

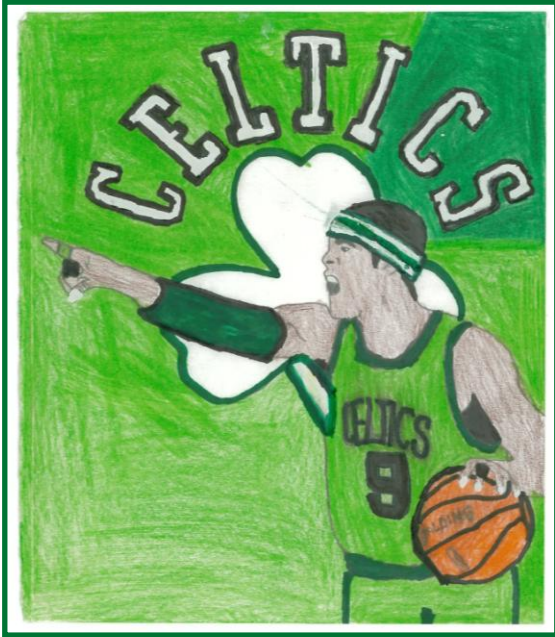
LITERACY VENTURES IN TUCSON

~ A magazine by and about LVT Students ~

STORIES, etc.

Rajon Rondo, NBA

Written and illustrated by Michael Clendon



I am writing about my favorite basketball player his name is RAJON RONDO and he used to play for Kentucky's college basketball team. He was drafted from college to the NBA and within a year he got his ring when they won the playoffs in 2008. That was his first year he played for the Boston Celtics and some players like Lebron James and Derick Rose don't have a ring and these are todays good players. I like the way RAJON RONDO plays and he's surrounded by good players like RAY ALLEN and PAUL PIERCE and KEVIN GARNETT. He's the Celtics beast and this guy has hops and he's only twenty five. When MTV showed his house he drove up in a NASCAR and he showed his ring that he won and his jerseys from high school to University of Kentucky. He has a big TV and a lot of chairs where he watches TV and he's sponsored by Red Bull.

GOOD NEWS!



Get connected to some new writers in this issue:



Martina Roleke



Lina Vassallo



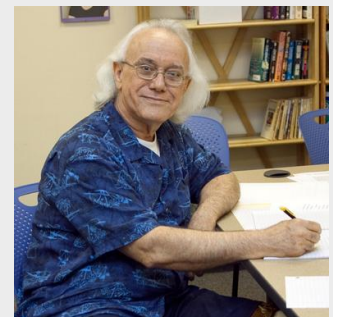
Pedro Saldivar



Grace Thomason



Charmaine Virgil



George Stewart

Thanks to Judy A. Davis for photos & more!

Literacy Ventures needs your best stuff!

Find out how to submit *your* best stuff at

<http://www.lovetoread.org/lvt-community/students/literacy-ventures>.



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What "Literacy Volunteers" Means To Me

by Charmaine Virgil

I would like to talk about the classroom and what I learn here at Literacy Volunteers of Tucson. I come here two times a week. The building is very big and also very new looking, and the room is painted yellow. When I come here I see a lot of people. We all write together and help each other. It's nice to get the help.

The people in my class are very nice. In my last class there were nine students, five men and four women. We talked about writing skills such as subjects, verbs, nouns and sentences. My very first homework was to write about Jada, my daughter.

Sometimes we have a lot of writing to do. But we can get the help we need here from the tutors, by looking at books, and I have gotten help from Marty, a student.

Marty is someone who has been here for a long time. He told me he has been here for over a year. I can tell because he reads very well. I think in this class we should try to get the help we need from Marty. He has helped me learn if you practice reading and writing, it helps.

I feel by coming here I will be able to help more with my daughter's homework now. And in her future, she will be able to go on to college and become a more confident person.

TIPS, NOTES and IDEAS....



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Go to the FREE and FAMILY-FRIENDLY
Tucson Festival of Books!

March 10 and 11
on the U-A Campus

Students who went last year will tell you IT'S FUN!

Ask around and check out the website:
<http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

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It's all happening at the LIBRARY.

Check it out – in your neighborhood or on the web
at: <http://www.library.pima.gov/>

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THE MYSTERY PLANETS

by Steven Horstmann

Two galaxies smashed into each other and blew up. Josh, Joe and I were watching. We couldn't see the planets go their own way.

Today, I, Mathew, am looking at Mars. We three are going to launch our rocket that we bought with our own money. Joe came up to me saying: "It's 11:30 p.m. I will take over."

"O.K." I say.

I walk to my computer to do some work. As I am working, Josh comes to me in a hurry. He grabs my arm and takes me to the telescope and says: "Look at the telescope!"

"All right," I say.

