



# Winant Clayton Vounteers 2010

## From the UK Chair

Winant Clayton Volunteers in the UK is celebrating another successful exchange upon the completion of our 51st volunteer exchange. We sent 12 Claytons to the US and received 11 Winants. The Winants, as always, were deeply involved at their placements and set up a range of American-themed activities including an "America Day" and a "4th of July" day.

Outside of the exchange, we had an eventful year becoming increasingly integrated with the community. In January, for Martin Luther King Day, we coordinated a volunteering day at one of our placements for the current US Ambassador and his colleagues at the Embassy. In July, we held a Garden Party again with a placement and invited corporate contacts, alumni and the Winants. Recently, WCV hired Tallulah Staple who will be our fundraiser. Welcome Tallulah!

However, despite these successes, we are continuing to struggle financially in the aftermath of the recession. Many of you will have already been targeted by our alumni fundraising project. Please consider donating to WCV, either by standing order or a one-off donation which can be made via our website; or alternatively by volunteering your time. Please see below for details. It is only through your support that we will be able to have a sustainable future and be able to provide the programme for years to come.

Open positions:

Board of Trustees

\* Treasurer

\* Fundraiser

Volunteers

\* Fundraising

\* IT Volunteer

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact us on [info@winantclayton.org.uk](mailto:info@winantclayton.org.uk) and we will get back to you. If you think you have something to offer outside of the specific positions list, again please get in touch!

**Lily Dey, Chair**

## From the US Chair

The US WCV would like to add our best wishes and thanks to Gemma. Her support and guidance for Dinushka in her early days was crucial at a time of transition.

This newsletter introduces some of the 2009 volunteers along with new placements. Much has happened despite all odds – rising costs, typically unexpected and last minute.

The UK government has implemented more stringent visa requirements and for a short while it was unclear how the exchange would even continue. However, with true cooperation between the UK and the US, Gemma, Dinushka and the two Boards helped to guide the Winants through this new sea of paper work and requirements. The input of all, including the volunteers, for this upcoming year is going to be vital.

One of my goals coming into this position was to update some of our components namely the by-laws and mission statement. This would put us in a better position to enhance the Board and seek funding.

To all who have worked so hard with the strong assistance of Dinushka, it is much appreciated. If we could be assured of correct contact information, we would be better able to get help from non-NYC based people on projects.

Please look out for the letter of request for funding that will shortly follow this newsletter. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

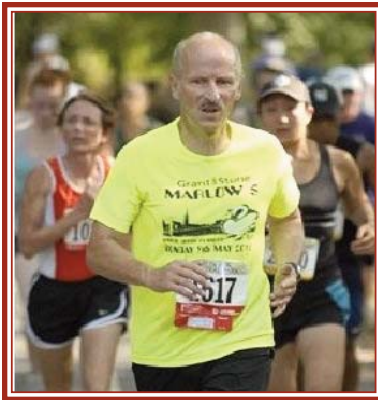
Major changes to US WCV:

\* The by laws now reflect the way we have been operating, as many of you know, for at least 30 years – a Board run, rather than member driven organization. These may be viewed on request to the WCV office.

\* The updated mission statement is on the web site.

\* To be consistent with the UK, we are now the Winant Clayton Volunteers, Inc.

**Margie Staker, President**



## From our 2010 Winants and Claytons

*This summer has been one of the best of my life and I can't ever thank WCV enough for helping with everything. I felt safe and supported every step of the way.*

*This summer has been eye opening, and ultimately life changing. I have learnt a lot about myself and others, experienced highs and lows and made lifelong friendships. Thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.*

*My experience in New York has had a dramatic impact on me both personally and professionally. Personally, my placement has increased my confidence and taught me to seize new opportunities. In a professional context the placement has had a positive impact on my time management and interpersonal skills.*

*My placement has more than fulfilled my expectations of it. It provided new challenges and experiences that have helped me transition from the world of paid work to retirement. It gave me a depth of understanding of the USA that a holiday visit would never have achieved.*

*I have met and made some amazing new friends who I will keep in contact with. I have also thoroughly enjoyed my time in New York and believe I made the most out of my time there. It is an amazing city, and one which I will go back to again and again.*

*I believe WCV is one of those pivotal organizations that allows people, regardless of age, to travel from one to the other and learn more about these two countries, all the while doing so with a purpose.*

