

STORIES, etc.

Happiest Day

I'm happiest when it's my birthday. Everyone is always happy on their birthday. It's the day you are a year older, and knowing that was the day you were born.

My birthday is on June 18th, so it's a couple more months away. I get excited because I get some really nice gift's, like clothes, jewelry, and money from my friend's and family. When they would take me out to eat at my favorite places, they would always have to tell the workers it's my birthday so they can sing to me. I don't care that much because I love the attention, and I love getting free dessert.

Even though I still have a lot of other things that make me happy, my birthday is my favorite day. I can be the happiest, and no one could bring me down.

~ Although the author of this story wants to remain anonymous, we want acknowledge her hard work as she prepares for the GED. Good job, Anonymous! Keep it up!

GOOD NEWS!

Congratulations to Nora Cazares! She worked hard to improve her test scores and recently qualified to start a CNA program. Read her story later in this issue, too!

Marty Calanche isn't just an LVT student; he's now an LVT trainer! He is also a student ambassador for LVT - and another featured author in this issue of *Literacy Ventures in Tucson*.

LVT turned 50 this year, and, even though the party got flooded out, there is still a lot to celebrate, like a new organization with a new name!



Empowering people of all ages to develop a sustainable culture of literacy and creative expression.

...and that includes you!

Check it out at: <http://literacyconnects.org/>

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



LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

TAKING SAFETY HOME

by Carlos Juarez

The Freeport McMoran Copper and Gold Company had a big event about take safety home on Saturday, April 30th. The event was on Duval Mine, Greenvalley, Arizona. My family and I went to the event because we wanted to learn how important it is to take safety in the work and in your own home. They had food and prizes for the kids, and also they provided a tour for everybody. The food was Barbecue pork meat, breast chicken and hamburgues. The tour was to know what kind of work was happening in the mine site. The prizes were shirts, vests, helmets and little toys. After we ate, we took the bus for the tour around the mine site. First we went up to the hill and saw how they recycled the water that comes out of the mine. Second we went to the pits and saw the big trucks "hauls". It was enormous and we watched how to fill up the trucks. They use a big shovel to fill up the hauler trucks. The tour was very exciting because we saw different parts of the mine. My family and I enjoyed everything because now we know about a lot of my mine job.

~ Carlos Juarez has been doing it all – Reading & Understanding and Writers Workshop classes, studying with a one-on-one tutor and working! His perseverance and easy, laid-back nature make him a favorite at LVT. The improvement in his English is impressive and is credited with helping Carlos become a more desirable employee.



BROWNING

by Raymond Carrisoza

A long time ago when me and my dad when to the park, I can remember we found a dog. He was brown or tan but he looked like a cross between a bull dog and Great Dane. But my mom said dad got the puppy from a family friend. My other dog was a two or three month old puppy. It was a wolf dog. We got it from Flagstaff. My grandmother's husband was a hunter. So I can remember I went outside everyday to play with my best friends. We made holes in the ground. Sometime I would go to bed with them. I fed them food and got them water. In summer I went outside all day long to play them. We had Browning for eleven years but he got meaner and started to bite people. He bit three people so mom sent him to the dog pound. Then Lady she was a pretty white gray and black patch dog. She ran away when she was eight or nine years old. So this made me sad. But my heart has no love for another animal. But I would like to get the same kind of dog. One day I would like to work on training my dog to do tricks.

~ Raymond Carrisoza is a dedicated student at LVT, taking classes and working with a one-on-one tutor. Currently, he is focusing his energies on math. Raymond is an opinionated thinker and it would not surprise us to one day read his writings in the opinion/editorial pages of the newspaper.

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

THE CHICAGO BULLS, by Chris Vega

Before the 2010 and 2011 NBA regular season started the Chicago Bulls named Tom Thibodeau as the new head coach. Tom Thibodeau had come from the L.A. Lakers as a asst. coach under Phil Jackson.

The Chicago Bulls had not been in the playoffs since the 2008 and 2009 season. In the last season the Chicago Bulls were not in the playoffs. That is why the Chicago Bulls did a great job this season and made the 2010, 2011 playoffs.

Now the Chicago Bulls had won the Eastern Conference title. Now the Chicago Bulls had won the NBA regular season title for the 2010,2011 season. Two weeks before the playoffs started the Chicago Bulls found out that the Spurs lost their last two games in the regular season.

That is why the Chicago Bulls won the regular season and got the first seed in the playoffs. Then the 2010, 2011 NBA Playoffs Started and I had found out that the Chicago Bulls got the First seed in the Playoffs. Two weeks before the Playoffs started the Chicago Bulls had a 12 game winning strick. I was so proud of the Chicago Bulls for getting home court invanish in the playoffs.

