



# The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition  
for Literacy

3rd quarter  
September 07

## International Literacy Day in New Mexico

NMCL hosted an event in the Rotunda of the Roundhouse on Friday, September 7th. Marten Griego, the author of "Leaving the House of Tears", was once an adult literacy student and spoke to the attendees. There were refreshments and a Proclamation declaring International Literacy Day was read by Dr. Catherine Cross-Maple, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Education Department.



Marten Griego speaking at  
International Literacy Day



NMCL Board Members  
with Senator John Ryan  
L to R - Sally Harper, Las Cruces, Ellen  
Harbaugh, Carlsbad, Senator John Ryan,  
Dorothy Redd, Roswell, Liz Gordon, Albu-  
querque, and Harry Pearson, Las Cruces.

## Marten Griego: Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award Excellence in Individual Achievement Award Recipient November 2007

Eight years ago, Marten Griego was functionally illiterate. At eleven years old, he was an alcoholic filled with anger and self-pity granting him little chance of reaching his full potential. Marten came to ReadWest in 1998. It was there that he made the shameful admission that he was a fifty-year old man who needed help. Today, Marten is a published author, an entrepreneur, a literacy advocate, a public speaker, and a volunteer for the local program, ReadWest, Inc. In November, 2006, Marten realized his biggest achievement to date when he published his memoir, "Leaving the House of Tears", his amazing life story.

Marten is a student first, therefore he understands the challenges a student must face and overcome throughout their journey to success. Marten created a plan to help contact students who drop out of the local program. He contacts the students by phone and shares with them his experience. He gives them advice and encourages them to keep trying to realize their dreams.

Using his previous knowledge and experience, and the lessons his late tutor, Gordon Suits, taught him throughout the years, Marten gained the ability to develop workshops for students that encourage and motivate. He submitted this workshop to the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy and they invited him to present it at their annual meeting. In his workshop he states "words are a powerful motivator. Anger becomes a great motivator to act; to listen, to ask questions, and to desire to know. Teach them the power of words and show them how to turn negative thoughts into motivational ideas." He will also give this workshop to the students at the local program and throughout the state.

*(Achievement Award continued on page 2)*

[www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org)

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“CREATING A  
PATHWAY TO  
THE FUTURE FOR  
NEW MEXICANS  
THROUGH  
LITERACY”



Senator John Ryan, Bernalillo/Sandoval County with Marten Griego at International Literacy Day

**Spotlight On An Adult Learner - Literacy Link- Leamos, Silver City.**

Our learner has been receiving help for four years, has progressed from knowing the names of the letters to their sounds and emerging reading skills to where she is today. She has had three other tutors during this time (two moved out of our area and one became unavailable due to health reasons). I think that the learner's deep desire to read has motivated her to adjust to the different tutors, not an easy transition. From her tutor: " In the months that we have been working together, I am amazed and excited by the progress toward fluent reading that she has made. Having worked very hard to use the phonic approach to decoding words, we started working on "good reader strategies" for approaching a story or book. She has really taken off and can use the clues in pictures and determine which words fit in the sentence to make sense. We have loved using the Ultimate Phonic software. She says it has been noticeable to her friends that she speaks clearer. Lately we have focused on ending sounds. She is a wonder and a very hard worker. It makes every week exciting to watch the progress."

*Submitted by Michelle Detterick, Program Director*

**(Achievement Award continued from page 1)**

Marten appreciates both sides of the literacy field; those who learn and those who teach. Marten became a Basic Literacy Volunteer Tutor in March, 2007, another goal attained that Marten set for himself years ago! He also developed a tutor workshop that shares many of the techniques his late tutor used to effectively teach him. "Learning Marten's techniques were a good addition to my bag of teaching tools and hearing his perspective was very insightful. I will use these ideas with my student and have no doubt they will be helpful for her" said Rowena Nichols, a volunteer tutor participant at his tutor workshop.

A most recent goal of Marten's has been realized: to become a spokesperson for adult literacy. Marten's experience has given him the ability to speak publicly in an effort to increase awareness of adult illiteracy. He speaks to local businesses, organizations, and volunteer groups to educate them about the challenges students who are illiterate face and to encourage them to get involved. Marten's speeches are impassioned, professional, and extremely motivating. He makes you want to sit down and read a book! He reminds you of the joy that reading brings and makes you want to share that joy with someone else.

Marten has made a significant impact on the local agency. In addition to being a student advocate and providing training to its tutors, he actively serves on the board of directors. He made close to 30 presentations to corporations and organizations during the year. He increased community donations 200%! Marten contributes money and donates proceeds from his book sales. He recently designed a new marketing plan to raise additional funds for ReadWest from his book sales. He credits ReadWest for his success at every opportunity and he gives out fliers to solicit volunteers at each presentation and book signing event. He gives back to ReadWest in every way possible.

Marten contributes to the state organization, the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) and state libraries. In addition to providing the student workshop as explained above, he was invited to be the featured luncheon speaker at the NMCL. He received a standing ovation and moved many to laughter and tears. His motivational speeches are quickly becoming well known. He has received invitations to speak at other agencies throughout the state to help them increase awareness of adult illiteracy and motivate volunteers to act. He will be on a radio show promoting adult literacy in New Mexico in the Fall.

Marten's dream of becoming a *national* spokesperson for adult literacy is also being realized with an invitation to

**(Continued on page 3)**



### NMCL Trainer Accepts a Fellowship Position in Mexico

Sheri Brautigam has been selected as an English Language Fellow for the academic year 2007 -2008, sponsored by the Department of State and Georgetown University.

This 10 month Fellowship position is at the Escuela Normal Superior de Atlacomulco in the Estado de Mexico, Mexico.

