

THE STUDENT NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns, Inc.

-Volume IX-----Number 1 -

Maria Weeks, Editor

STUDENT STORIES

I have been here for more than three years. Since I arrived in this country, I started to take classes in English. In the beginning, it was hard for me because I did not have much knowledge of English. But with time and dedication to studying, it started to flow.

One day a friend of mine told me about this program that the Library has for foreign speakers. In this program, I met my teacher, Ms. Theresa Sullivan. She helped me a lot with my speaking and also she encouraged me to continue studying.

I want to thank her for all that she did for me, and also thanks to the people that make this program possible. It helps a lot of people like me and, if someone is in process of learning English, don't give up!
(Luis Leon, Student of tutor Terry Sullivan.)

FROM LIMA TO TARRYTOWN

Lima, Peru, December 13, 2002: the day that had seemed so far away had finally arrived for me to leave my country, my family, and my business. My name is Ymma Robles. I am now living with my husband in Tarrytown, NY.

I am a fashion designer. I have been in business for 27 years. I owned a small factory for women's clothing in Lima for 23 years. The factory operated through several economic and political crises, and I learned to make decisions to keep the business going. The last important decision, made reluctantly, was to leave Peru and carry on the business in the United States.

Life has given us the opportunity to start again, and to face new challenges such as learning a new language and interacting with peoples of diverse cultures. Our capital has been our past experience and our determination to benefit not only ourselves but also our new country, the United States.

I have found many institutions and organizations for the support and orientation of women's enterprises. I took business classes for four months at the Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. The Center provided me with the skills, tools, and resources to start my own business. Recently, the Center gave me a scholarship for a course in English at Westchester Community College. In March, 2004, I had the honor of being a guest at its Twentieth Annual Awards luncheon, where I met Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Right now

I am taking English in the Literacy Volunteers Program at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. My tutor is Elisa Carrillo. It has been difficult for me to learn English, but I am making progress, thanks to Elisa.

I want to thank this country so much for giving me the opportunity and facilities to strive for my goals. I am fortunate to be in Tarrytown, which offers a beautiful view of the Hudson, kind neighbors, and easy access to important economic and cultural sites. (Ymma Robles, student of Tutor Elisa Carrillo)

STUDENT STORY

I'm Bernardita Benito. I'm 50 years old. I have been married to Luis Jara for 20 years. We don't have children. I lost five babies, three in Chile and two in this country.

I'm from Chile and my husband is, too. We live in Westchester in Ossining. I work cleaning houses, and in the evening I clean offices. I have one brother and one sister. My brother lives in Peekskill. My sister lives in Chile. They have two children each—one boy and one girl. The boys are here and the girls are in Chile with my sister and sister-in-law. I help my nephew. I see him every Weekend.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE
TARRYTOWNS--Warner Library
121 No. Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

I have been learning English for a long time, one day a week. My teacher is very good and very patient with me. She is Mrs. Candie Frankel. She lives in Tarrytown. I know where she lives and she knows where I live. I know her husband and nieces. They are beautiful.

One time in the summer, my teacher taught me in the park, and we talked in the park about the flowers, trees and the children in the park. My teacher knows my history, my life. (Bernardita Benito, student of Tutor Candie Frankel)

PLEASE...Send us your stories, poems, a favorite recipe--anything written you would like to share. We need material for our STUDENT NEWS. You can leave whatever you have in the LVT mailbox in the Warner Library. We look forward to printing your written contributions!

NEW!!! LVT STUDENTS WHO SUBMIT STORIES FOR THE STUDENT NEWS WILL RECEIVE TWO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO A TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL MOVIE

ATTENTION LVT STUDENTS!!! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR TUTOR GIVES YOU THE ESLOA TEST AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR OF TUTORING TO MEASURE YOUR PROGRESS IN LEARNING ENGLISH