In April 15, 2011 game one was played in Chicago against the Indiana Pacers. The game one the Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose had scored 25 points and 9 asst. and the Chicago Bulls win over the Indiana Pacers 110 to 80. The Chicago Bulls took game one of the Playoffs in the United Center in Chicago Ill.

In April 17 game two in Chicago, Il Derrick Rose had shot a three pointer in the first Qrt. The Chicago Bulls was putting up some good defance against the Indiana Pacers. At the end of the game Derrick Rose Scored 30 point, 12 asst. in game two. The Final score of game two was the Chicago Bulls 85 and the Indiana Pacer 70.

Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls had to go to Indiana for game three of the NBA Playoffs. In april 20 game three in Indiana Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls was warming up for game three of the NBA Playoffs. At the first two qts. Derrick Rose shot 13 three pointers in a row. At the end of the last two Qts. The Chicago Bulls pull out the winning basket for the Chicago Bulls to take the lead 3 to 0 in the NBA Playoffs.

In April 22 game four was held in Indiana, where the Chicago Bulls had a bad game. Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls played there hardest in game four in the NBA Playoff. The Indiana Pacers was leading the whole game. The Indiana Pacer out score the Chicago Bulls 110 to 90 in game four of the NBA Playoffs. The Chicago Bulls are now leading the Indiana Pacers 3 wins and there first lost in the NBA Playoffs.

The Indiana Pacers took the series back to Chicago for game five of the NBA Playoffs. In April 24 in Chicago Il. For game Five were they had announce that Derrick Rose was named the MVP of the NBA regular season. In the first two QRT. Derrick Rose and Carlos Boozer score each 15 points in the game. At halftime the Chicago Bulls was leading the Indiana Pacers 15 points and the score at the half the Chicago Bulls 40 and the Indiana Pacers 25.

In the last Two Qrt. Derrick Rose scored 30 points and Derrick Rose add 10 asst. in the second half of the game. The Chicago Bulls had won the series 4-1 against the Indiana Pacer. The Chicago Bulls won first round of the NBA playoff and the Chicago Bulls are waiting for the game over the Atlanta Hawks and the Orlando Magic.

~ Chris Vega is a dedicated student in the evening Reading & Understanding and Writers Workshop classes. This past season, Chris (a die-hard Chicago Bulls fan)- was deeply saddened when his beloved Bulls lost to the Miami Heat and were eliminated from the NBA playoffs.

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

Christmas by Christina Noriega

During the holidays it is a tradition for all of our family and relatives to go to church service. On Christmas Eve, we have family dinner. We love for all the family to get together. We pray and talk about what Christmas is; the birth of Jesus Christ. We also make tamales, rice, beans, salads, hams, turkey, cookies, chocolates and more.

We wait until midnight to give the gifts from Santa Claus to the children. Then, among only the mom, dad, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, we exchange gifts too. We love the holidays because we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

~ Christina is a Basic Literacy student in the Writers Workshop class.



Three Rivers, California by Christina Noriega

When I was a child, I remember going to Three Rivers. It was a place of enjoyment for the summer, where these three rivers come together to form one large river. On one side there were cliffs and rocks as high as a diving board to jump off. The river was very green, cold and clear, with small rocks as you stepped into the water.

It was a great time for a family reunion, with the whole family camping with their RVs at the campsite. Spending time with my parents, brother, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and their children was exciting. We told jokes, talked, and heard the clang of horseshoes. It was fun building campfires at nighttime and, most of all, roasting the delicious, toasted marshmallows.

We also enjoyed the great smells of a good meal like: steak, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salads, sodas, etc.

At the age of seven or eight, jumping off the cliff was scary because it was so high and I was nervous and scared of heights. My brother, other relatives, and friends were telling me to jump off. At one point I wanted to change my mind, but I didn't. I finally jumped off and a friend was waiting for me in the water. It was scary, but fun!

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

My Goal In Life, by Nora Cazares

My name is Nora Elva Luzania de Cazares. I am 30 years old and married to a wonderful man named Sergio Ruben Cazares, Jr. I am a full time student and when I'm done I want to go into the medical field. Currently I'm also a cosmetologist, but I would like to work with kids who have terminal illnesses, so I want to combine the medical and cosmetology fields in order to do that. I think that it's possible to do.

There are a lot of sick kids who need to feel beautiful for one day. I would like to open a beauty salon that caters to kids, and parents who have kids, with terminal illnesses. I would like to work with the "Diamond Children's Network" or "Tu Nidito" programs. These programs help the families with things that ordinary families can do and they can't.

