

# Literacy Volunteers of Coconino County

## LVCC Reader

LVCCReads.org

SPRING 2007

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2006 - 2007

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April is National Volunteer Appreciation month! Come to our potluck on April 19th from 6-8 pm so we can celebrate you!

### Volunteer Highlight: Harriet Brown

Harriet Brown has been a tutor going on seven years. She also has served as the LVCC librarian, and is in fact responsible for the library as it is today. She was even the first person to organize LVCC's file cabinet as the organization grew!

Harriet has always been a star reporter and communicator and is very involved in the organization (her file is full of helpful emails about how she and her students are doing). She has worked with eight learners over the years. With Harriet, these learners certainly learned a great deal. One of her long-term learners, Julieta Herrera, became a tutor herself and was featured in the Summer 2006 newsletter.

Harriet has continually shown a large amount of commitment, passion and enthusiasm in tutoring, and Julieta is an example of someone Harriet has been able to pass this on to.

Harriet participated as a panel member in our "Best Practices: Tutor Panel" workshop in January and makes a point of attending workshops whenever possible. Even after years of tutoring, she continues to learn about what it means to teach literacy to different kinds of people.

Most recently, she has discovered that her newest student has different needs than previous learners. Thus, Harriet searched out and came across new materials to use with her learner. She spent a lot of time comparing materials in order to find just the right thing. In so doing, Harriet has written a book review (see page three). She wants to pass on what she has learned to other tutors.

Harriet continues to make an impression on the staff here at LVCC as an organized, talented and delightful tutor and friend. Thanks Harriet for your commitment to the organization. We hope to continue to work with you for years to come!



### Something So Small that Means So Much

Judy Hindman's learner, "Mala," has recently moved out of Flagstaff, but not before Judy was able to help her with something very important. Mala first studied for citizenship with Judy, and she officially became a US citizen in June of 2006. Then she had the major goal of getting her driver's license. Tutor and learner worked and worked for this achievement, but when Mala went in to the DMV to take the test, she failed because of her vision.

Now, Mala was wearing her glasses, so why did she fail the test?

Well, Judy wanted to find out the answer to this question, so she went with Mala to get her eyes checked. And what do you know, it turned out that Mala's lenses were reversed in her

glasses! She was wearing the prescription for her right eye in her left, and vice versa!

Needless to say, Mala's new doctor gave her the correct prescription, and she is now able to see. Judy says that her reading improved a great deal after that!

The moral of the story is that Judy made a point in figuring out what was wrong. She went the extra mile and has, in a sense, created a whole new world for Mala—one in which she can see clearly and learn better!

Thank goodness the mistake was discovered and resolved before Mala moved away. Now she can continue on her road to learning with her sight intact. Judy played a large role in making that happen. Great job, Judy! ☆

## Tutor Tips

Tutors from the "Best Practices: Tutor Panel" in January shared the following tips:

- Use word contrasts to teach specific sounds and make use of LVCC's resources as well as what is available online
- Use writing as a reinforcement for reading—allow your learners to do the writing when possible
- Talk with LVCC staff and/or other tutors about your tutoring—don't keep frustrations to yourself
- Use manipulatives so learners can visualize what you're teaching—it also adds variety to lessons
- Create stories (with your learner) that include vocabulary you are focusing on
- Reverse roles—put your learner in the role of teacher to ask questions or dictate, etc.—you will gain a new perspective on your learners' abilities and needs
- If studying for citizenship, make sure you are working on reading and writing and conversation and not simply the test questions as language skills are part of the test
- Listen to your learners and help them to build confidence

Thanks Jean, Ted, Harriet and Laura!

## Save the Date!

**Apr. 19** **Volunteer Appreciation Potluck:** 6:00 to 8:00 pm at LVCC. Come join us in celebration of you! Plus, share stories, ask questions, get ideas and exchange numbers for future collaboration! Please bring a dish or dessert to share (we will provide the drinks).

**Apr. 19–22** **10th Annual Northern Arizona Book Festival:** Support literacy and literature by attending the festival. There are numerous readings, workshops and events scheduled. Not to be missed! See <http://www.nazbookfestival.org> for more information.

**Apr. 26 & 28** **New Tutor Orientation:** Thursday 6:00 to 8:00 pm OR Saturday 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Main Public Library. Do you know anyone interested in becoming a Literacy Volunteer? Please inform them about our upcoming orientation sessions. New Tutor Training will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 8, 10, 15 and 17, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm OR Saturdays May 12 and 19, 2007 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at LVCC.

**May 3** **The 11th Annual Mountain Spelling Bee Fundraiser:** 5:30 to 9:00 pm at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel. If you are interested in joining the audience to watch some zany spelling, dinner tickets are \$35 and reservations must be made by April 27. There will be an audience spelling competition and speed scrabble. There are also sponsorships available at \$25 for the letters of the alphabet.

