

*Literacy Volunteers  
of Coconino County*

# LVCC Reader

Fall 2005

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2005 - 2006

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**Laura Bohland**

Program Manager

**Carrie Morgan Cannella**

Education Specialist

**Rachel Richards-Tripp**

Office Assistant

*“Life happened  
because I  
turned the  
pages.”*

*Albert Manguel*

*A History of  
Reading*

## Tutor Highlight

Sharon Richards isn't currently a tutor, but she is definitely worth highlighting this month! Sharon is a current member of the LVCC Board of Directors, as well as a Fabric Artist Extraordinaire!

LVCC would like to thank Sharon for her contribution of countless hours of beautiful handiwork resulting in the creation of the artquilt titled “Over the Rainbow.” The artquilt was presented to the highest bidder during the International Literacy Day festivities, and thankfully has a new home right here at the LVCC office. It sure brightens up the office!

THANK YOU  
SHARON RICHARDS!



## All Aboard the Polar Express!

You are invited along with your family, friends, learners and their families and friends to wear your pajamas and climb aboard the Polar Express on Thursday, November 10th at 8 pm sharp. Grand Canyon Railway is giving away 100 tickets for this event. You will need to get yourselves to Williams, but the train ride to the North Pole is free. For more information or to pick up your tickets contact 556-0313.

LVCC will be looking for 12 volunteer Passenger Service Assistants per night to assist on the Polar Express the weekend nights of December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11. In return, LVCC will receive a generous donation from GCR. The format will be similar to last year, so no readers are needed. If you or someone you know is interested, please notify the LVCC office.

## What is a Volunteer's Time Worth?

The Independent Sector recently announced that the value of volunteer time, updated yearly, has increased an average of 40 cents every year from \$7.46/hour in 1980, to \$17.55/hour in 2004. Wow!

This value is based on nonagricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and then increased by 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits.

## RSVP Program Provides Compensation for Tutors 55+

The Northern Arizona Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has matched senior volunteers with non-profit and healthcare facilities in need of volunteer assistance for over 30 years here in the Flagstaff area. The value of the RSVP Volunteers' hours is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community.

Benefits of RSVP include: secondary insurance, mileage reimbursement, and an annual recognition event. The secondary insurance covers you while traveling to, during and from your volunteer assignment. It includes accident, personal liability, and excess automobile liability insurance. The mileage reimbursement is available to individuals

who may not be able to volunteer without assistance. RSVP will reimburse your mileage from your home to the volunteer station and back when funding is available.

In order to qualify for RSVP benefits, you must be 55 years of age or older and desire to volunteer. Volunteers are expected to record and submit service hours, mileage reimbursement, and job tasks on a monthly timecard. You can report your hours to LVCC and RSVP at the same time, and both organizations will get credit for the hours that you work. For more information, contact Liane at RSVP: 523-6585.



## Illiteracy affects everyone!

### Save the Date!

**October  
26-29**

LVCC is an affiliate of ProLiteracy Worldwide, which is holding its **annual conference** in Tucson, Arizona on October 26th-29th. There will be many valuable workshops for English language and literacy tutors. If you are interested in attending, please call the office at 556-0313 for more information. **We are looking for stories from learners about challenges or successes they have had in their encounters with health professionals to include in a presentation at the ProLiteracy Conference in October.**

**October  
19th**

**Workshop:** *Literacy with Disabilities*. Presenter: Alice Battali, Job Coach at Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona

**November  
17th**

**Workshop:** *What We Always Wanted To Know About English But Were Afraid To Ask... The Answer Is In It's History*. Presenter: Dr. William Grabe, NAU Professor of Linguistics

**December  
TBA**

**Tutor Appreciation Breakfast:**

LVCC is currently planning the annual tutor appreciation event and details will be available soon.

**December  
2, 3,4  
9,10,11**

**Polar Express:** It's time for the annual volunteer trek to Williams to assist Grand Canyon Railway in it's presentation of the Polar Express. Get in the spirit of Christmas, ride the train and help LVCC acquire a sizeable donation. Call 556-0313 to volunteer.

