

Volunteer of the Month – Lauren Little

by Bernie Michel

I first ran into Lauren during the Pollinator Festival in September 2018 at Trinity Episcopal. Carol Padberg, at the time an AHNA Board member, produced it along with Emily Petersen and Lauren. It was a remarkably creative event, and a dream for a photographer. There were costumes, puppets, crafts and lots of kids and all of it was intended to lead the kids to a positive feeling toward pollinators. Recently Lauren has been showing up at various meetings of the Environment and Green Initiatives Task Force for the Strategic Planning Committee for Asylum Hill. She moved to Asylum Hill because as she put it, “I was looking for diversity that I wasn’t finding in Windsor Locks.” Happily she seems to have found it here. Besides the Environment and Green Initiatives Task Force, she has worked or volunteered at Trinity Academy, The Boy’s & Girls Club, and Organized Parents Make a Difference; all in Asylum Hill.

But her efforts don’t stop at Asylum Hill borders. Earlier this year, she was a panelist for Black History 365 at UCONN School of Social Work. On their website her “more info” includes eleven organizations she has either worked or volunteered at, and they didn’t even include Night Fall. She is their Director of Community Engagement.

Lauren speaks of herself as an urban farmer, educator and activist. Her through line seems to be that she’s all about growing, growing the future. She grows good food to feed the children. She teaches children to grow good food. What interests her most are better ways to grow better food, and better techniques to show children how and why to grow good food.

Her “occupation” is Lauren Little Edutainment LLC. Unlike old people, she doesn’t have a website. Instead she has Link Tree at <https://linktr.ee/Laurenlit> . with 11 different links to the things she’s doing.

Lauren has what seems like boundless energy, which is great for her and Asylum Hill where the need and the opportunity are boundless.

