

# LitSource

Literacy @ your library

## LITSOURCE NEWSLETTER

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### Welcome new

**Volunteers:** Dean A., Marci E., Jan H., Sarah M., Steve F. (TE)

### May Birthdays:

Leigh A., Gary D., Janet F., Carrie Alexander H., Laraine H., Gary R.,

### Save the date!

The 2006 Annual LitSource Luncheon will be on Sunday, September 17 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. Please plan on attending. This is our annual recognition event and a chance to meet some wonderful people and compare notes.

## Do You Believe in Magic?

Stone Soup, the annual LitSource writer's journal, is based on the "magic" of words. Some paper, some ink, a few words from a bunch of different people and ...voila! ... every year- a writer's journal.

But to get the 'Soup' going someone needs to start the fire! That's you! Find a way to get your learner excited about writing, about participating, about trying, about the opportunity to be published, about the opportunity to 'give back' to the LitSource program by making a contribution to the collective pot.

Recipes, thoughts, letters, poems, experiences, stories... all genres are welcome. Authors may



2005 Stone Soup Authors

use their names or remain anonymous. Volunteers are also encouraged to write for the 'Soup'.

It is important to understand that Learners' contributions need not be perfect. We want to demonstrate the skill levels of people participating in this program. Please don't polish.

When the editing group

meets to review the submissions spelling errors may be corrected and minor editing may occur if required for clarity.

This journal, in addition to being a showcase for learners, serves as the program's main marketing piece- it is distributed throughout the community to attract volunteers and encourage referrals of potential learners.

Do You Believe in Magic? I do.

## Is Your Learner Simply the Best?

Help recognize exemplary Learners at the annual luncheon.

Learner of the Year Awards are meant to encourage learners who are successful (but maybe need a shot in the arm) and potentially provide role models for other Learners. Nominees need not be those who have made the greatest improvement in skills (but may be). They could be folks who persevere against all odds, who have made

noteworthy skills gains, who make exceptional efforts to learn, who have unusual stories... If you have been meeting for more than 6 months, please consider nominating your Learner. The nomination form will be posted on the LitSource web page and the link will be coming soon.

The deadline for submission is August 15, 2006.

## Talk English

We are offering a reduced schedule of TALK English! group meetings this summer (May 15 – July 26). On Mondays, groups will meet at Cheyenne Mountain and Monument Branches at 6:30 p.m.; on Tuesdays groups will meet at the East Library at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and; on Wednesdays groups will meet at Penrose Library at 6:30 and a **beginning level** group will meet at Sand Creek Branch, also at 6:30 p.m.

If you (tutor) are going to be unavailable for a week or more please strongly encourage your English language learner (ELL) to

attend TALK English! groups while you're away (or otherwise unavailable). Also, many ELL would benefit by participating in TALK English! groups in addition to tutoring.

If you are working with a beginning level ELL please very strongly encourage the learner to participate in the beginning TALK English! Group. This group will be concentrating on practical dialogues for every-day English.

The main facilitator is an experienced ELL professional.

## Notes from the Field:

\* **Soon Ja** “Soon Ja is so dependable - she is always at our sessions. She asks many questions and is attentive, wants to improve and be a more spontaneous English speaker.”

\* **Stella** “Wrote letter to brother and mother in Ghana (First ever!) Addressed and sent letters.”

\* **Alberta** “Alberta surprised me with the length of her writing sample, 3 handwritten pages about how she met her husband. Alberta is doing well with the words she studies each week and practices learning how to spell them also. She said she is reading more and understands the value of practice!”

\* **Heng** “Heng did well getting library card, asking for a book and help with check out. Did not understand detailed library instruction.”

\* **Mi Cha** “We did the timeline and it was helpful and interesting. The

mind map was more of a land mine because of trying to explain goal setting and I gave up on that...It was good that Mi Cha felt comfortable enough to ask for help with pledge (of allegiance). They evidently say it at [work] and she's been in the dark.”

