

# The Literacy Forum

***The Bimonthly Newsletter of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy***  
***December 1999 - January 2000***

Address: P.O. Box 6085, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502 • E-Mail: nmcl@newmexico.com • Web Site: www.nmcl.org



John Shomaker, NMCL Board Member was recently featured in an article in the Albuquerque Journal, Business Outlook edition.

John Shomaker and Associates have been in business since 1973 providing water-geology consulting services.

The Coalition is proud to have John on our Board of Directors.

## Inside Literacy Forum

Ready to Read.....	2
GTE Lab Open House.....	3
Training Corner.....	4
New Workshops.....	4

*From the Executive Director*

### **Tidbits**

Happy holidays! This month, I have a number of smaller tidbits to share with you.

#### **1. Recent conferences**

The Coalition recently co-sponsored three smaller conferences that I was lucky enough to be able to attend. The first was a meeting and workshops for Adult Basic Education Directors from around the state, and it was held in Socorro. This was the first Directors' Meeting that the Coalition, along with its partners on the Professional Development Project and the State Director of Adult Basic Education, had the sole responsibility for staging. You can imagine how nervous we were. It probably wouldn't have happened if our coordinator for ABE, taskmaster Rebecca, hadn't kept our noses to the grindstone during the planning. Those in attendance generally seemed to find the day and a half beneficial. Rebecca and I were both pleasantly surprised by all that Socorro had to offer. What a nice place, and what great people!

The next was in Las Cruces, at Doña Ana Branch Community College. The occasion was our southern regional workshop, given as a way for literacy tutors and administrators to brush up their skills. The hosts and co-sponsors were Literacy Volunteers of Doña Ana County. Between the careful selection of topics and presenters by our training coordinator, Rena, and the thorough logistical support of the coordinator of LV-Doña Ana, Harry Pearson, a wonderful and informative time was had by all. I haven't had a chance to write Harry a thank you

note for being such a gracious host, so I guess this will have to do. Thanks, Harry!

The last took place in Las Vegas (boy, we had just about the whole state covered over the last two months!). This was gathering of interested parties from the four regions involved in our State Department of Labor JTPA grant. Cities represented included Roswell, Deming, Thoreau, and Las Vegas. Our so-called taskmaster for this event was Diane Pinkey, a friend of the Coalition's for a long time. I say 'so-called,' because despite her dire warnings to cut everyone off, the folks in attendance from literacy, labor, and ABE, just kept on talking and sharing information. Although I couldn't make it, I heard that the hosts of the meeting, Luna Vo-Tech Institute, had a wonderful reception with traditional food and songs the evening before. I am told that Julio Iglesias has a lot to worry about, with competition from Luna's ABE Coordinator, Marlene Tenorio.

Three very productive gatherings that to me prove once again that the Coalition's greatest assets are the people we work with.

#### **2. Technology News**

Our big news, which you can read about elsewhere in this issue, was the grand opening of our first GTE Literacy Lab at Let's Read in Española. I am told the event was very well attended. We are ready to get started on our second lab in Hobbs. The literacy coordi-

*("Tidbits" continued on page 2)*

(*"Tidbits" continued from page 1*)

nator down there, Scott Winters, recently told me that it was news to him that our next lab will be at his council! I really have to contain my enthusiasm in the future and make sure I warn people ahead of time about things like this.

The latest version of the Coalition's database tool for literacy programs, LiteracyBase, has been distributed to member organizations and is hopefully used by at least some of you. I plan on releasing one more version of the program within the next few months. If you have any comments or wishes for the database before then, or if you are having any problems, please tell me as soon as you can. If you have not received a copy of LiteracyBase, and think it might help your program to improve its record keeping activities, please call the office and tell us, and we'll send you a copy. I keep telling people, LiteracyBase may not be perfect, but the price is right (free).

