

Volunteers Emeriti

This past month the Asylum Hill and the broader Hartford Community lost two very important volunteers, although that was the title for neither.

On November 6th, Lynn Robertson Lake passed on at the age of 86. She was a fixture in Asylum Hill especially on the part of Ashley St where she lived for 35 years. Her gift to the neighborhood was to clean up the litter along the block or so of her street every day, which included the Sigourney Market across from her, year in and year out. She was also known as the owner of the most beautiful flower garden, front and back yard, on a street of long term gardeners. In September of 2015, she was featured on the News & Views as Volunteer of the month, and the article can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/y8bhnxkc>



The following week, Hartford and Asylum Hill lost Linda Bayer. No matter what her job title from Assistant City Manager to Executive Director of Hartford 2000, to Legislative Assistant to the Mayor, and the many roles she played in bringing about and nurturing Hartford Decides, the People's Budget, and many other initiatives, her efforts always exceeded her job title, whether she was being paid or not.

For AHNA, she was there as Assistant City Manager when Asylum Hill formed one of the first Problem Solving Committees, and later helped in the transition to NRZ. As AHNA grew and matured Linda was often a facilitator of our Board Retreats as well as facilitating the development of the Welcoming Committee. It really seemed like everywhere we turned, if it was an important City meeting, Linda was there, gently guiding and advising, and always with a smile.

It's people like these, that when we lose them, especially so close together, we realize how much we depended on them. They will sorely be missed. They both gave us a lifelong example of a life of volunteering effort to the community. If enough of us can follow their example, then their efforts will continue to blossom and grow.

A donation in Lynn Lake's name can be made to Knox, Inc. (www.knoxhartford.org) as they are planting and dedicating a tree in her honor.

A Memorial for Linda is being planned for February 2019. Memorial Donations may be made in Linda's name to Christ The King parish, Wethersfield or to the Hartford Public Library.