Looking, I could not believe my eyes. Saturn is in Mars' orbit.

Josh says: "I will make sure it's Saturn." So Josh looks into the telescope over 30 minutes and says to me — "Look in the telescope". I did and I can see the planet looks different. The clouds are thicker, bigger and more spaced like Earth's. As I look even more, some clouds go to the bottom of the planet toward its core. The rotation has also changed; it's a lot slower than before so instead of rotating in six hours, it takes 30 hours.

Joe says to Josh and I: "Let's go for lunch." All right! We went outside of our building. Lots of people are looking up. Josh, Joe and I are thinking — Why are people looking up? When we looked up, we saw Mars in Earth's orbit.

Joe says: "How did Mars get into Earth's orbit?"

I spoke up. "Could this be related to Saturn being in Mars' orbit?"

Joe says: "Let's get some lunch, then come back here." We pick up some fast food from Taco Bell, then we go back to eat our tacos.

We talk about how the planets got switched around and launching our rocket to get a better idea of what's happening. Joe is going to launch our rocket into space to find out a little more what's happening. Josh is going to look in the telescope and I am going to make a map of where the rocket is going.

After lunch, we got busy. Joe and I got the rocket ready for blast off. When we finished, we looked at Josh to tell us where to go. Then Josh got finished looking at the directions and says: "We are going where Saturn use to be. I have found a planet that looks about three times the size of Jupiter and it's not on our maps."

This planet is green and the great red spot is eight times the size of Earth and the wind is going 1,800 m.p.h. We are looking around to see how the planet got here and where did it come from and maybe it could give us some answers about how did Saturn get closer to Earth. Mars also became one of Earth's moons. The mystery is on.

Looking at our new planet, it has seventeen moons and a lot of what seems like asteroids orbiting the moons. But what was so odd is that the asteroids orbit the planet and the moons but it looks like the asteroids got caught in the gravity of the planet. So it looks like a planet went through them.

We still don't know how it happened but we have some clues. The two planets come from two different galaxies. The gas giant we think must have knocked Saturn off its orbit sending it next to Earth and the other planet most likely did the same thing with Mars. But we really don't know what happened. That's the unsolved MYSTERY!

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My Children

by Christina Noriega

My name is Christina Maria Noriega and I was born in Compton, California. I moved here in 1983 with my parents. I've had one beautiful girl and two handsome boys in my lifetime.

In September, 2002, I delivered a beautiful daughter named Vanessa at Tucson Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. She's now nine years old. She was born with a cleft palate and she's had numerous surgeries by the excellent doctors at the Tucson Medical Center.

First of all, when Vanessa was just a baby, 3 months old, she was taken to Casa de los Ninos. There the nurses took great care of her. Then, when she was one year old, she went to live with guardians. She's been a blessing to them, thanks to the Lord.

Sometimes Vanessa loses respect for me, but she is my baby and my only girl. I have two handsome boys too. The oldest is Abraham, age 12. The youngest is Ismael, age 11. Unfortunately, I have no contact with them. I pray and wish that someday I, their sister Vanessa, and their grandparents will get to see them.

Christina Noriega attends Reading & Understanding and Writer's Workshop classes. She says she loves coming to classes at LVT.

I Am Still Learning

by Martina Roleke

I come to Literacy Volunteers to attend classes. The first class, Reading and Understanding, is from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The second class, Writer's Workshop, is from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. Yesterday, after the second class ended, I drove my friend, Anita, to her house. Then I left to drive home.

When I was near Park Avenue, the light turned yellow. I crossed anyway and the light turned red while I was in the middle of the road. I hadn't noticed the police car that had been sitting on the left side of the road until he turned left and was right behind me.

For two miles I was very nervous and saying to myself, "Please don't stop me. Please don't stop me."

The policeman didn't stop me although he was driving very, very close to me. I think he was trying to scare me. He DID scare me. I was so scared that I did not know he wasn't following me anymore.

Today I am here again, trying to learn how to read and write, correct my spelling and learn to speak better English. I would like to say thank you to all the tutors here at LVT for teaching me good. Someday I will pay you back by helping others like you help me now.

By the way, nothing exciting or amusing happened when I drove home today. No police followed me.

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The Internet

by Pedro Saldivar

The Internet is an invention of the twentieth century (1984). For a very long time, humanity has been trying to create different ways to communicate. From communications like smoke signals, newspapers, mailing, telegraphs, and telephones. We now have the Internet for these uses. This is a faster way to communicate. In just a few seconds you can communicate with people in a different country and on another continent. On the Internet you can go on Facebook, Yahoo, Google, YouTube, Wikipedia, and many more. It is interesting how the Internet travels through fiber optics at fast speed.