Sheri will be doing in-service trainings for Mexican English teachers and she will also be helping set up an MA TESOL program at this Normal School with the director who is a recent Fulbright Scholar. Normal Superior Schools are the Mexican equivalent of our State University educational institutions. The Normal Superior School of Atlacomulco has one of the most progressive training programs for English teachers in Mexico and sends its teachers for English immersion to partner colleges in San Diego and Chicago. Its teachers are some of the best trained and enthusiastic English teachers in Mexico.

If any of you ESL tutors are interested in this English Language Fellowship for 2008, it requires an MA in TESOL or Linguistics and is sponsored by individual American Embassy Educational Outreach programs worldwide. There are currently English Fellowships for approximately 112 different world sites. Check out the ELF Web Site: <http://elf.georgetown.edu/>

I left my position as EL Civics Coordinator at Santa Fe Community College June 30<sup>th</sup> to participate in this wonderful opportunity training EFL professionals in Mexico. I feel very honored to be accepted for this prestigious Fellowship as I know it is very competitive and will also be challenging. I will miss my students, colleagues, fellow NMAEA board members and the NMCL staff and trainers this coming year. I wish you all 'happy educating' out there on the dusty trails of New Mexico.

If you want to contact me please do so at .....[lalucita@yahoo.com](mailto:lalucita@yahoo.com)  
I'll be creating a 'Training Teachers in Mexico' Blog... if you want more details.

### *(Achievement Award continued from page 2)*

speak in Alabama at the Alabama's Court Referral Officer and Community Corrections' literacy program. His most exciting invitation came from ProLiteracy Worldwide to become a Featured Session at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Annual Conference in Virginia. Marten will present the session, "Motivation for Students". Marten may even have an opportunity to go to the White House!

Marten is deserving of this award because he has shown in his life how learning to read elicits many positive changes. He is one of the most amazing people I have ever met. Learning to read has opened his eyes to see his biggest dreams realized. He achieves more than most people ever even imagine. He sets goals for himself and strives until they're met, and then he sets more! He loves and believes in all people which is evident when he speaks with someone one-on-one or in a group.

He is making a huge difference in the field of adult literacy. The way he shares his passion for literacy, so unselfishly and uninhibited, it changes people's minds about what adult literacy is all about. I, along with my peers, have the utmost respect and admiration for all that he is and look forward to sharing more successes with him in the future. He is a shining example of excellence in individual achievement.

Thank you for considering Marten Griego for the Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award for Excellence in Individual Achievement.

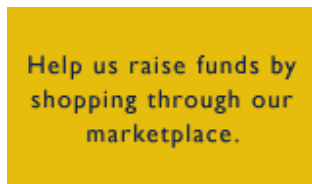
Submitted by: Susan Markin-Ryerson  
Executive Director of ReadWest  
Needless to say, I nominated Marten for the Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach **Award for Excellence in Individual Achievement.**

And ...

...

**HE WON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Contact the NMCL if you are interested in bringing his in-services to your tutors, personnel or students.**



Go to our website <http://www.nmcl.org>  
Click on the shopping bag icon and do a search for your favorite store. A percentage of every purchase goes towards literacy in NM. It doesn't cost anything and your privacy is always protected!



19th Annual Meeting Photos



Keynote Speaker, Peter Waite  
ProLiteracy America



Harry Pearson  
NMCL BoardMember



Conference attendees with  
The NM Marimba Band



Program of the Year - Deming  
Literacy Program



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor of Socorro  
welcoming all conference attendees



PPDA Professional Program  
Directors Association

## NMCL Training Schedule for 2007

September 28, 2007

**Make It and Take Workshop** *Trainer: Janice Lujan*  
Literacy Volunteer Tutor Program @ CNM, Albuquerque  
Contact: Donna Aragon, 505-224-4313 daragon@cnm.edu

October 5 & 6, 2007

**ProLiteracy English as a Second Language Tutor Training** *Trainer: Cathryn Varney*  
Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe  
Contact: Chrys Chaparro, 505-428-1353 cchaparro@sfcnm.edu

October 6 & 13, 2007

**ProLiteracy English as a Second Language Tutor Training** *Trainer: Virginia Bernard*  
Literacy Volunteers of Dona Ana, Las Cruces  
Contact: Paula Leighten, 505-527-7641 pleight@nmsu.edu

October 10 & 11, 2007

**Adult Literacy Student Becomes a Published Author /The Gordon Suits Student Workshop**  
*Presenter: Marten Griego*  
Literacy Center at UNM - Taos  
Contact: Virginia Leighten, 505-758-5904 ginia2@unm.edu

October 19 & 20, 2007

**ProLiteracy Basic Literacy Tutor Training** *Trainer: Diane Ross*  
Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe  
Contact: Chrys Chaparro, 505-428-1353 cchaparro@sfcnm.edu

October 20 & 27, 2007

**ProLiteracy English as a Second Language Tutor Training** *Trainer: Janice Lujan*  
Literacy Volunteer Tutor Program @ CNM, Albuquerque  
Contact: Donna Aragon, 505-224-4313 daragon@cnm.edu

October 27 &

November 3, 2007

**ProLiteracy Basic Literacy Tutor Training** *Trainer: Diane Ross*  
ReadWest, Rio Rancho  
Contact: Susan Ryerson, 505-892-1131 readwest@earthlink.net

October 27, 2007

**Board Training** *Trainer: Donna Aragon*  
Carlsbad Literacy Program  
Contact: Closed

October 27 &

November 3, 2007

**ProLiteracy English as a Second Language Tutor Training** *Trainer: Cathryn Varney*  
ReadWest, Rio Rancho  
Contact: Susan Ryerson, 505-892-1131  
readwest@earthlink.net

To book a training, contact [heather@nmcl.org](mailto:heather@nmcl.org)  
1-800-233-7587