I remember the day I got a call from my husband's cousin, Melissa. She told me that I needed to get to the University Medical Center (U.M.C.) as soon as possible. My godson, Joseph, had cancer! He had cancer in the back of his brainstem, and they needed to operate as soon as possible. When they found the tumor, it was the size of a quarter, but by the end of the night it had grown to the size of a golf ball. They needed to get it out so there would not be any long-term effects.

They couldn't do the operation there at U.M.C. because the doctor who was going to do the operation was not available until the next Thursday, and we could not wait that long. So my comadre, Kittzia and my godson got on the ambulance and left for Phoenix. Kittzia's mom and I got in the car that night and drove to Phoenix too. It was the hardest two hours of my life, and the longest too. I just wanted to get there and make sure he was okay.

It was hard to be far from our families and friends for those months that he was recovering, but we did it. I wished there were a place where my comadre could go for a couple of hours and just be pampered. It is hard to go through all this and be far from everything that you know.

I also had a sister who had Cerebral Palsy (C.P.) and we didn't have any place to go to get her hair cut. Some cosmetologists think that it is too hard to do stuff for people who are not normal. I think that everybody deserves a place to make them feel beautiful, no matter what their health condition is. I want to create that place where you can take your children and they will be taken care of. I want my salon to look happy, like a Crayola Crayon Box with all those bright reds, blues, greens, oranges and yellows.

Sometimes it is hard for a family member to find the time to go get all dolled up when there is a child in the hospital. So I want to be the place where they could also go and know that their kid is being taken care of while they are not there with them. I would like to donate my time to the hospitals as well. There are so many things you could do with kids to make them feel love from their own community.

I just want to help everybody that I can; that is my goal in life. If I do that, then I could die a happy woman knowing I did the best that I could for my community. There are a lot of kids who are sick, and for one day it would be nice to feel loved, wanted, happy, and maybe even feel like they are not sick. I know I could not take those diseases away from them, but I could help them feel much better. We would do a lot for our community and the kids in our community. They are our future and we need to take care of our future.

~ Nora is a student in many classes at LVT. She recently discovered that her test scores have increased enough to allow her to start a program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant! She says she still has more to learn and enjoys her classes here, but she hopes to start the CNA program in January 2012. Congratulations, Nora! We're proud of you!

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

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Passion

by Marty Calanche

I had gone to the Park Mall one night to see the movie from Mel Gibson called "The Passion." As a kid I had always sat in front of the TV around Christmas time so I could watch shows about Christ when it was snowing outside.

So, there I was, inside the mall buying my ticket. I then walked to the escalator and stepped onto it. As I was going up, I was imagining that I would continue going up into the clouds and on to Heaven. Then the escalator stopped! My fantasy was gone and I could smell popcorn, so I went to the concession stand and got a nice, tasty root beer.

I went on into the theater. It was dark at first and as I was walking up the stairs, I was hearing soft music and whispering voices. I walked up the stairs to the very top; I love sitting up there so that I don't have to hear those whispering voices behind me.

From my seat at the top I noticed there were not too many people. Then more and more began to show up and finally the movie began. I felt someone sit next to me and I knew it was a woman because I had heard her high heels as she came towards me.

This movie was very emotional (but I have to admit, I was disappointed at the beginning of it because I had no idea that it wasn't going to be in English). It was good though, and in fact, at one part of it, it was very, very sad. I heard some people crying, and I felt the woman who sat beside me grab my hand and hold on to me tightly. So, we held each other's hand and she said to me, "This is so sad."

I answered, "Yes, it is," as she was crying. I don't remember letting go of her hand.

The movie then came to the end, and the lights came on as I was wiping my tears from my cheeks. I noticed there were other folks doing the same. I stood up and looked over to say goodbye to the woman ... but she wasn't there.

~ Marty Calanche is a student in many classes at LVT. He is also a student ambassador and has recently started a new role as tutor trainer for the Basic Literacy program! He attends all the training sessions for the new tutors and helps them to understand our adult learners and our program. Thank you, Marty! You're making a huge difference here for our students and our tutors!



LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

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The Dreams of Life by Sergio Cazares

My place in time is where the sun sets in colors of red, yellow, purple and blue. With mountain top overhead and ocean water fair and blue, I see a future that is a beautiful thing, with a sunset that you can dream about.

A sunset is like life and happiness that you can gaze into. Life comes in so many ways; love, happiness and sometimes even in colors. But whatever happens, when you look ahead you can see a sky so blue and red. I know that the mountains ahead are dark and mysterious, but when I look into them, all I see is happiness.

