

# LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

## STORIES, etc.



### LEARNING OUT LOUD

by Uwe Keilitz

When I first came to LVT, I was afraid and embarrassed. Then things started changing. I changed too. Now I am confident and proud to be learning. Every place is a good place to learn. It doesn't matter where you are or how short the chairs are.

*~ When the library was packed, Uwe decided that learning was more important to him than staying embarrassed. We sat in the giraffe chairs in the children's area and worked. No one stared, and anyone who cared thought, "That's cool!" Uwe wanted to re-enact our adventure to show other students they don't need to be afraid to learn out loud.*



Literacy Ventures needs your best stuff!

Find out how to submit your best stuff at <http://www.lovetoread.org/lvt-community/students/literacy-ventures>.



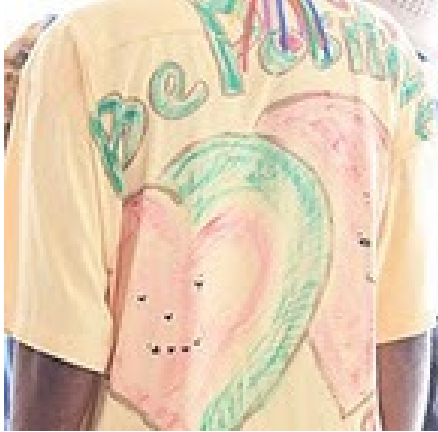
## GOOD NEWS!

Congratulations to each of the 2011 Dick and Jane Award winners!! We are proud of you and your achievements.

- o Basilio Ruiz
- o Carolina Costillo
- o Daniela Verduzco
- o Dede Gbele
- o Eric Nesbitt
- o Esperanza Paez
- o Flor Ruiz
- o Gloria Salinas
- o Guadalupe Aguilar
- o Indri Oktaviani
- o Irene Carrola
- o John Pennix
- o Josefina de Luna Espinoza
- o Kadhim Omair
- o Khadijetou Ba
- o Maria Dolores Bond
- o Maria Elena Saucedo
- o Maria Laura Flores Figueroa
- o Martin Noriega
- o Marty Calanche
- o Olga Goss
- o Teresa Ramirez
- o Uwe Keilitz
- o Velda Crawley
- o Xochiti Flores

Many of the winning essays appear in this issue of Ventures, as does a photo of Dick and Jane Evans. Details about the Dick and Jane Award can be found on the LVT website: [lovetoread.org](http://lovetoread.org).

## Famous T-Shirt

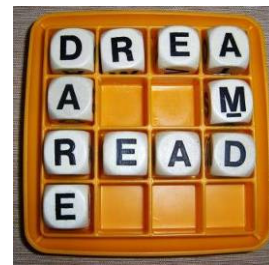


Famous Wally Amos in his "Be Positive" shirt at the Tucson Festival of Books.

## TIPS, NOTES and IDEAS....

- Judy and Jeff find this website helpful: [www.spelling.hemscott.net](http://www.spelling.hemscott.net)
- From *Never Too Late*, a book about adult learning by John Holt:

*Yes, every day... It is not a matter of finding it, once and for all ... and then having it forever. We have to keep finding it.*



## Celebration of Learning



Wright students with their tutor, Syndi, at the 2011 LVT Celebration of Learning

LVT's annual Celebration of Learning picnic and awards ceremony was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Himmel Park. Thanks to all who helped make it a true celebration!

- BANANA-GRAMS – a letter tile game like Scrabble but without the board. It's fun to make one big puzzle together.
- QUIDDLER – a word game with cards, played like Rummy. Playing open-handed makes it fun for everyone.



Dick and Jane Evans



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## My Experience Here at Literacy Volunteers of Tucson by Marty Calanche, 2011 Dick and Jane Award Winner

My participation here at L.V.T. is a discovering process. I have observed myself in embracing my relationship with my tutors. They seem to have their own way in helping me to develop my understanding.

I love their determination as well as their patience. I have also discovered that it is very helpful to participate in events. I like the wonderful people who are very generous in helping us students and staff members here at Literacy Volunteers of Tucson.