*Being in London was my first time travelling abroad, yet I still connected with people, experienced profound moments in conversation, saw beautiful things and absorbed life in a whole new way!*

*There will never come a time when cultural exchange is not extremely important as well as learning about helping others. WCV helped me to do those things in a location I had only dreamed of before.*

# From the 2010 Placement Supervisors

*Search and Care's relationship with Winant Clayton is older than some of their own volunteers: 30+ years! Although cash and flow are uphill battles for today's non-profits, we've succeeded in budgeting to enable us to have a volunteer each summer because it's simply that great a benefit. Especially in a small agency like ours when staff try to take time off in the summer months and our clients can finally get out more, our Winant Clayton volunteer is essential to meeting increased client needs. The fact that an intelligent, energetic, caring and dependable person gives up two months of their life and income to help our agency and our clients is an inspiration to us. Our 2010 volunteer, Victoria Ottewill, was so fabulous that we had great difficulty in letting her go back to England, and clients still express that they miss her. The bar is set very high for 2011!*

Robin Strashun,  
Outreach and Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Search and Care



*It is with great pleasure that Boys and Girls Harbor and Winant Clayton have had the opportunity to collaborate in "Educating students to be their very best." As a program director of the after school and summer day camps, I have seen volunteers from Winant Clayton contribute to our mission here at the Harbor. Every moment that the students interact with the volunteers, whether it is in the gym or during a writing assignment, a lesson is learned. Culturally, the Harbor staff, students, parents and the Winant Clayton volunteers are educated first hand about the differences as well as the similarities experienced. Exposure has opened the doors to take our students beyond a three block radius. The knowledge given and received during this brief but productive time with Winant Clayton volunteers will be remembered, cherished, shared and appreciated for years to come.*

*We can't wait to see who Winant Clayton will send on our Journeys Across Cultures next summer!*

Vanessa Taylor-Malloy  
Program Director



*We were lucky to have Ramona in the Summer of 2010. She did so much quietly and unobtrusively in the office and particularly helped us as we were going through a very time consuming recruitment process at the time. She was a godsend to the project. We would have liked her to stay with us full time.*

Sister Christine  
Neighbours In Poplar

*For two years now Barrier Free Living has been lucky enough to host Winant Clayton Volunteers. It has been so wonderful to have individuals who have such energy, care and concern to add to our team. They have brought so much to BFL and we look forward to our next volunteer.*

Cathy Gormley  
Residence Director  
Barrier Free Living

## Barrier Free Living



*Having the Winant volunteers made a big difference to the summer. Steven and Mary were invaluable in organizing and supporting people with learning disabilities on a range of summer activities - seaside trips, sports, craft days and even an American Day! They quickly settled in, got to know the guys and gave valuable support. The people who use our services really enjoy having new people to get to know. The volunteers we get from Winant Clayton are of a consistently high quality and the organisation is brilliantly organised and the volunteers well supported, which leaves them free to get on with the job!*

Verity Mihai  
Learning Disability Service Manager  
Bede House Association



*This year having the Winants was a great experience as it always is. At Mosaic, we get excited over the summer because we know we are going to share the experience of the vibrant volunteers. This year was no different, except we had a lady called Elizabeth who was a bit older than our usual volunteer. It was great working with her and hearing her experiences in her home country. Members developed new projects and shared the culinary delights which was prepared by our other volunteer Jackie. We look forward to the Winants next year.*

Thanks  
Bev Randall  
Programme Manager



*We at Ronald McDonald House New York were very fortunate to have Cat Thorton as a part of our Camp Ronald McDonald Program. For two months, Cat brought our campers on daytrips, led them through activities, and brought a smile to every face in the room. Our kids and families are incredibly grateful for everything Cat did to make the summer special. We could always count on Cat, and we can always count on Winant Clayton to send us truly outstanding volunteers like her.*

