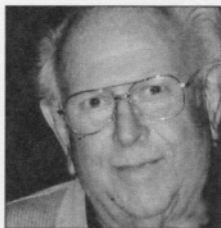


## Harry Scher 2017 Literacy Champion



Harry Scher's involvement with Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County began in 1989 when he saw an article in the Asbury Park Press that LV Monmouth was looking for volunteer tutors. Harry signed up, took the training and he has been tutoring ever since. While with LVMC, Harry has tutored an immense variety of students, run tutor workshops and was board president for two years.

Harry began working with LVMC because he knew from personal experience how difficult it was to learn the English language. Harry was born in 1921 in Vienna, Austria. He moved to the United States in 1938 not speaking a word of English. When he first arrived, Harry would attend movies and watch the same movie two or three times to familiarize himself with the English language. "I like the idea of getting people to learn English," he said. "When I came to America, no one would learn German to communicate with me, so I had no choice but to learn the English language to communicate with them." Harry says "the toughest parts of tutoring are to first know yourself, the complications of the English language, then being able to teach it." Just like everything else in life, Harry says "in order to learn the English language, you must go slowly and take the time to absorb the language." He should know, as he will celebrate his 96th birthday this year!

Before joining Literacy Volunteers, Harry worked with a company called Wells National Services where he rented TV sets to hospital patients. Even before this, Harry was a radio operator and part of the U.S. Army's 8th Infantry Division, 121st Regiment during World War II. Harry was ecstatic when he joined the Army due to his love of traveling. Harry not only tutors ESL adult students, he volunteers at CentraState Hospital twice a week, delivers meals-on-wheels to those in his living community every Friday and tutors children from the Manalapan Yeshiva School. When Harry is not volunteering, he enjoys collecting stamps, baccarat and the historical fiction novels of Web Griffin.

Harry is the father of two sons, has three grand-daughters, who now have their own daughters, giving Harry three great-granddaughters as well.

Literacy Volunteers is proud and pleased to honor Harry Scher with our 2017 Literacy Champion award in recognition of his dedication to adult literacy.