Back when I first started it was my third night here. I was leaving out of the door and I had a good thought. It was "I'm so glad I came in to sign up" and as I drove down Speedway I yelled out this: "Can this be my calling to help other people who can't read?" I was just thinking out loud. I was just that happy that it finally came out into view that I let so many people know at one time that I was illiterate.

Then, seven weeks later here I was in the Fry's food store to buy some Powerball tickets and I asked the cashier for five of them, and as she went to get them I noticed her name tag. I said to her, "I will be right back; I need to grab something, so keep my tickets warm for good luck." When I returned and paid for the tickets I said "Thanks Susan, its Susan right?" She said "yes" and I looked at her and said "it's just that I'm learning to read and it's great!" and she smiled.

Although I knew it was Susan, I just needed to tell someone else that I was learning to read. And by the way, I've also experienced a number of mixed emotions being here at L.V.T., like for example, embarrassment and confusion, intense feelings, but I like the one we call Love. There is so much love in here for all of us! I am taking part in a new venture.

I would also like to say my younger sister is the only one out of my family at this time that knows that I am getting help so I can get my GED.

And as for the community, I'm sure they don't know if I can read or not, but you know, and I have always known. Okay, I take it back. The community is starting to know since I've come in to L.V.T.

*~~ Marty says: My Determination Is Important to Me!!! I grew up moving from school to school, prohibiting me to learn how to read and write. Once I got into high school and the teachers kept passing me to the next grade even though I could not read and write, I began to rebel against the school system.*

*It has been 31 years and I decided to come back to school to learn to read and write. Even though I missed a lot, there is still a chance for me to get my GED and get better jobs.*

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## My New Me

by Uwe Keilitz, 2011 Dick and Jane Award Winner

Since finding LVT I have more confidence and can do more things. My life has changed.

When I first came to LVT, I was afraid and embarrassed. Then things started changing. I changed too. Now I am confident and proud to be learning.

Reading has opened a new world for me. I read my first book ever in the Reading and Understanding class. Now I buy books and have favorite authors.

Before I found LVT, I could not write because it was so stressful. Now I can write on the board at work. I even wrote to my favorite author at Christmas. Writing is a wonderful gift.

My arithmetic has improved too. I bought flashcards and practice a lot.

For many years I wanted to take guitar lessons, but I was not confident that I could learn. LVT gave me the confidence to start lessons. Another dream is coming true because of LVT.

It really feels fantastic. I still can't believe how much I've learned. My goal is to go as far as I can and then just keep going. I know a high school degree was handed to me years ago, but I am starting to think about *earning* a GED.

My family sees changes in me too. My brother and niece are proud of me. When my brother and I talk on the phone, he asks about my classes and the books I've read. My niece is a therapist, and she always wants to know how I feel. I tell her I feel comfortable; I feel good!

I am less dependent on my family now because I have more confidence in making my own decisions. I think maybe they have noticed, but I definitely have.

Now that I have more confidence, I enjoy helping other people instead of trying to be invisible most of the time. I even help little old ladies get their groceries at the store. I help other students in class when I can. I encourage others to check out LVT. I tell them, "You can't fail; it's just great!" I have taken four classes at LVT and only missed one day, because I wanted to learn once I got out of the scariness.

Now I am a Student Ambassador for LVT. I went to the Tucson Festival of Books and met a lot of interesting people. (The other LVT students are interesting too. I have met a lot of people from other countries and cultures: Africa, India...wow!) At the LVT booth I told a man all about LVT, and he signed up to volunteer. The next day I helped at the Sam Hughes open house.

