

*Literacy Volunteers  
of Coconino County*

# LVCC Reader

Summer 2005

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2005 - 2006

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**Ann Beck**

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**Carrie Morgan Cannella**

Education Specialist

**Rachel Richards-Tripp**

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**Come cool down at LVCC's  
Ice-cream Social on August  
27th from 1 to 3pm. Let's  
celebrate the achievements  
we have made this year!**

## Tutor Highlight

LVCC would like to recognize Margie Erhart in this issue's *Tutor Highlight* for significant accomplishments. First, Margie has completed nearly five years of volunteer tutoring with LVCC. She has worked with two different learners during that time.

Margie has always been diligent about reporting her hours in a timely fashion. When asked what her secret is, she stated that she uses an electronic calendar on her computer to remind her at the beginning of the month to report her learner's hours and accomplishments. She wastes no time in getting the information reported immedi-

ately. If anyone is interested in setting this feature up on their own computers, please call the office, and we'll be able to help you.

Second, LVCC would like to congratulate Margie for her fourth novel, *Crossing Bully Creek*, which has just been published. Margie received the National Fiction Prize from the publisher, Milkweed Editions. The book is set in Georgia in the 1960's, and portrays life on a Yankee-owned plantation at a time of turmoil and change.

*Congratulations Margie!*

## Announcing Office Staff Changes

LVCC would like to introduce Carrie Morgan Cannella, LVCC's new Education Specialist. Carrie has lived in Flagstaff for eight years and loves it here. She is an avid lover of reading, writing, art, and the outdoors. Her responsibilities include conducting in-service workshops and tutor training, and providing support services to our volunteers.

Remember, if you have any questions

about tutoring or just need help, contact Carrie at the office, Tuesday through Friday. Welcome Carrie!

LVCC is saying goodbye to Kerri Quinn. She has been the Education Specialist since January. Kerri is leaving LVCC to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue graduate studies in creative writing. Good luck Kerri!

## Tutoring Etiquette in a Public Place

This is just a friendly reminder to be courteous to your fellow library-goers. The Flagstaff libraries and bookstores do not have private rooms for tutoring, so it is necessary to conduct lessons amidst the patrons and customers. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your voices down when there is potential for disturbing others.

Bring your own supplies to class, and don't expect the library to provide them. We also ask that you discourage your learners from bringing their children, since they can also be a distraction. The staff at LVCC appreciates your efforts and hopes to provide a more private setting for tutoring in the future.

## LVCC's New Summer Teen Reading Program

There is something new happening at Literacy Volunteers this summer. After realizing so much success with our adult learners, LVCC has decided that it was finally time to offer a program for teenagers who need help with their reading. There are many teenagers in our community who have great difficulty reading in their first language—English! These teens are at risk for dropping out of school early and facing a lifetime of problems.

LVCC's Ann Beck has wanted to address this problem for some time. Two years ago she was matched with a 16-year old high school dropout. They worked on reading and life skills because this 16-year-old had no idea what she was going to do with her life beyond working in fast food restaurants, but she wanted to learn about options. After a few months of work together, Amber's short life ended in tragedy. She and her mother were killed by her stepfather.

Last winter, Ann was lucky to meet Katherine Mahosky, Director of the NAU Speech and Hearing Clinic. Kathy had first hand experience with a teen who struggled with reading and dropped out of high school. Ann, Kathy, Kerri Quinn, Carrie Cannella and four dedicated graduate students from Kathy's program – Jim Samsel, Alison Doerffel, Adrianna Lazzara, and Kristen McKee - designed an 8-week class for teens that we are piloting this summer. The class combines group and individual tutoring sessions and places a strong emphasis on phonemic awareness and decoding problems as well as life skills development. We will share our findings at LVCC's September workshop.

Many thanks to the special funders who were able to make this program happen: the Wallace Foundation of Scottsdale and the Boeing of Mesa Employees Community Fund.

### Save the Date!

**June  
30**

**Hours for the fiscal year are due** by June 30th. Please call the office at 556-0313 or send an email to LVCCtutor@yahoo.com with any unreported hours. Be sure to include your prep time, travel time, and of course, the hours spent with your learner.

**August  
16**

**"Maintaining Learner Motivation: How Do You Keep It Alive?"** This workshop will be presented by NAU Professor, Dr. Jean Zukowski-Faust.

**August  
27**

**You are invited to our annual Ice-Cream Social happening August 27th from 1 to 3 p.m.** This should be a fun event for both tutors and learners, and families are also welcome. Bring your kids, as there will be children's activities. We will be looking forward to seeing all of your faces for a little social interaction and cooling off time.

**September  
TBA**

**"A Structured Approach to Teaching Reading"** workshop will be presented by Dr. Ann Beck, LVCC's Executive Director. The date and time will be announced in early August.

**October  
26-29**

LVCC is an affiliate of Proliteracy Worldwide, which will be 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.**

## LVCC Loses A Dear and Long-Time Tutor

Helen Hollis, 85, died on May 10, 2005. She had been a tutor for Literacy Volunteers of Coconino County for just over 10 years, and had worked with several different learners during that time. She was even tutoring earlier on the day she passed away.