Using the Internet you're able to navigate websites to learn very interesting facts including: history, technology, mathematics, music and cooking. Other skills to learn include how to play the piano or how to fly an airplane. We are communicating to other people, like our friends and family from around the world. We also can chat instantaneously from anywhere you are, at all times.

The dangers of the Internet that happen are when you are online surfing, you may catch a virus. What you need is to have an anti-virus program for your computer. Some spyware programs can protect you from other hackers that may want to steal your money and your identity. They can do bad things using your name, so it's important to protect your information at all times.

Using the Internet keeps friends and families closer. It is a gateway to meet new people from other places around us. We're able to use the Internet for business purposes and for fun. The fact is, the Internet can be a wonderful invention that anyone can use, as long as you have a laptop, computer, iPod, cell phone, television or other device.

My Thanksgiving Day

by Lina Vassallo

In my country we don't celebrate Thanksgiving. I ate my first turkey in New York with my family.

In Tucson, my Thanksgiving is with my friends and my husband. I have a small family in Tucson, so our Thanksgiving is International.

My friend and her husband are cooking two turkeys, one in the oven and one in the barbeque. Normally, I make lasagna and fresh cranberry sauce. One couple from Germany makes a different kind of potatoes. One couple from Spain makes beans with their own recipe. One couple from Greece brings a different dish every year.

After we eat we play games and joke a lot. We have a good time. I hope this year is the same.

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Thanksgiving by Nora Carzares

The night before Thanksgiving I get everything ready for the turkey. I cut all the stuff I would use in the turkey. I clean it and get everything out of the turkey. We usually go to bed about 12 a.m., after getting everything organized for the next day.

Thanksgiving morning we get up about 5:30 a.m. and start doing the stuffing for the turkey. I mix all the potatoes, carrots, celery, black olives, ground beef, breadcrumbs, chicken broth and all the seasonings. Oh, and don't forget the butter. After I am done with mixing and stuffing the turkey, I start cooking it. I feed my kids and I go back to bed for two more hours. Then I get up and start making the sides.

When everything is done, I clean the kitchen and the living room. I get my kids ready for the company. I get ready at the end, and I am always the last one getting ready. Everybody has to wait until I am done.

I have so much fun with all my family. I love spending time with the ones I love, making some good memories with good people, My Family. One thing that makes me sad on the holidays is I miss my mother a lot. She always loved the holiday with the family. She is missed so much on that special day.

God bless you all and I hope you all have a good holiday!



Thanksgiving by Christina Noriega

On Thanksgiving day I will be going to church at Calvary Chapel. I'll read the Bible and give thanks to the Lord for his blessings. After church, I usually get invited to the Reye's house for dinner. I told Vanessa this year I would like to bake my own turkey. First of all, I need to go and buy my own turkey on sale. Also I'll need other items like stuffing, potatoes, gravy, biscuits, cranberry sauce and corn.

If I don't make my own turkey, I'll go to the Reye's. There, before we sit at the table, we get into a big circle and hold hands. Then we enjoy our Thanksgiving dinner.

After dinner I spend time with my daughter, laughing and talking about great memories from when she was little. Therefore, I am grateful for the Lord's blessings.

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A Review of *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry

by Uwe Keilitz

Jonas lives in a community where everything is perfect, gray, and tightly controlled. At age twelve or thirteen, your career and life are decided by the chief Elders in the big house.

But Jonas is different. He sees flashes of color and other things he doesn't understand. His future will be very different, and soon Jonas will understand love, war, death and what it means to be human.

The author takes readers on Jonas's journey. She doesn't give anything away, so you really want to know what happens. I really liked this book because I learned a lot of new words and it gave me a lot to think about.

I Miss Her

by Grace Thomason

I was born in the Philippines and we moved to Malaysia when I was three years old. I grew up there until I was seventeen years old. I got married when I was eighteen, but after four years I ran away from Malaysia because of a problem between my father and me. Moving was hard because I missed my family. I went back to the Philippines in 1996, and after three months I finally got a job in a restaurant as a waitress. Then, after eight months, I decided I wanted to work abroad as a "OFW" (overseas Filipino worker), so I found an agency and they took four months to get me my working visa.

After I got my working visa in 1997, I went to Korea to work in a factory. I worked there for almost a year. Three months before my visa expired, I received a phone call from my sister in Malaysia. She told me that my other sister was so sick that she might die soon.

The next day I called my sick sister and we talked for almost thirty minutes. She told me, "Don't cry because I am going to visit you there soon." When she said that, it just made me keep crying. Before I said goodbye, I told her, "I love you too, very much sister!"

She replied, "I love you too!"

After she said, "I love you" to me, my phone card ran out of minutes so I went to the store to buy another so I could call her back. When I called her back my mom answered the phone and she was crying. She told me my sister had passed away after we talked. I said, "What? Are you kidding me, Mom?"