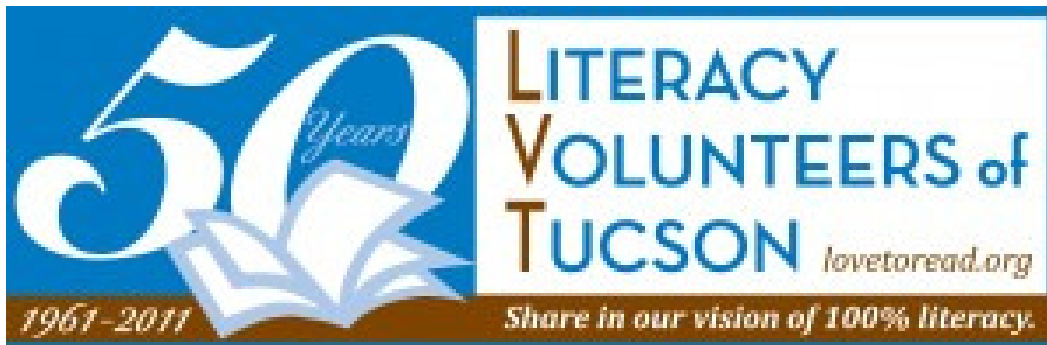
It is a real transformation because now I am a visible part of my community.

After my tutor and I started reading Shel Silverstein's poems, I bought his book called *The Missing Piece*. It fits perfectly! I have found my missing piece. I can't describe it, but I know I have found it. I found it at LVT.

~~ Uwe says: *Well, you know what Uwe says, "LEARN OUT LOUD! Step out of your comfort zone and just do it. You can't fail because LVT is here to help you." Uwe also says, "I can't believe all these changes happened in just one year!"*

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## How LVT Makes a Difference

*by John Pennix, 2011 Dick and Jane Award Winner*

I now have my third tutor, and each tutor has been different. I've learned different things from everyone. I'm more confident now and I read more. I still read the newspaper when I'm interested in something, but I read the Internet articles my tutor brings me more. I think the newspaper doesn't cover as much NBA basketball as I want to read about, and the articles on pro football are not very good. The Internet is better, especially some of the team and league sites. I do use the computer more than I used to and I read articles on ESPN.com and Foxsports.com and use Craigslist. I'm not always looking for short books like I used to. The book we're reading now, "The Jordan Rules", is longer and after a few weeks I really got into it.

As my children have grown older, I find that my relationship with them has changed. I read to Jordan, my youngest, more than I did to Abby, his older sister. My wife and I do many activities that involve all four kids. Sometimes we are all together, going to the mall or Bookman's. Sometimes, the boys and I go one direction and Laura and the girls go another. At Bookman's, Alexander, Jordan and I look at games and music, while Laura and the girls focus on books. In the mall, Alexander, Jordan and I hit the sports stores, while Laura and the girls go to whatever women do. I spend time with each of the kids separately as well. We watch sports and the whole family goes to whatever sports event one of the kids is participating in. We often have pick-up games in the yard.

Now I volunteer at some of the kids' team practices and in their summer leagues. In addition to football and basketball games and track meets, both Laura and I attend concerts, award ceremonies, and parents' meetings at the kids' schools.

Now that I've started reading, I want to keep reading and improving.

*~~ John was very pleased to receive a 2011 Dick and Jane award.*

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## A Busy Woman by We Ming Lu

I work in my restaurant everyday. I work as a hostess. I have to take care of my customers. I have to clean floors. I have to help in the kitchen. I work as a cashier. I hire and fire waiters. I buy food. I pay the bills. I take care of the employees. I serve food and I answer the phone. I call home to check on my 6 children.

Sometimes I like the work. I like to talk to my customers. Not lonely. Sometimes I get headaches because I am so tired. I take my piano in the house. I play piano every night. I go home 11 pm. I practice 20 minutes. If I no practice, no new page.

I have to go to church every Friday from 6 to 10pm. Every Sunday from 7am – 1:30pm. Every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12 pm. I like to listen to bible. I like to sing.

I love my 6 children. They are different. Funny.

~~ We Ming has been working with her LVT tutor for more than two years.



*Since I learned to read,  
I feel like I have moved  
from a dark cloudy world  
to a whole new Technicolor place  
bright with possibilities.*

~ LVT Student



Congratulations to each of the contributors to this,  
the second issue of Literacy VENTURES of Tucson.

Our goals are, as these authors have written:

- to use our determination and discover ourselves
- to learn out loud and be visible
- to keep learning from every situation, and
- to keep learning, no matter how busy we are.