Let's put our heads together and think on it. This is the next place where we can sit on it. We can talk about the next place; we can drink on it. Our place is the next place where we should sit on it. We have a good thing going on and we are doing something right and dust it off. We have to make a memory that we won't forget. Let's find the light so we can drink on it. Let's dream of life.

~ Sergio Cazares is a student in almost every class at LVT! He has made amazing progress in just three months here and is very close to meeting his goal of entering a job training program in the health care field. Sergio is also a student ambassador.



What Makes Me Happy

by Michael Clendon

The things that make me happy are my Grandma and my family, because they all raised me when I was a baby. My uncle is like my brother too, and he was always there for me. I love my family and my nieces and nephews.

In class I know I am jumpy, but that's just me, and I am happy because I am good at basketball. I am also going through hard times, but I am a guy who doesn't get hurt by little things or big things like when I lost my best friend. He was murdered when he was only seventeen and I was eighteen.

Rest in Peace to my friend, Buddy. Always in my Heart.

~ Michael Clendon is a student in the Reading & Understanding and Writers Workshop classes. He's working hard and making a lot of progress towards his goal of getting a GED.

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

Book Review: *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry by Mike Martinez

The Giver is about a controlled community. The people don't have choices. They are assigned a job when they are twelve. They have to take medicine for their stirrings. They are given a family.

Jonas is the next Receiver and gets the past memories. He doesn't want to be the Receiver because he has the knowledge of what it means to be released. He plans to escape the community. When his father told him that Gabriel was going to be released, Jonas took off with him. Jonas and Gabriel escape to elsewhere.

I didn't care for the book. I couldn't grasp the plot and couldn't relate to the characters. I like the point of view of the author. I think she believes that having choices is a good thing. You can't eliminate all the bad things without eliminating all the good things.



- Ideal -
1. The 'idea' of something as its absolute, perfect best
 2. Someone or something that is the standard of excellence
 3. A goal (of excellence)
- Utopia - An ideal place, especially in its social, political, and moral qualities
- Dystopia - The opposite of Utopia: a place where everything is as bad as it can be

LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

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An Essay by George Jackson

In early June 2006 I started to go down a new road of life. I wanted to move past the lifestyle I knew and had grown to dislike. Growing around people and groups that were not exactly the same way in private that they were in public was getting to me. I did not want to be around that life nor bring friends, family or a new child into that. As I looked for around ways to change my life I found Islam.

Later that summer I was praying behind Rouhollah, a very close friend who was born in the states, but his parents were Iranian. Rouhollah was to me the most stand up guy I had run into pre or post Islam. I could trust this guy to do the right thing under whatever case he was faced with. His integrity was one 2nd to none. He was a true honest character.

One day after praying with Rouhollah two Saudi brothers cornered me. The two brothers told me that if I wanted Allah to accept my prayer I would have to do it over. Knowing that they spoke Arabic and were from the land of the Prophet. I assumed I had done my prayer wrong, so I did it over. Some time later they stopped me again, but this time I asked "What did I do wrong?" in order to fix it for next time. They informed me that I was praying behind a Shiah. They informed me as a Muslim I could only pray with other like Muslims and definitely not pray behind a Shihia. If I did so my prayers would not be accepted. Shiah are not real Muslims. They are falsifiers.

Telling Rouhollah what I just learned was a hard thing to do. It took me many days to do so, and each day it weighted heavier on me. My brother could tell that something was wrong, and soon after he asked me, so I told him what was told to me. His response was "Allah knows what's in their hearts and whomever they pray behind He will hear them. May Allah take their prayers and give them what they need." "WOW" was all I could say. Again he showed his peaceful inner character.

Rouhollah's words touched me to the point I took what happened like a grain of sand at the beach. I would have forgotten about the matter, but they approached me again on the issue. I told them what Rouhollah said to me, left it at that and walked away. Me telling them the true meaning of Islam from a person whose people are misunderstood was amazing. I felt so good from what I witnessed from a good practicing Muslim that later I took his name.

~ George Jackson is a student in the morning Reading & Understanding class and is really doing great with his 1:1 tutor. He's also a student ambassador and is starting to tell his story. Thanks, George! We're so proud of you.



LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON
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Congratulations to each of the contributors to this, the fourth issue of Literacy VENTURES of Tucson.

Our goals are, as these authors have written:

- to celebrate being alive
- to learn every day
- to remember our friends
- to be good team players, even from our seats on the couch,
- to celebrate the people and things that are important to us,
- to have goals and ideals - and to work to achieve them,
- to appreciate things that cannot be seen,
- to dream BIG dreams for our lives,
- to understand and appreciate ourselves,
- to think about new ideas, even ones we don't like very much, and
- to honor our values and live accordingly.