Ben Winsten  
Program Associate / Camp Director



The Ronald McDonald  
House of New York

# John Winant and Winant Clayton Volunteers

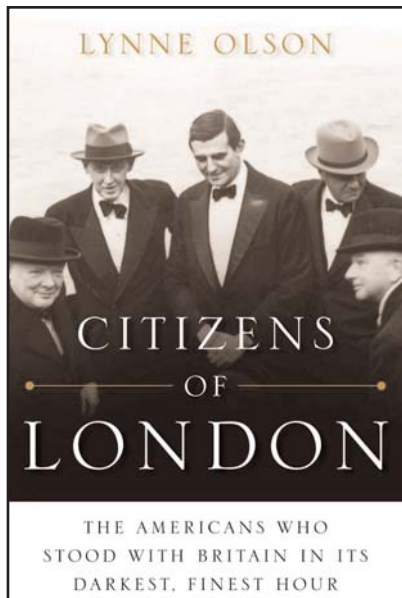
## *Citizens of London*

By Lynne Olson

Random House Publishing Group (2010)

In *Citizens of London*, Lynne Olson has written a work of World War II history even more relevant and revealing than her acclaimed *Troublesome Young Men*. Here is the behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant.

Drawing from a variety of primary sources, Olson skillfully depicts the dramatic personal journeys of these men who, determined to save Britain from Hitler, helped convince a cautious Franklin Roosevelt and a reluctant American public to support the British at a critical time.



The three—Murrow, the handsome, chain-smoking head of CBS News in Europe; Harriman, the hard-driving millionaire who ran FDR's Lend-Lease program in London; and Winant, the shy, idealistic U.S. ambassador to Britain—formed close ties with Winston Churchill and were drawn into Churchill's official and personal circles. So intense were their relationships with the Churchills that they all became romantically involved with members of the prime minister's family: Harriman and Murrow with Churchill's daughter-in-law, Pamela, and Winant with his favorite daughter, Sarah.

Others were honorary "citizens of London" as well, including the gregarious, fiercely ambitious Dwight D. Eisenhower, an obscure general who, as the first commander of American forces in Britain, was determined to do everything in his power to make the alliance a success, and Tommy Hitchcock, a world-famous polo player and World War I fighter pilot who helped save the Allies' bombing campaign against Germany.

*Citizens of London*, however, is more than just the story of these Americans and the world leaders they aided and influenced. It's an engrossing account of the transformative power of personal diplomacy and, above all, a rich, panoramic tale of two cities: Washington, D.C., a lazy

Southern town slowly growing into a hub of international power, and London, a class-conscious capital transformed by the Blitz into a model of stoic grace under violent pressure and deprivation.

Deeply human, brilliantly researched, and beautifully written, *Citizens of London* is a new triumph from an author swiftly becoming one of the finest in her field.

## Riv Winant

Riv Winant's association with the Winant Clayton Volunteers coincides with the founding of the organization in 1948. Riv, son of John G. Winant, was a student at Oxford when he met Tubby Clayton, private Chaplain to the Queen, during the first year of Winants going to London.

Riv worked with other key Winants in York City in the mid-1950s to achieve incorporation of the then League of Winant Volunteers as an entity on its own, out from under the umbrella of the All Hallows Foundation.

Then in 1959 Riv began direct involvement with the program when he chaired the selection committee, in those days a major task as we were sending 40 to 50 Winants to England each summer. His lengthy involvement culminated in his chairmanship of the organization from 1988 to 2007.

It is an understatement to say that Riv Winant, with his quiet, always courteous leadership, and his even quieter major financial support of the program, makes him one of the most important figures in the Winant Clayton Volunteers.

Edgar M. Masters '52, '54



*Riv Winant in plaid pants with cane standing with the 2009 Claytons*

## New Partnerships...

This was our first year as a participating agency in this unique professional and cultural exchange. We were very fortunate to be paired with a young woman who shared our enthusiasm and connected extremely well to our programs.



Project FIND is deeply connected to the lives of older adults through our senior centers, social services and housing. For the past 3 years we have produced a lovely calendar that strives to capture the vitality, beauty and lived experiences of

people whose lives intersect with ours and our programs. Through the efforts of Lucy Watt (Clayton Volunteer) we were able to interview close to 20 people, whose stories will now come to life in our 2011 calendar. Lucy displayed a gift for making people feel at ease and to convey their words respectfully. It was also informative for us to see our work through the fresh eyes of a keen British observer. The exchange went beyond getting the job done; it was a global connection benefiting all participants in so many ways.