## A New Place for Tutors

Tutors are welcome to use Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) for their tutoring sessions. It has a classroom and a computer lab, and is open Mon. & Wed. 8-5, Tues. & Thurs. 8-8, and Fri. 8-12. It is closed everyday 12-1. From

Sept. 10 to Nov. 19, it will be open on Saturdays from 9-1 too. NACA is located at 2717 N. Steves Blvd., Suite 11, behind the Golden Dragon restaurant on the East side. Please call 526-2968 / 5110 if you would like more information.

## Tutor Resource Review

Check out the Verizon Literacy Campus online at [www.literacycampus.org](http://www.literacycampus.org). It is a great resource for information about the literacy challenges that millions in this country face, as well as a resource for free online courses that help prepare you for an active role in adult and family literacy programs. The site is sponsored by ProLiteracy Worldwide and Verizon Communications.

Verizon Literacy Campus has just announced a new course, "Phonemic Awareness Instruction for Adult New Readers." Learn more about this component of research-based reading instruction that is especially helpful to readers at beginning levels. This course will provide an introduction to this topic and will contribute to your skill in informally assessing adults' phonemic awareness, and

how to incorporate phonemic awareness activities into lessons. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- **Define phonemic awareness and describe its importance for reading and spelling**
- **assess aspects of adult literacy learners' phonemic awareness**
- **create and use phonemic awareness activities in lessons**
- **access websites and print resources for additional information about phonemic awareness**

All courses on this website are free and cover a wide array of topics, so take a moment to explore this useful resource. Some examples of what is offered include: citizenship, culture, reading, writing and much more.

Visit [www.literacycampus.org](http://www.literacycampus.org)

## International Student Friendship Program

Community members of Flagstaff and the surrounding areas have the opportunity to become friends with international students who are studying at NAU. The Community/ International Student Friendship Program is a service to help international students develop friendships with Americans and gain an understanding of life in the United States. Many of these students express the desire to meet and befriend Americans. They come from many different countries and all are proficient in speaking English.

This is not a live-in situation. Instead, students are assigned to a volunteer of the same sex for the time, usually one semester to three years, that they are studying here. The assignments are made by attempting to match professions,

interests and hobbies. Once a month, or more often, the volunteer invites the student, who may be lonely or homesick, to join him/her in activities such as family dinners, picnics, holiday celebrations, sports activities or musical events.

When the assignment is made, you will receive information about the student. The student receives your name only. You will also receive guidelines and hints about entertaining internationals. This is a wonderful opportunity for Americans to broaden their knowledge and understanding of people of other lands and cultures.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate in this program, please call Joan or Stan Alf, at 928-286-9641 or email to [jealf@primenet.com](mailto:jealf@primenet.com).



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Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Fax: 928-556-9360

*One in five  
Americans cannot  
read this sentence.*

*Changing lives  
through literacy*

## Challenge to LVCC Tutors

LVCC wants to challenge all of you, our tutors, to work with your learners on a new project. LVCC needs testimonials from our learners and tutors so they can be used in new publication materials currently being developed. A variety of testimonials would be of great value to the organization. Even if your learners are not able to write the testimonials themselves, you can have them dictate to you while you write what they have to say. *Remember the Experience Story video/exercise in tutor training?*

We would like to have your learners write a thank you letter to LVCC funders. Funders need to be appreciated, and we feel that “thank yous” directly from our learners would be very effective in showing our appreciation, while also giving them an opportunity to hear from the people who benefit from their donations directly.

LVCC also needs health-related literacy stories. If any of the learners have a health-related story about how their ability to speak, read or write English played a role, please write it down on paper! The entire staff will be going to the ProLiteracy Conference in Tucson at

the end of October. Ann and Laura will be making a presentation on Health Literacy, and they would love to have some stories to tell regarding how one’s English language ability or lack thereof affected the situation.

Here are a couple more ideas for writing a testimonial:

- How learning English has improved my life
- What I can do now since I’ve learned more English that I couldn’t do before

LVCC would also like to obtain some tutor testimonials for publication as well. Here are some ideas:

- How being an LVCC volunteer has enriched your life
- A memorable teaching moment

Feel free to submit all testimonials in person, by mail, fax or email ASAP. Please check out and use the enclosed Learner Newsletter to assist you with this challenge! We look forward to receiving and publishing your work!