

Literacy Volunteers of Coconino County

LVCC Reader

lvccreads.org

SUMMER 2006

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2006 - 2007

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*The word is not just a sound
or a written symbol. The
word is a force; it is the
power you have to express
and communicate, to think,
and thereby to create the
events in your life.*

- Don Miguel Ruiz

2006 ESOL Achievement Ceremony

Learner turned tutor Julieta Herrera came to Flagstaff in February of 2001. One month later, she became an LVCC learner. She was at the beginning level at that time. A year and a half later, Julieta became a tutor, and now she is well past our highest level. When she goes back to Mexico later this month, she wants to get a job teaching English. At her recent re-assessment, Julieta wrote the following: "I learned English! That's awesome! Now I can do a lot of things that I couldn't before. One of these things is that I will be able to help someone else to learn English. I feel it is a good way to repay the people who helped me from the beginning. Hopefully, these people will love the language as I do."

She says that she has acquired great stories from her learning — enough to fill a book — and she thanks her teacher and mentor, Harriet Brown. She remembers the first time she was able to order her favorite coffee, a caramel macchiato, and how she was excited to share this with Harriet. Julieta will continue to be a friend of LVCC, and we wish her well. Thanks Julieta for all your hard work and congratulations on your achievements!

The following learners were also recognized at the ceremony on June 8th:*

Adriana Luz Penhaker for bringing her photography into the community.

Janna Dahl for overcoming a disability and developing as an artist.

Hong Guo and Longhu Zhou for bringing their professional skills to America.

Chut Pace for her persistence in learning and gaining citizenship.

Miki Jinwala for studying diligently to pass the citizenship exam.

Rocio Rendon for her kindergarten teaching.

Amelia Abrego for her work promotion.

Sakineh Banan-Neematollahi for speaking at the Northern Arizona Book Festival and working towards an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Faustino Valenzuela for speaking at the Northern Arizona Book Festival and starting to write poetry in English. Special thanks to Faustino for speaking at the ceremony as well.

*See Learner News insert for pictures of the ceremony

Beginnings of a Strategic Plan

On Sat, June 10, LVCC staff and board gathered together to brainstorm the future direction of the organization and create the beginnings of a strategic plan.

The focus was on ideas like incorporating more specialized classes, recruiting more Basic Literacy students, increasing office hours, eventually moving to a larger community

space, utilizing volunteers in more ways, improving communication and assessment within the organization and much more.

Do you have an idea?
Be sure to share it!

Right: Jim Highsmith, Strategic Planning Champion. Thanks, Jim!



LVCC Board: Welcome and Thanks

LVCC would like to warmly welcome four new board members for the fiscal year 2006-2007: Rick Smith, Phyllis Wolfskill, Scott Kemp and Charlie Silver.

We would also like to recognize the new President, Gail Reed, Vice-President, Susana Mills and Secretary, Jean White. Holly Taylor will remain our Treasurer. Jean Hockman

(Emerita), Bibi Urman-Cahill, Sharon Richards and Randi Reppen will continue on the board as well. We are looking forward to working with all of you.

Thanks goes to leaving members Ted Tonkinson, Wendy Highsmith and Betsy Putman. All of you have provided a valuable service for the organization and community!

2006 Mountain Spelling Bee a Success

As we reflect on the 2006 Mountain Spelling Bee, we want to shout out a big "Thank you" for a successful and fun-filled evening! LVCC came very close to meeting its goal of \$12,500! Congratulations to the 2006 spelling champions, the Museum of Northern Arizona Dudes. The Nerdettes of Coast and Mountain Properties came in a close second, and The Bumble Bees of ReMax Peak Properties not only came in 3rd place, but also earned the Team Spirit Award.

LVCC would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the event sponsors, prize donors, spelling teams, audience members, judges, announcers and the MC, Mike Conneen of KNAZ Channel 2 News. Thank you for making the 2006 Mountain Spelling Bee a success. Your support will allow individuals to continue accomplishing important life goals through literacy. Come join the spelling buzz next year!

Tutor Tips

You have spoken through your self-evaluations! These are the materials many of you enjoy using with your learners: children and adult books, poetry, magazine and newspaper articles and pictures, picture dictionaries, charts and forms, games, phonics materials, word manipulatives, Chicken Soup for the Soul and other feel-good collections, Qué Pasa, library visual aids and real-life objects such as money and flashcards.

These are the methods many of you feel have been useful: weekly read-alouds and discussions, weekly conversations about each other's lives, writing from student dictation and then correcting language, dictating language for your learner, going on walking tours and fieldtrips, making up rhymes together, role-playing store and other real-life situations, question and answer sessions, writing stories to reinforce lessons, having your learner describe situations, pictures and experiences using new vocabulary and playing games. All of the above materials and ideas are certainly worth trying if you haven't yet utilized them! Talk to the office for ways to utilize these great ideas.

*If you have a tip, please call 556-0313 or email cmcannella@lvccreads.org.

**If you haven't yet completed your self-evaluation, please do so as soon as possible in order to renew your certification if you have been tutoring for a year or more.

Grammar Tip: List words or place word cards from a sentence in the wrong order, and have your learner put them in the correct order. Or, as a variation, you and your learner could come up with words that are nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc., and organize them in a chart, and then have the learner form sentences by combining them in the correct order. The sentences can end up humorous if you don't try to plan them ahead of time. You can work on specific vocabulary, verb tenses, sentence formation, parts of speech and much more. It's a fun way to practice grammar, and you can make it simple as well as more difficult. You can have learners change words or utilize pictures as well.

