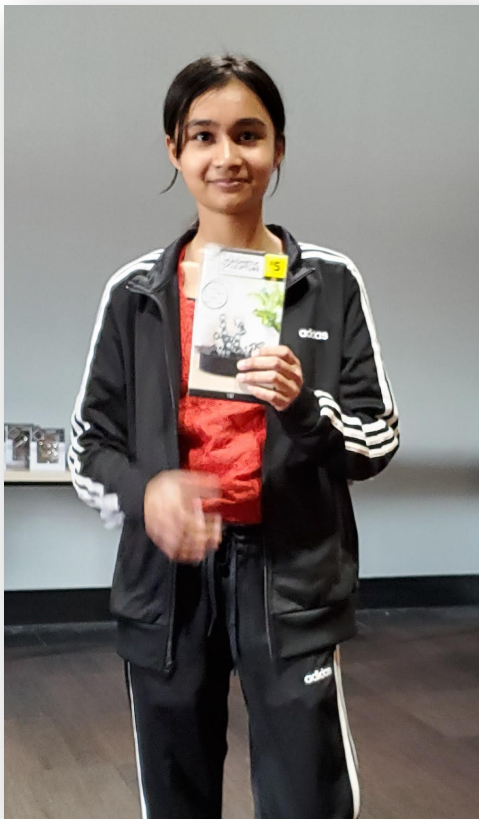
Raised by a strong, single mother, Thomas R. Proctor Senior High School senior Phillip Le understands the sacrifices she made by working two jobs to help Le and his brother succeed in life while cherishing strong family values.

Teen All Star  
 Maria Htoo  
 Mentor: Juanita Fuentes Chubbuck

Teen All Star  
 Phillip Le  
 Mentor: Patrick Knapp



Original art work by Sakay Da



Sakay's mentor advised me that Sakay had sent her a video of a painting she created. I was so impressed I asked her mentor if she would ask Sakay if it would be OK if I shared it in our newsletter.

Sakay was very nice to send me a photo of her piece and she told me that she started painting since she has been home due to COVID. I was very impressed and thought it might just encourage others to try something new. You just never know what talents you have.

Great Job Sakay!



## COME JOIN US UPCOMING EVENTS...

August 12 - 7 pm on Zoom

First Source Federal Credit Union—financial literacy presentation.

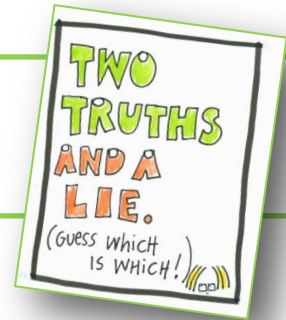
August 26 - 7 pm on Zoom

Tape Painting - creative arts project (Please RSVP)



Date & Time in September to be determined - 7pm Zoom Event

Two Truths and A Lie – Date & Time to be determined  
Mentees will be testing mentors in this round of  
Two Truths and A Lie



## Community Service

**gotsneakers?**  
A Sneaker Recycling Organization

Please join us for our ongoing community service project. This project will start in late August or early September. By participating, you'll help keep sneakers out of landfills, protecting our environment, while sending shoes to children across the world in places such as the Central America, South America and West Africa. You and your mentee would each collect sneakers and hold them for collection/pick up. (We are still doing no contact so it will be post COVID)

Once I receive the sneakers (in any condition) I ship them to the company and Young Scholars will be given a check which will then be donated by the students to a food bank in Utica! Students would also earn community service hours based on how many sneakers are collected.

# Community Service

Mentors mail a box of sidewalk chalk to their mentees. Mentees create a positive art piece and take a photo of the piece which will be shared on the YS Facebook page. Students will earn up to 1 hour of community service depending on the complexity of the piece. They must use between 2 and 4 sidewalk squares.



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