Thanks to the efforts of Charles, our resource developer, our web site continues to grow and become more functional. His latest feat has been to create a 'Literacy Forum,' a place on the site where people can post topics for discussion, initiate dialogue, etc. The address for the web site is:

<http://www.nmcl.org>

Also look for an ABE discussion forum at:

<http://www.nmabe.org>

The success of such endeavors is directly related to how many people utilize them. Please feel free to check them, and make your voice heard! Speaking of voices heard, I would like to remind everyone that

if they have news or stories about their literacy programs that they would like to share, please send them to us for publication in the "Literacy Forum." We do enjoy telling people about what we are doing, but we sure would like to hear from you as well.

#### MORE ON LITERACY FORUM

Visit the Coalition's website at <http://nmcl.org> and click on "Literacy Forum" to participate in an on-line discussion of literacy issues and concerns. Use the forum to ask a question, express an opinion, get information from other literacy programs, or offer suggestions on what works in your program. Just send an e-mail message to David Godsted at [dgodsted@nmcl.org](mailto:dgodsted@nmcl.org) requesting to be put on the discussion list. Anyone can participate as long as you have a genuine interest in literacy in New Mexico.



There are two related discussion forms for the adult basic education community at <http://nmabe.org>. One is for anyone interested in ABE issues and another is for students participating in an ABE program. Check them out!

#### READY TO READ

You will recall a handout at the NMCL Annual Meeting last June which featured information about a new tutor training, dealing specifically with local newspapers. This is not simply a specialty workshop; it's a true tutor training for those volunteers and staff who would like to work with materials specifically designed to improve one's reading skills. Trained tutors will find this workshop valuable as yet another tool to enhance the work they

(*"Ready to Read" continued*)

are already doing. Community volunteers who would be willing to use this technique, say, as a "floating" volunteer in your learning center, or with specific students who simply wish to improve comprehension will benefit from this workshop. While tutor training solely with this method will not produce a tutor certified through LVA or LLA, he or she will be a certified Ready to Read tutor and can be counted as "other volunteers in your program" when reports are filed. The tutor training only takes four hours and the volunteer is ready to work with the materials which are used in the training.

Some programs tell us that one of the reasons they aren't getting enough volunteers into their programs is that people say they don't have the time to take a full 12-18 hour tutor training. This workshop can involve volunteers in your program who simply can't make a larger commitment. Chances are, however, they will at some point want a full LVA or LLA training as they become more involved with students.

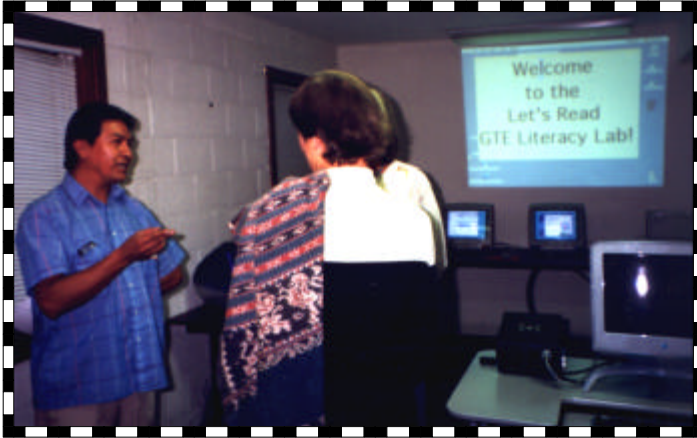
Materials used in this training use visual, auditory, and tactile sensory stimulation while integrating basic principles of phonics and whole language. It uses the newspaper as a text source to teach life skills as well as reading and writing. Ready to Read features a well designed teachers manual and student workbook in both English and Spanish.

You can fill in the volunteer-gap with this workshop, bringing people in from the community who would otherwise shy away. You can also offer this to people who are willing to help you in order to help a family member at home with this uncomplicated method.