She told me, "No Ging." After we finished talking, I went to church and just sat there for six hours. I was hurt because I hadn't seen my sister in almost nine years and now she was gone. I just miss her so much.

Sister, I just want to let you know, no matter what, you are in my heart forever. You are my best friend and you are the best sister I ever had.

I love you!

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What Thanksgiving Means To Me: Thanksgiving With The Devils Diciples by George Stewart

My name is George Stewart and I'm a member of the Devils Diciples Motorcyle Club. My "brothers" are the members of the club and we have chapters from coast to coast. Our clubhouse is here in Tucson, Arizona. My brothers will start rolling into the clubhouse a few days before Thanksgiving and the partying will begin. We all go in a pack to Coolidge, Arizona a day or two before Thanksgiving for a memorial ceremony, and we buy out two motels there for us all to stay in. Other clubs will be there also.

On the day of the ceremony, we all form up in one pack and ride from the motel to the cemetery. (We have bought a lot of plots, 20 to 30 at a time, in the Coolidge Cemetery in order to get a better price. Plus, you can bury two urns in one grave.) There we put our fallen brothers' ashes in the ground and then we say some words over them one at a time. Then we send everyone back to the motel where we start deep-frying turkeys and meeting our new brothers. When deep-frying the turkeys, one comes out about every hour.

After sundown, we ride down to the bar. The next day, we go back to the clubhouse in Tucson as our brothers start riding back home.

My Childhood

by Christina Noriega

I was raised with four brothers and one sister: Jose, Daniel, Andres, Miguel and Nancy, in Compton, California in the 1970's. My real mom, Bertha, was not there for us. She left my dad, Miguel, when we were little, and my sister was just a baby in the crib.

My step-mom, Amada, raised us and took care of us. She taught us to love, care, have discipline, be responsible and learn to get ahead in life.

I, my brothers and sister did chores such as; wash dishes, mop, dust and clean our rooms, and we showed respect to our dad and step-mom. Growing up as brothers and sisters, we shared our time together. We watched the television and our favorite shows were "The Brady Bunch," "The Little Rascals," "I Love Lucy," and "The Addams Family." We played hide-and-seek and baseball outside. We went camping and swimming. Also, we went to church with my parents as a family.

Amada was a good housewife to my dad and she took care of him. We had to respect my step-mom, but I missed my mother so much.

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The Bakery - a Descriptive Essay Using the Five Senses

by Pedro Saldivar

When I was thirteen years old, I started working in the bakery. This job was more like learning than a job but it was interesting to know. During the summer vacations I was in this bakery helping a man who needed help with anything like moving flour from one place to another or watching the oven while he was eating or resting or helping customers.

The smell of chocolate, cinnamon, sugar, vanilla and honey when making the cookies made me interested to learn more. When a person doesn't have any experience making breads, everything is an adventure. The process of making pastries and breads takes a few years to learn.

By touching the dough, I will know what is necessary to do; if it needs more water or more time mixing. The dough to make a French baguette has to be not too soft or rough, and the dough has to be able to stretch like a rubber band. Then we weigh it up, and let it set for fifteen minutes. Then it's ready to proof for forty minutes, before baking with a high temperature and steam.

It's a sight for sore eyes when you have the breads, or cookies and pies out of the oven or in the oven. And all are ready to slice and sell. The taste of each pastry or bread in the bakery has to be great because if not, the customers won't buy anything. The rye bread has to taste just like rye bread. And the taste of the caraway seeds or the pumpkin pie or the onion buns needs to be right. Sometimes the baker has to taste the breads. When there is too much yeast, the breads will be too hot, like spicy, so you have to make sure that you do the right thing. And sugar is the most important ingredient in breads and pastries, because without sugar the yeast won't activate and can't bake right.

The buzz of the timer on the oven tells you what to do, or the mixer, when there is too little water, makes a lot of noise. And when frying donuts and the oil stops bubbling, it tells you it is done, so sound is also important. The smell of the breads or honey bran muffins and the taste of cookies and the way the dough feels and the color of pastries and the sound of the oven – all the senses mixing together will tell you that anything you bake is ready to eat or sell.



A very special THANK YOU to volunteer Judy A. Davis,
who took all of the portrait photos (of people) in this issue.

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

Our goals are, as these authors have written:

- *to follow our heroes and our own dreams,*
- *to give – and receive – help when needed,*
- *to explore new worlds,*
- *to live in hope,*
- *to learn something every day,*
- *to communicate in every way we can,*
- *to keep up our traditions,*
- *to appreciate our families,*
- *to remember the good times in our lives,*
- *to have the courage to think new thoughts,*
- *to know that love does not die,*
- *to come together in families of our own making,*
- *to honor our parents, and*
- *to use all our senses and our good sense, too!*