\* **Kevin** “Kevin has read a short poetry book, “I Wanna Be the Kinda Father My Mother Was” by Omani Abdullah. It inspired him to start writing poetry.”

\* **Laetitia** “Sr. Laetitia is very conscientiously journaling each week. Her reading and writing skills are improving significantly.”

\* **Sook** “Sook is doing okay. She works 60 hours a week, goes to school two nights a week in addition to tutoring and has no help at home. Last week she was 10 minutes late because she fell asleep in the car in the parking lot.”

## Photo Release Forms

All tutors and learners (who are willing) need to provide the LitSource office with a signed, dated and witnessed (!) ‘photo release’ form.

This will allow us to print and display photos or videos of LitSource activities.

**A copy of the photo release form is the last page of the LitSource Application [http://library.ppld.org/aboutyourlibrary/Volunteer/LitSourcevolunteerapplication.pdf] – please print a copy and return an executed form to the LitSource office (20 North Cascade, COS, CO 80903).**



## PPLD Volunteer Recognition

Do you recognize yourself here? These are the kudos prepared for the PPLD Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on June 9 at the Cheyenne Mtn. Resort. Hope to see you there!

I cannot possibly tell all the stories about all the 125+ volunteers who provide LitSource services each year: the individuals who tutor, TALK English! conversation group facilitators, committee and project volunteers, and LEARN English! classroom assistants.

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## A Graduation to Remember

By Sarah Sharifi  
May 17, 2006

**Meet Imelda.** On her first day in the LEARN English! program in September of last year, Imelda cautiously entered the classroom at the Ruth Holley branch library. "Hello, Imelda!" I greeted her. "How are you today?" Imelda's big eyes shifted to the floor in embarrassment. "No English," she replied. In Spanish, I assured her that she was in the right place. Eight months later, Imelda proudly received her graduation diploma. Imelda will be the first to tell you of her many success stories in her journey to learn English. She may tell you of the time when she helped her husband fill out a job application, or coached him in the job interview. With Imelda's help, he went on to get a new, better job to provide for their family. Or she may tell you about her first doctor's visit when she refused the assistance of an interpreter. Clearly empowered and motivated, Imelda is now well on her way to becoming a fluent English speaker.

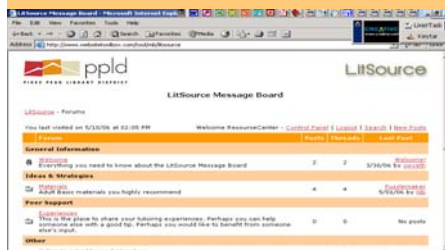
**Meet Jiao.** Jiao entered the Sand Creek branch library classroom in September with lots of energy and enthusiasm, but very little English. Her goals were clear from the start: Jiao's husband owns a local Chinese restaurant, and Jiao wanted to learn English so that she could interact with the customers, take orders, and work at the cash register. In September, Jiao was working "behind the scenes" as a busser or a cook so that she would not be put in a situation that required her to speak English. This spring, Jiao announced that she had started to work as a cashier. Customers were shocked at her transformation, and frequently complimented her on her progress in English. Just a few weeks ago, we held our class graduation party at Jiao's restaurant. We all watched in awe as Jiao busied herself around the restaurant taking orders, greeting customers, and working at the cash register. Jiao's LEARN English! graduation certificate hangs in a

handsome frame on the wall by the cash register.

Imelda and Jiao will now move on from the LEARN English! classroom as they continue their journey to learn English as a second language. The LEARN English! program is designed to be an introductory class for beginners. After this initial exposure to the English language, most graduates are equipped to move on to intermediate English activities, such as TALK English! groups, independent computer study, or other English courses offered in the community. Graduates like Imelda and Jiao are also eligible for the Language Exchange, where they are matched with a PPLD employee or LitSource volunteer who would like to learn their native language. In an informal, one-on-one setting, the pairs meet once a week to "exchange" languages.