**May 9** **Tutor Workshop: How to Write an Illustrated Letter:** 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the LVCC office. Learn how to combine art - objects, color, shapes, line - with letter-writing. Facilitator/ artist Jean Rukkila wrote in an illustrated letter: "In our workshop we'll start with blank paper and fill it with our collective marks as we meet the pens and brushes. Then we'll play individually on pages and envelopes. Who knows what kind of heart-felt letters we'll find dancing at the edges of red, yellow, blue and black. Maybe there's even a love letter lurking as our playing begins to reveal the multiple layers of ourselves. We'll look at examples of illustrated letters in books and in my collection and we'll see what fun it is when writers and artists decorate the envelopes they send through the mail. Bring an address and a postage stamp. You'll want to send what you create right away! (No experience necessary. And don't worry, you won't have to share your work!) Join me!" This workshop is ideal for both tutors and their learners and/or friends, or, alternately, you could teach your learner afterwards how to be creative as he or she is learning how to write letters!

**May 11-13; 18-20** **Day Out With Thomas the Train:** The Grand Canyon Railway in Williams needs some hearty volunteers for this event for children. LVCC will receive \$8 for each hour a volunteer works! The hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm with lunch and t-shirts provided. You must get yourselves to Williams, or if there's enough interest, carpools can be arranged. There are a variety of positions available. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact LVCC.

**June 1** **First Friday Artwalk:** 6:00 pm with Jean Rukkila. Stop by the office as you're walking around downtown to check out Jean's wonderful books and letters. And, if you attend the workshop on May 9th, who knows, yours may even be on display!

**June TBA** **Tutor Workshop: How to Use the Language-Learning Program Rosetta Stone through the Library:** Did you know that anyone with a Flagstaff library card can now access Rosetta Stone and, through it, about eight languages? Come check out how to use the program and then you can teach your learner.

## Spotlight on Ruth J. Colvin, Founder of LVA

The following is an excerpt from *The Adult Literacy Professional Development Discussion List* by Thomas G. Sticht, an International Consultant in adult education, about the founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, Ruth Colvin. Sticht wrote this in reference to the shamrock of St. Patrick's Day, which for some symbolizes the Trinity. For others it represents the Celtic Goddess Brigit, who caused the appearance of shamrocks wherever she went. Brigit was a Sun goddess with three roles: "Fire of the Hearth," goddess of family, "Fire of the Forge," goddess of the crafts and concerned with law and justice and "Fire of Inspiration," goddess of poetry, language and cultural learning. Sticht refers to Colvin as a "Fire of Inspiration."

"Ruth J. Colvin started her work near the middle of the 20th century in 1962 when she started a project which eventually became Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA). She has continued her work into the 21st century and continues into her ninth decade of life. In 2006 she became the first adult literacy educator ever to receive the Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States."

"LVA became a national organization with over 400 affiliates and thousands of tutors offering one-to-one tutoring

and small group instruction in literacy for both native-born and immigrant adults. At the beginning of the 21st century, LVA merged with Laubach Literacy to form the world's largest adult literacy education organization, ProLiteracy Worldwide."

"In her book, *A Way With Words*, Colvin provides a modern-day version of the Goddess Brigit as the "Fire of Inspiration" and reminds adult literacy educators everywhere that: "We are responsible for our own lives. We are stewards of our time, our talents, our resources. Each of us has the same 24 hours each day. We are responsible for how we use those 24 hours. Each of us has talents—different to be sure. We must use and develop our talents, or, like unused muscles, they'll wither away. Each of us has resources. Some have more, some less— but each of us is responsible for what is done with these resources ... Live life to the fullest— physically, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually. Know that you grow as you share your time, talents, and treasures."

For those interested, LVCC has a copy of Colvin's book in the library. She continues to be a strong advocate for literacy and would surely refer to all tutors as "Fires of Inspiration."

## Book Review: *Foundations* By Harriet Brown

Tired of prep work for your tutoring sessions? Concerned about whether you are presenting material in good order? LV may have the answer!

The LVCC office recently received several sets of English Language Learner materials. Each set contains a student book, workbook and a teacher's guide. Each set is graded, meaning that English is presented in the manner most easily understood by the learner, and gradually moves toward more difficult concepts and vocabulary.

*Foundations*, which begins the series and contains the easier concepts, is colorfully illustrated with basic words needed to introduce vocabulary. They are presented in context with conversation needed by the English speaker. The material is arranged so that one can go as fast or as slowly as necessary, one page at a time or a whole lesson per session. The workbook follows up by testing the learner's grasp of the concepts just learned and can also be used a page (or many) at a time. They can be assigned as further work to do at home and are generally simple (and enjoyable) enough so they can be completed easily. Be sure to check out the teacher's guide. It contains not only the script for listening exercises in the student book, but many other ideas. It offers these helps in page-by-page format like the book and workbook. If your learner has difficulty grasping a concept, games and other activities are given in the teacher's guide that will teach the concept from yet another angle.

Though *Foundations* is listed as the first book in the series, you might want to start with *Side by Side* 1 or 2 (or 3), the books that "follow" *Foundations*. This depends on your learner's ability and confidence. The two titles that continue

the series are *Side by Side* and *ExpressWays*. Either will gradually move your learner in the pursuit of English speaking, listening, reading and writing. You may find them to be repetitive, as I did. But repetition is necessary because we must deal with some of the same topics on each level, such as introductions, food and daily activities. Remember, repetition builds confidence for the learner! LV has sets 1, 2, 3, & 4 of *Side by Side* and *ExpressWays*, set 1. A companion set entitled *Word by Word Basic*, with workbook, is the picture dictionary for this series.

My learner and I are currently using *Foundations*. We are about halfway done with the books, and I believe my learner finds them to be challenging but also fun. She said, "Oh, that's what 'hug' (for example) means," when she saw an illustration of hugging as a means of communication in some countries. Sure beats looking it up in a dictionary!

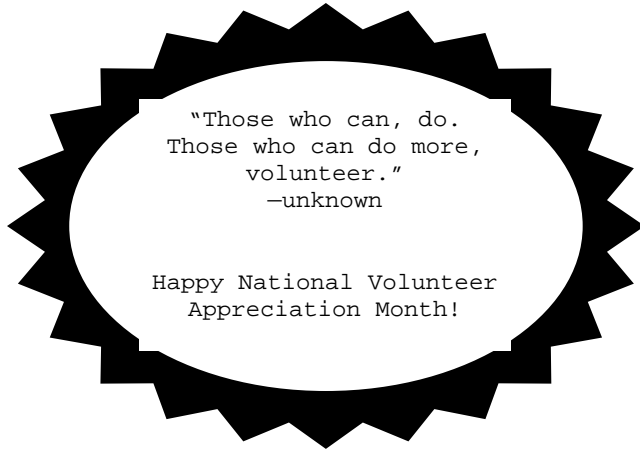
I was particularly pleased, after having had difficulty with "on" and "in" with my former ELL learner, to see that "on" is presented early in *Foundations* when talking about a restaurant being on Center Street, for example. When we came to "in" several lessons later, my learner had no confusion as to which was which! It was good to see how easily concepts can be learned when they are presented in a methodical, well-thought-out manner.

I hope you will find this series as helpful and time-saving to you in your work with your learner as I have. Preparation is cut to a minimum because the material is ready to be presented to the learner. Check out the book on the level your learner needs and enjoy tutoring!

*Note: LVCC has many other sets for ELL learners as well—just ask!*



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*Changing lives  
through literacy*

Would you like to receive this newsletter via email?  
Let us know by calling 556-0313 or by emailing  
[lvctutor@lvccreads.org](mailto:lvctutor@lvccreads.org)

Did you know that there are FREE basic Spanish for Speakers-of-Other-Languages classes at the APS One-Stop at the Flagstaff Recreation Center on 2403 N. Iza-bel Street? The classes are from 10 am to 12 pm every Saturday morning and all are welcome.

## 20 Resources You Already Have!

1. PHONE BOOK – practice the alphabet, find a number, practice numbers, call a number to make an appointment, get a price.
2. VIDEO – tape a segment of a program on TV. Use it to predict, listen to for a purpose or introduce a topic.
3. PAPER AND PENS – write words on the paper to order into sentences, write the beginning of sentences for the learner to finish, write questions.
4. PICTURES – find or draw some pictures and use them to tell a story, illustrate vocabulary or laugh.
5. JUNK MAIL – teach vocabulary, practice shopping, talk about prices/ consumer rights/ lifestyles.
6. RECIPE BOOK – teach quantities, compare food in US and your learner's country, teach vocabulary, find a recipe to cook with your learner.
7. PICTURE STORIES – learner tells a story and you draw it, you draw a story and they arrange the pictures in order as you tell it, they arrange the pictures in order and then tell the story.
8. FAMILY PHOTOS – describe, talk about family members, discuss special events, use the past tense, tell stories.
9. NEWSPAPER – read articles and discuss, use the pictures for discussion, talk about the weather, write a letter to the editor, create comics, have a scavenger hunt.
10. PAPER AND PENS – write a dialogue, a story, a letter, a summary of a reading.
11. TELEPHONE – practice numbers, make phone calls, talk to each other on different extensions.
12. CLOTHES – talk about sizes, discuss prices, practice shopping, discuss likes and dislikes/ consumer rights, practice in role plays.
13. MAGAZINES – describe the pictures, read articles, use recipes, illustrate vocabulary.
14. MAPS – give directions, read maps, discuss places around town, tell stories.
15. FOOD – compare food in US to learner's country, cook together, learn quantities, discuss vocabulary.
16. CALENDARS – practice dates/ days of the week, plan your lessons, write down schedules. use tenses.
17. FURNITURE – describe where things are, practice in role plays.
18. COMPUTER – write, use the internet to find ready-made lessons, email back and forth.
19. TAPE RECORDER AND TAPES – make a tape of you and another person talking/ you telling a story, let the learner listen to their own speech, sing.
20. YOU – act, mime, tell stories, have enthusiasm, give encouragement, everything!

*Remember to ask yourself: Why are you doing this? How will you do it? How did it go? Could it be better? How?*

Adapted from ESOL Home Tutors, <http://www.esolht.org.nz/forTutors/resources/>