According to her sister, Doris, Helen was a teacher, and she is probably still teaching even now, wherever she may be. Her most recent learner was saddened by the loss of her tutor, Helen, because she was a very good teacher, and she cared so much that learning occurred. She will be missed. The following note was written by her learner:

*In Memory of My Great Teacher and very good friend, Helen. There are too many memories about Helen. She was a big support in my life because she always teach me the correct English. She help me with my questions. She always had good details for me and my family. Also I remember, what she explained to me the class. With pictures she draw for a more comprehensive class. She was an artist because she draw very good. She was very funny when she sometimes spoke in Spanish. I miss her and now I want to continue with my English class because I know from the heaven that Helen wants that for me. I will remember Helen forever. Thank you for everything Helen!*



## Tutor Resource Review

LVCC tutor, Cho Prasert, has found a good resource for LVCC tutors who have beginning to intermediate ESL learners. The book is called *IMPACT! Adult Reading and Language Skills Manual, Book 2* by Janice C. Motta and Kathryn L. Riley. Prasert recommends this book for beginning to intermediate learners because it covers important sight words, common letter combinations (and the sounds associated with them), as well as situations and issues pertinent to the everyday life of the adult learner by using pictures and examples in an easy to understand format. For instance, the book teaches the learner to become a discerning reader by making comparisons to what a learner might see or read at home, at work, at the supermarket, at a restaurant, or

almost any other place one encounters during the course of daily living. The book, *Impact*, is a good teaching tool for language in daily life. However, the teacher's guide that accompanies the book isn't so critical because of the clarity of the book. It is wordy and far more complicated than it needs to be.

*Impact* is currently available at the LVCC library. While you're at it, you can 'check out' other materials too! Happy hunting for that perfect resource. And remember, tips and reviews are always welcome, so feel free to send us a short summary, so that we may share your findings with other tutors!

### Learners Celebrate!

*Alejandra Aguilar*  
*Marcela Lee*  
*Antonina Serecina*

*Juan Avitia*  
*Rocio Rendon*  
*Chheten Tamang*

These five LVCC learners participated in the first annual All-Flagstaff Adult English Language Celebration where they were publicly recognized and awarded certificates. The celebration was held on June 2, 2005 at Killip Elementary School. Each of them received a certificate of achievement for their efforts and accomplishments in the study of the English language. Four organizations, 25 participants and 13 languages were represented. We anticipate that next year we'll have even more awards and achievements; however, we rely on you, the tutors, to report them.



### Come Join Us!

LVCC's parent organization, ProLiteracy Worldwide will be hosting its annual convention in Tucson this fall. Ann and Laura invite you to join us for an extended weekend, Wednesday, Oct. 26th thru Saturday, Oct. 29th, to participate in an educational adventure.

The cost of the 3-day conference is \$285 for tutors and \$190 for learners. Ann and Laura will be driving down and staying at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort, where the conference will be held, and we hope to have some company this year. Please call LVCC for more details. 556-0313 or visit [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org).



715 N. Humphreys Phone: 928-556-0313  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Fax: 928-556-9360

The House Appropriations Sub Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies has restored the entire \$325 million for adult education. —Art Ellison

*Changing lives  
through literacy*

## **LVCC Learner Becomes Citizen July 15, 2005**

When Shahdokht Neematollahi arrived in Flagstaff from Iran five years ago, she couldn't write her name in English. The many people who helped Shahdokht learn English will be on her mind July 15 when she takes her oath to become a United States citizen.

"I went for help to a lot of people," Shahdokht said. "I wasn't looking for just one. I knew I could learn from everybody. I found a lot of good people at all the learning centers. That makes me glad."

Asking for help isn't easy, she said, and using a word the first time is hard. "If you want to learn," says Shahdokht, "you must be brave."

Shahdokht began her five-year journey to citizenship when she learned about Literacy Volunteers from a librarian at the Flagstaff Public Library. Her supervisor at Head Start, Veronica Gutierrez, accompanied her to the LVCC office, where Shahdokht was matched with volunteer tutor Sandy Bryant. Once a week for a year and a half, Shahdokht practiced speaking, reading and writing English with Sandy's guidance. Later, Shahdokht attended ESL classes taught by Betty Lucero and Kathy Lozania at Mount Elden Middle School. "Everybody was like me," she said. "They didn't know English well, but we had very good teachers."

Shahdokht's confidence grew along with her English skills.

She passed her driving test and then started taking classes at Coconino Community College. When she had difficulty with reading and writing assignments, she turned again to Literacy Volunteers. Former CCC instructor and LVCC tutor Vennie White met with Shahdokht at the East Flagstaff Library to help her build basic skills she needed to be successful in her classes. Soon, Shahdokht was able to do the work on her own. She has completed 27 college credits. Now a teacher's aide at Early Head Start, her goal is to become a certified teacher.

Shahdokht continued improving her English skills at Native Americans for Community Action, where she worked with Holly Franquet and other teachers. "I didn't just put English away," she said. "I practice. I read, I write, I speak."

Citizenship materials from Literacy Volunteers, including a practice book and videotape, helped her prepare for her test and interview. Two years ago, she began reviewing the 100 questions she might be asked. She was still unsure of herself, but an LVCC tutor helped explain some of the things she didn't understand. By the time she sat down with the immigration official in Phoenix last month, she was ready. "I remembered to look at her, just like I practiced," she said.

"I was so happy when she told me I passed. I couldn't believe it," Shahdokht said. "Now I feel more comfortable. I can be a member of this community. I can vote. Now my decision is also important. I feel like I'm home."