

*Literacy Volunteers  
of Coconino County*

# LVCC Reader

WINTER 2005-2006

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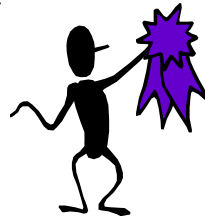


## LVCC Appreciates All Volunteers

Thank you to all those who participated in the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. This is an annual event held in order to recognize all of you for your valuable contributions to literacy in our community. We had a nice turnout of forty attendees this year, and it was enjoyable to see the connections that people were able to make with each other.

Congratulations to our certificate winners, and thank you to all for your dedication to your learners.

Awards from this year's Appreciation Breakfast include:



### **Wyling Cambrium:**

"Occident-Orient Orchestrator" for combining American ingenuity with Chinese wisdom.

### **Rick and Betty Smith:**

"Dynamic Duo" for superb couple to couple collaboration.

**Sarah Graff:** "Hospitality" for bringing literacy to the workplace.

**Kathy Mahosky:** "Pilot Partner" for providing all of the essential ingredients for a successful summer reading program: enthusiasm, excellent tutors, and expertise.

## Letter from an LVCC Learner

Dear Supporters of LVCC,

I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to read, write, listen, and speak in English better. These are the things I have learned so far:

I can speak English better. I know how to write and understand more when people talk more words and sentences. Another thing I accomplished is passing the citizenship test. I learned a lot about American history.

Now I feel more confident when I speak English. If people don't understand, I just speak slower. I appreciate the Literacy Volunteers supporters that give me the chance to accomplish all of these things.

Thanks again,

*Chut Pace* ✨

*"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." - Unknown*



## A Culinary Achievement

### By Tutor Patty Gibbs

"Rebecca," my learner, has been talking about learning to make a pumpkin pie for weeks. She wanted someone to teach her. So, for our last meeting time, I bought the materials for a pie and brought her to my house.

She read all the instructions and we talked about them. I instructed her on how to make the pie. She did it all. She was so excited that she applauded herself.

She said over and over how she couldn't believe *she* actually made a pie and the crust from scratch. While the pie baked, we had a reading lesson.

She and her husband are going to Georgia to be with his parents on Christmas. All she talked about was making a pie for them as well. She also said that she is going to ask for a cookbook for Christmas. ✨

## Tutors Sharing Tips

Having trouble getting your hours in? Norm Wallen suggests making it a habit by building it into a routine. For example, you probably have routines at the beginning of the month when you pay a certain bill or purchase a monthly medication.

The idea is to find a "trigger." Norm's trigger is changing his monthly calendar. So when you find *your* trigger, gather up your hours and send them to LVCC.

Do you have a tutor tip? Call us, email us, or fax us—and let your ideas be heard!

## Save the Date!

- January 21** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. ***Best Practices Workshop: Tricks of the Trade.*** Come hear great tutoring ideas from LVCC and others, and then be ready to share your own strategies that work! This workshop is meant to be a "come and share" format.
- January 26, 28** If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a tutor and learning more about LVCC, the next **New Tutor Orientations** will be held on Thursday, January 26th at 6:00-8:00 pm or Saturday, January 28th at 10:30 am-12:30 pm at the main public library.
- February 4, 11** **New Tutor Training** will be held on Saturday, February 4th and Saturday, February 11th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the LVCC office.
- February** LVCC will be participating in a practice-run of a **new ESL test** by CTB/ McGraw-Hill during **February**. **If you have a learner who is interested in taking the three-hour test and earning fifteen dollars, please invite them to call us** or simply let us know he or she is interested. All ESL learners are invited to take the test.

## Polar Express Is Great Fun for Volunteers



We had another excellent turn-out this year for the volunteer Polar Express elves. We appreciate everybody who gave their time for this event. About seventy volunteers turned out in support of LVCC. And what better way to help raise money than by volunteering as one of Santa's elves? You get to sing carols, hang out with children, and go to the North Pole. Talk about fun!