On behalf of our staff,  
seniors and community  
Thank you



Steve provided steadfast, cheerful help during a difficult time of transition. His key operations background (he ran a busy airport in London prior to 'retiring') was invaluable as we underwent a large-scale renovation. When he wasn't leading the charge toward

a more organized, safe clubhouse, he was fixing things that hadn't been touched in years. In short order he got to know everyone and was an integral part of our team. He seemed to enjoy us as much as we enjoyed him, and we appreciate his eagerness to learn and become a part of us. He will always be an honorary member of the Metro Club, and Brooklyn Community Services will forever appreciate his and your help.

Lori Tannenbaum, Ph.D.  
Director of Quality Assurance  
and Special Initiatives  
Brooklyn Community Services



## Lives Touched..

We all had a great time working with our "London Lovelies" this year and we are looking forward to the years to come. Although working with children can sometimes be a challenge, both Jayme and Kate stuck it out and embraced the experience with open arms. They would often say to me "How do you do it Ms. Ashlie?" in their most regal accents. My response is patience, compassion and above all having an optimistic attitude about life and about every curve ball that comes your way. With that being said, I witnessed the blossoming of these two amazing people on a day to day basis. When you string together people who share the same passions as yourself and share moments like these, little ordinary moments that make up our days together, you understand. We teach these children because in our very little time we have with them until they are all grown up, we are creating our own heaven right here on Earth. A safe haven of learning and having a blast all at once. We leave an imprint on all the places we've visited, all the memories we will always have in our hearts and above all, the children and lives we have touched with just one summer. Thank you for allowing our program to be a part of yours.

Ashlie Aviles, Boys and Girls Harbor

Until I became a member of Fountain House I had never heard of the Clayton Volunteers, which I find to be a very unusual group. They facilitate an annual exchange program for British and American volunteers to support people like myself, who struggle and deal with mental health issues in London and New York. A prime example of this is the young lady (Kavina Kamat) I met while I was in the Clerical Unit. She extended herself beyond and above the call of duty, always being friendly and helpful in any situation that arose with the members in the Unit and clubhouse.

Alan Miller, Fountain House Client

The culinary unit was very fortunate to receive the help of our Clayton volunteer, "Balbo", this past summer. Israel Lopez worked closely with Balbo, and here are some things he has to say about how wonderful Balbo is and how helpful he was to Izzy (and the rest of us, too!): 'I thought Balbo was a great guy. He was very kind and giving. He was a person that you don't meet everyday. He was up to anything that I wanted to do - hang out, go out to eat, try different international foods. He always helped me make desserts. He went up to High Point three times, once leading a small group of us for a whole week. Even the animals were drawn to him, and there was one chicken he named because that chicken was always following him! He inspired me. He was very passionate about helping people. He never judged anybody and always put the person before himself.'

Meg and Izzy, Fountain House Clients



## A Farewell and Thank You to Gemma Carpenter

WCV were sorry to say goodbye to Gemma Carpenter, UK co-ordinator, this month. Gemma has been with

WCV for 18 months and worked on two programme exchanges. Her enthusiasm and hard work was much appreciated by the UK and US boards, as well as all the Winants and Claytons she supported over the last 2 years. She helped move the UK board forward in many areas, a few examples being helping organise the 50th anniversary event, working on funding bids, and introducing the new visa system as well as getting new placements on board in London. Gemma will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best in her new job on a management scheme with Network Rail.

Elizabeth Hill, UK Trustee

Last year was my first year being US Coordinator and it was great to have Gemma to work with. She was reliable, honest, patient, and above all else...calm. Being a Coordinator comes with diverse challenges, sometimes unexpected. Gemma was always ready to roll up her sleeves and do what was needed whether it was soothing a volunteer on troubled days or turning in necessary paper work for immigration! I am happy to have had the chance to work with her. On behalf of the US Board, thank you Gemma!

Dinushka De Silva, US Coordinator

I was a Winant Clayton Volunteer going to London the summer of 2009. When I first met Gemma at Heathrow Airport, I knew right away that we were going to hit it off. From day one she helped us acclimate to our new homes and our new jobs, prepping us with all the info we needed to navigate around London and letting us know she was there for us no matter what. She even planned an extra event for us when she found out that each one of us wanted to visit Stonehenge. When I was robbed of my wallet, she came as fast as she could to make sure I was taken care of and that I had the funds I needed to get by till I could sort it out. That summer was a life changing one for me. Gemma was a big part of that. As my coordinator she was sometimes my only voice of sanity, helping me navigate through a new culture and new places and all the new experiences you're thrust into. One would think "well we both speak English" but the differences between the US and the UK are enormous. I mean really, how was I to know what a cooker hob was? Cream tea, Cider and Pie? Don't even get me started. She loved helping you figure it out because a part of her was extremely curious about our culture. So it was a nice exchange. I went away from that summer with more than a volunteer experience. I left with a new friend.