For example:

<u>Subj.</u>	<u>V.</u>	<u>Dir. Obj.</u>	<u>Adj.</u>	<u>Prep. phrase</u>
Miguel	<u>drive</u>	cookies	lovely	to the store
She	help	<u>friends</u>	<u>sweaty</u>	<u>to the car wash</u>
<u>They</u>	love	TV	sweet	above the clouds
We	make	movies	funny	next to the shop

One sentence that could come from this chart is:

They drove sweaty friends to the carwash.



Save the Date!

- July 11** **True Colors Workshop:** Tuesday, July 11th from 6 to 8 pm. AmeriCorps' Deidre Crawley will be leading a fun and interactive workshop on True Colors, wherein you will learn your "color" personality types: gold, orange, blue, or green. This is a great and popular personality inventory that can help you to identify your own and possibly your learner's personality type, and may additionally help you to consciously understand differences in behavior. RSVP 556-0313.
- August 17** **Teaching Study Skills and Memory Enhancement Workshop:** Learn practical tips for teaching your learner how to develop good study habits and memory ability. Many learners are in need of these basic skills, especially if they did not go through a school system. RSVP 556-0313.
- August 26** **Ice Cream Social:** Saturday, August 26th from 1 to 3 pm. It's that time of year again! Please come join us for our annual summer Ice-Cream Social! All are welcome to attend, including friends, tutors, learners, board members and families. We will spend a wonderful afternoon out of doors, and of course there will be ice-cream!
- Sept 8** **International Literacy Day:** Save the date! Celebration plans to be announced!

Newsletter Survey

If you have not done so, please complete and return this survey. LVCC would appreciate your input!

1. Do you want to continue receiving the newsletter via regular mail, or would you rather receive it via email? _____
2. Do you find the newsletter useful? What would make it more practical and helpful to you? _____

3. What do you like best about the newsletter? _____

4. Do you use the LVCC Learner News inserts in your lessons with your learner? What would make them more beneficial?
 What topics would you like to see addressed? _____

5. What kinds of articles would you like to see in the newsletter? Please circle all that apply.

1. Tutor tips*	9. Learner/ Tutor written articles*
2. Events	10. Fundraising
3. Board information	11. Book reviews*
4. Staff information	12. Program activities
5. National literacy news	13. Tutors sharing lessons*
6. Tutor features	14. Other literacy programs
7. Helpful resources	15. Other volunteer opportunities
8. What's new in the library	16. Other: _____

*We could use your help with these
6. Other comments: _____



Permanently By Kenneth Koch

One day the Nouns were clustered in the street.
 An Adjective walked by, with her dark beauty.
 The Nouns were struck, moved, changed.
 The next day a Verb drove up, and created the
 Sentence.

Each Sentence says one thing—for example,
 "Although it was a dark rainy day when the Adjective
 walked by, I shall remember the pure and
 sweet expression on her face until the day I perish
 from the green, effective earth."
 Or, "Will you please close the window, Andrew?"
 Or, for example, "Thank you, the pink pot of
 flowers on the window sill has changed color

recently to a light yellow, due to the heat from the
 boiler factory which exists nearby."

In the springtime the Sentences and the Nouns lay
 silently on the grass.
 A lonely Conjunction here and there would call,
 "And! But!"

But the Adjective did not emerge. As the Adjective
 is lost in the sentence,
 So I am lost in your eyes, ears, nose, and throat—
 You have enchanted me with a single kiss
 Which can never be undone
 Until the destruction of language.



715 N. Humphreys Phone: 928-556-0313
Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Fax: 928-556-9360
www.lvccreads.org Email: lvccutor@lvccreads.org

Did you know? The US dollar sign probably comes from the Mexican peso. When the Spanish "P" for peso was overwritten by the plural "S," it produced an early version of the \$ that was used until the US dollar came into being in 1785 (Wells Fargo).

*Changing lives
through literacy*

We intend to close the Yahoo email account at the end of July. From this point on, please use the new tutor email account: lvccutor@lvccreads.org or one of the personal accounts that can be found on the LVCC Web site. Thank you!

Great Online Resources

There is a great new resource out there just for tutors at Evey Renner's Great Start 5 site, designed specifically for literacy tutor training and support. You will find training modules for tutoring and enjoyable and useful activities to use with your learners. It is perfect for a refresher course on tutoring or just to get some new ideas.

If you go to the site and click on "Program Support," you will need passwords to enter. Call us if you are interested and we'll give you these passwords. Once you log in, simply click on "Tutor Central" and enjoy the wealth of information. The site is constantly updated with new activities and support, so be sure to return often! <www.greatstart5.com>

Verizon Wireless, Proliteracy America and the National Center for Family Literacy have a partnership which has resulted in the Verizon Literacy Campus, a thorough resource center designed for volunteer tutors as part of the Verizon Literacy Network. There are free online courses for tutors with topics from citizenship to reading comprehension, many links to other helpful sites with information, research and tips related to literacy and tutoring adult learners as well as a discussion forum for volunteers.

This is a site definitely worth the time it takes to check it out. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, the site also provides classes and information for potential volunteers. <www.literacycampus.org>