Call Rena after the first of the year to set training dates and find out about the materials you will need to provide your new volunteers (as well as the curious seasoned ones!).



## OPEN HOUSE AT THE JELLY BEAN LAB



*Fred Tewa , a tutor along with Let's Read staff.*



*Charles Schweigert, NMCL  
Resource Developer*



*Charles Watkins, Gil Martinez both from  
GTE, Frances Wilmeth, Lab Coordinator  
and Sara Chamis.*



*Guests listen to the music of Anna Mora .*

### *Literacy Computer Lab Opens in Española*

November 9 marked an important day in the Coalition's history and in the history of the Let's Read program in Española. Together they launched headlong into the information age by inaugurating a computer-assisted learning lab with funding from the GTE Foundation. Affectionately called the "Jelly Bean Lab," it is housed at the Let's Read offices and consists of six iMac computers, each a different color, and a powerful G3 Mac server, all networked together with state-of-the-art educational software and all hooked to the Internet. Nearly 100 people attended an open house on November 9 in conjunction with Let's Read's annual meeting. Gil Martinez, GTE area manager from the Española office, and Charles Watkins, Public Affairs Manager from GTE's office in San Angelo, Texas, were on hand to help celebrate the opening of the lab. The lab's coordinator, Frances Wilmeth, and tutors from the program were available to answer questions and demonstrate the computers.



New Mexico Coalition for Literacy  
The Literacy Forum  
P.O. Box 6085  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6085



Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Fe, NM  
Permit No. 218

Phone # 505-982-3997  
Phone # 800-233-7587  
Fax # 505-982-4095

# Training Corner



## TRAINING CALENDAR

DATE	TYPE	PLACE	CONTACT
12/7	Fam. Lit	Chama Lit. Council Phonics	Margaret Palmer 756-2388
12/3-11	LVA ESL	TVI Lit Prog. (Abq)	Deborah Dorff 224-4315
12/4, 11	LLA LWE	Roswell Lit. Council	Jan Bostic 625-1369
1/14,15,21,22	LVA ESL	ReadWest (Rio Rancho)	Elizabeth Thomsen 892-1131
1/11,13,18,20	LLA LWR	Roswell Literacy Council	Jan Bostic 625-1369
2/18-26	LVA BR	LVA Cibola County	Linda Vigil 285-5995

**The Literacy Forum** is published bimonthly by the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy. News and commentary may be submitted to the Coalition using our mail address, e-mail address, phone, or fax number. We look forward to hearing from you!

*The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy Staff:*

**President:** Robert Martinez  
**Executive Director:** David Godsted  
**Training Coordinator:** Rena Paradis  
**Resource Developer:** Charles Schweigert  
**Special Projects Coord:** Rebecca Gault  
**Office Manager:** Arlene Kinart  
**Office Assistant:** Megan Parker

### NEW WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

*And we'll come to you  
if you'd like more than a few.*

The following workshops are available for staff and tutor enrichment:

**Do You Remember?** (4 hours) Develop confidence about remembering, using specific strategies to help.

**Remembering What You Read** (4 hours) Understanding the basic concepts of memory and what is appropriate to forget.

**Speaking Up in a Group** (4 hours) Develop confidence and understand the fears related to public speaking; understand the importance of articulation skills.

**Business Writing, Parts I & II** (2 hours each) Increase awareness of clear, strong, concrete writing, using passive and active "voice" effectively.

**The Challenge of Change** (4 hours) Develop strategies to deal more effectively with change.

**Growing in Self-Confidence** (4 hours) Identify the barriers and learn strategies.

**Communicating on the Telephone** (2 hours) Share common problems and learn some new approaches.

**Taking Charge of Stress** (4 hours) Identify symptoms and your reactions to the source of stress. Know the difference between helpful and harmful stress and learn to take charge of yourself.

Let the NMCL give your good volunteers, students, staff and colleagues a chance to breathe in some positivity and skills development for the new year.