Jessica Loveless, Winant 2009



## Words from the Winants and Claytons About Gemma



*Gemma was extremely helpful and answered any questions/ concerns that I had.*

*Gemma, you have been the backbone to all of us this summer. Without your help and support I am sure half of us would not have made it through.*



*Thank you for being such a wonderful person and showing us that London could really be a place where we could discover and in some cases rediscover ourselves.*



*Gemma, thank you for being so helpful and patient in dealing with all of our ridiculous problems.*

*We all really enjoyed hanging out with you.*

## NYC Marathon

Running the New York Marathon has long been an ambition of mine. I have decided to compete in this years as it falls five days after my 50th birthday and I have chosen to fund the trip to New York myself instead of throwing a party! This will mean that all donations from you will reach the Winant Clayton Volunteers organisation.

Every summer a band of volunteers travel from London and New York to be hosted in inner city areas and to work on local social projects. Meeting the volunteers is inspirational and the services we provide to local organisations indispensable.

Like all charities we run on something of a shoestring and my goal is to raise 10% of our 60k projected budget for 2011.

My personal view, which keeps me committed to this important charity, is that all programmes promoting cultural understanding across national and social boundaries are as vital today as they have ever been.

Chris Mallett, UK Trustee

<https://www.bmycharity.com/V2/christophermallett>

# In the mo

Arriving at **Mosaic Clubhouse 7 weeks ago**, we did not know what to expect. The Clubhouse has hosted **Winant Clayton Volunteers** for the many years, but this was going to be our first experience.

And, it was a brilliant 7 weeks, **cooking** and **computer** challenges included. We met wonderful people and we found all to be most welcoming and helpful to us. It has been personally wonderful to us to be able to learn so much about London and to get to know some of its people so well.

You helped us settle in and helped us find our way about the Clubhouse as well as London.

We wish you a bright future filled with rainbows, laughter and yes, work.

Many thanks to all members and staff. When in London again, we promise to visit.

Elizabeth and Jackie

**Cheers!**



## Lucy's Blog

*LucyinNewYork -  
<http://lucyinnewyork.blogspot.com>*

New York is a city shaped by its own self confidence. By the narratives created about it in so many films and songs. By the people who make huge sacrifices to come to this city, so (as I read on a Time Out New York tweet) "they can be themselves." And, if you are able to work hard, you certainly can be yourself in New York. There is something for everyone, although those with little money will certainly struggle.

I miss the direct approach of New Yorkers. So much less passive aggressive behaviour compared to the British. They will tell you what they think. No white lies, "that just gets you into all sorts of trouble" said one of my former colleagues. Why should being direct and honest offend if the purpose of the communication is constructive?

## Viki's Blog

*vix in the city - <http://vixinthecity.blogspot.com>*

friday - regular friday morning lecture with frouma - a very passionate, religious, jewish, ex-teacher, woman - she's a bit of a bossy boots, but we have fascinating conversations, albeit slightly exhausting! second appointment with lovely janice, she showed me a photo album that her family had made for her, pics of her from childhood, marriage, kids, from the 1920s to the 1970s, quite wonderful.

## Zoe Burridge Report

During my time at Barrier Free Living I got to know the residents in the shelter. The residents there are from all walks of life, and are generally nice and welcoming. What I learnt from working with the residents and listening to them, is how easy it is to become homeless. It is so easy it's scary, and shows that there are very few safety nets in place to protect people. A large number of the residents who I worked with were at the shelter because they had become sick through long term illness. Because of this they then lost their jobs and therefore homes, before ending up in the shelter system. I had never worked in the homeless system back in the UK, so this placement in NYC was the first time I had come in direct contact with people who had been homeless. What this placement has given me which I will take back home and use within my work is the understanding of how easily, and how quickly, an individual can go from having a "normal" life e.g. work, home, family etc, to having not even their health or a home, and how we need to try and prevent this from happening.

Zoe Burridge, Clayton 2010

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