As an ESL teacher, I have many proud moments, but perhaps none so treasured as when I embraced the very first LEARN English! graduates and awarded them their certificates. On the day of graduation, they were not donned with caps and gowns, nor did they march across an elegant stage accompanied by the *Pomp and Circumstance* theme. But they did have an audience – classmates, friends, and a glowing teacher applauding wildly for their tremendous accomplishments. Their prize at the end of the race was not a medal or a trophy, but rather the confidence to answer the phone in English, to ask the pharmacist a question, or simply to get a library card. As these graduates move on and others join the team, we as PPLD employees are the proudest audience members of all for them, knowing that we are a part of a library district that has provided these patrons with the opportunity of a lifetime.

## Message Board



The ultra, extremely, very, new LitSource Message Board is up and waiting for your participation.

A few people have visited, and one or two have posted notes.

Like "the Velveteen Rabbit" it won't become real until it's loved, and used and dragged around a bit. It's up to you! Please post your questions, comments and tips on this site. Find a mentor, get peer feedback, share and find out about good resources.

All LitSource volunteers with email have received logon instructions.

This is meant to become the LitSource water cooler, cafe, clubhouse, back yard fence, what have you. Please come, hang out and share your experience and expertise.

Want a Mentor? Stop by. Have a question? Ask it. Something great happened with your learner? Tell us. Found a great resource? Share. Have a great idea? Float it here. Feeling isolated and need to touch base? Drop in.

This Message Board is restricted to LitSource volunteers, staff and a few highly evolved others. Even so, please reframe from using learner's names; confidentiality is the bedrock of library services.

Pikes Peak Library District  
20 North Cascade Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80903

Phone: 719-531-6333  
Fax: 719-389-8990  
Email: swyeth@ppld.org

**Resources**  
To access the  
LitSource Message  
Board link:

[http://www.  
websitetoolbox.com/  
tool/mb/litsource](http://www.websitetoolbox.com/tool/mb/litsource)

## PPLD Volunteer Recognition

Their willingness to help other adults learn and eagerness to learn themselves is what propels this program. Here are a few examples:

- \* This dedicated volunteer called from a hospital emergency room to have her learner notified that their meeting would be rescheduled.
- \* Working hard to help his Korean learner improve his social English skills, this tutor sacrificed by meeting him on the golf course for a few months. ☺
- \* Helping adults improve their English skills and become familiar with American culture can be a challenging assignment. These two volunteers have leapt into the cultural mix by guiding group members through bridal showers, baby showers, birthday celebrations and various other Americana.
- \* This excellent volunteer has stepped in at the last minute (more than once) to substitute for other volunteers. She does whatever she can to assist the LEARN English! instructor with adult students struggling to master English.
- \* A dedicated volunteer who no longer drives takes an hour-long bus ride to meet a learner at the library.

\* A member of the original LitSource training group in 1989, this committed volunteer continues to tutor and touch the lives of many patrons.

\* With no training, this intrepid LEARN English! classroom volunteer agreed to facilitate a TALK English! conversation group for several weeks while the regular facilitator was out of town. Talk about out of the frying pan into the fire!

\* With LitSource for 9 years, serving in many capacities, this volunteer's continuing interest is based on the joy she gets from helping others achieve.

\* About a year ago a tutor was on a cruise with her family; tragically, her mother died while in a foreign port. The bureaucratic nightmare that followed required this volunteer to extend her time away. She called the LitSource office from abroad asking that we let her learners know that their meeting would be cancelled that week!

\* Volunteer worked several years with a learner in the summer when Colorado Springs was his residence.

\* Dedicated Volunteer helps with all available programs whenever needed: Tutoring one to one, Talk English, Partners in Conversation, and Write English.

LitSource Office  
Pikes Peak Library District  
20 North Cascade Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT