

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Harry Reingold upon the occasion of Literacy Partners' naming of its annual Volunteer Teacher's Award the Harry Reingold Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award in his honor

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to others merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Harry Reingold truly merits the high honor of Literacy Partners' naming of its annual Volunteer Teacher's Award the Harry Reingold Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award in his honor; and

WHEREAS, The second Harry Reingold Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award will be presented at the Second Annual Reingold Volunteer Fund Benefit to be held at TAI on Thursday, June 20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Harry Reingold was a real New Yorker; he was born and brought up in Brooklyn; he attended and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School; and

WHEREAS, He worked his way through college as a cab driver, a chauffeur for the United Nations, and a post office clerk; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from New York University and went into advertising and started his own agency, Harry Reingold Advertising; and

WHEREAS, Harry was crazy about books and, from the time he learned to read never went anywhere without a book; riding a bus or subway without something to read was just not possible for him and, as a teenager, when he was home with a fever, his mother told him to stay in bed, but when she left the house he snuck out to the corner store where he had just enough money to buy a second-hand paperback; and

WHEREAS, At a social dinner he met Marilyn Collins, then one of the heads of Literacy Partners, and when she told Harry about that non-profit organization and its goal to teach some of the two million illiterate New Yorkers to read and write, he immediately decided to become a volunteer; and

WHEREAS, He enrolled in a course at Literacy Partners, which has provided more than 30,000 adults with free educational services and, after a short time, he was sent to teach in Harlem; once a week, he would leave his office and rush uptown where he taught and learned to care about his pupils; forming more than just a teacher-student relationship, Harry and the people in his classes, all adults, became friends; and

WHEREAS, They shared stories about their lives, their problems, and their hopes for the future; growing up in East New York, as he had, they were able to make comparisons and had much in common; and

WHEREAS, Harry Reingold was a Literacy Partners volunteer teacher for six years and only stopped teaching when his health would not allow him to continue; his students never forgot him, and kept in touch with cards and photos; and

WHEREAS, Harry loved to read, and to write; a number of his articles appeared in the magazine AD AGE, and he co-authored the published novel LOVERS with his wife, the writer Carmel Berman Reingold; and

WHEREAS, Literacy Partners has justly and fittingly honored Harry Reingold by naming its annual Volunteer Teacher Award the Harry Reingold Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award in his honor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the work of and the dedication of Harry Reingold upon the occasion of Literacy Partners' naming of its annual Volunteer Teacher's Award the Harry Reingold Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award in his honor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carmel Reingold and to Literacy Partners.