In exchange for our volunteer work, the Grand Canyon Railway offered us 100 free tickets for their opening night. We would like to share some stories from those who enjoyed the train ride on November 10th. **Rachel Richards-Tripp**, our Office Assistant, wrote the following about her experience on the Polar Express:

"On a cold night in November, my daughters and I went for a ride on the Polar Express. My oldest daughter brought two of her friends. We all remembered to wear our pajamas. When we arrived at the station in Williams, we were immediately in the Christmas Spirit. The grounds were bedecked in holiday lights and ornaments. It felt like Christmas.

We passed hundreds of other passengers waiting to board the train as we made our way to the last car where our seats were. We were warmly greeted by Santa's elves who helped us turn our seats to face each other.

It wasn't long before the train started to roll. To everyone's eager delight, we were served hot cocoa and cookies while the train sped toward our destination.

The Elves showed us the story of *The Polar Express* and told us that there wouldn't be any snow because Santa couldn't get any work done. He had to magically have it removed!

At long last we made it to the North Pole. Santa was there waving at us as we pulled by, but he was gone when we returned. We started to sing carols VERY LOUDLY in hopes he would hear us and come visit. And he did! He handed each one of the children a magic bell from his sleigh, wished us all a Merry Christmas and went on to greet the others. We joyfully sang carols on the ride back. Children would take turns singing into the microphone. This was a delightful adventure that we carried on into the ride home singing carols the whole way."

**Carolyn Hazen**, from Christensen's Parenting Arizona Program, took a group of thirty to Williams to enjoy the train ride, and said that the event was *wonderful* and everyone enjoyed themselves. According to Carolyn, the ESL students and families got to experience a treat that most likely they couldn't have normally afforded. Stories include:

"When we went to the Polar Express, I liked the songs and the ride and the North Pole is fantastic. It was an unforgettable experience for my children and me." - **Ana Ante**

"When we went to the Polar Express, it was very fun because we saw Santa Claus. My children were very happy. Their faces were happy when they saw Santa Claus. It was a unique experience and it was fun. Thanks P.A. and L.V." - **Fam Cota** ☆

## LVCC Student and Tutor Attend Enjoyable Bilingual Reading Event

By Tutor Katie Burdette

The Fourth Street Library was NOT quiet Monday, November 14th at 6:30 pm.

Monica Brown, author and NAU Associate Professor, read from her children bilingual books and led guests in a rousing salsa dance.

*My Name is Celia, Me Llamo Celia*, Professor Brown's first children's book, won the prestigious Américas Book Award. Who was Celia Cruz? She was the flamboyant international "Salsa Queen." Departing Cuba when Fidel Castro became president, she brought her Cuban dance music to the United States and then to the world. Proud of her Cuban roots, she always entered the stage with arms high shouting "azúcar!" Read the book to find out why!

Brown's newest book is *My Name is Gabriela, Me Llamo Gabriela*. Who is Gabriela Mistral? She is a Chilean poet, teacher, and the first Latino woman in the world to win the Nobel Prize.

Both books are presented in a colorful, bilingual format with vibrant illustrations. They make for great starter stories to read with learners, particularly those with children.

Tutor Katie Burdette and student "Mr. V." attended the reading, and both enjoyed the books very much. Their studies have progressed to reading short stories and poetry. Mr. V. writes poetry in Spanish. His goal is to write in Spanish and English. ☆



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*Changing lives  
through literacy*

### **"The Volunteer"**

The Volunteer is one with a heart so sincere.  
No task too large, no task too small,  
Who will help with anything at all.  
Who will be there in the morning light,  
Or help in the dark of night.  
The Volunteer, our extra hand,  
On whose future our children stand.  
Never anyone so dear as a Literacy Volunteer!

- Author Unknown

## **LVCC Thanks 2005 Public and Private Donors**

LVCC would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders. The following organizations helped support 68% of our program expenses:

- Arizona Public Service
- Boeing Employees Community Fund, Mesa
- Coconino County
- Flagstaff Community Foundation
- Forest Highlands Foundation
- GEOFund
- Grand Canyon Railway
- Raymond Educational Foundation, Flagstaff
- Sam's Club
- Thomas H. Maren Foundation
- United Way of Northern Arizona
- Wallace Family Foundation, Scottsdale
- Wal-Mart Foundation

We are now in the middle of our annual letter campaign. We'll let you know how it works out in an upcoming issue of our newsletter. A sincere thank you goes out to all who have generously donated thus far.