

THE STUDENT NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns, Inc.

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Maria Weeks, Editor

STUDENT STORIES

WINTER IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

As a native of Ecuador, I am fascinated by winter in Sleepy Hollow. Here, winter has many aspects, with advantages and disadvantages for most people.

When the snow falls on the trees and bushes, it is a very beautiful sight. There is no noise, and the air is very clean. Children enjoy playing in the snow. It is a time for holidays, like Christmas and New Year's Day. Winter can also be a dangerous time. Walking outside after a snowstorm, people can slip and break a bone. It is also a time for colds or the flu. When we go out, we need to dress warmly, with a winter jacket, hat and gloves. (Maria Chuchuca, student of Elisa Carrillo).

MY ENGLISH TEACHER-CATHY

I've been in America for seven years. I have had a lot of American teachers. Some teachers teach Bible, some how to speak,

and so on. My current teacher teaches me something special such as pronunciation, grammar and writing. Her name is Cathy.

I know many English words and general grammar, but my big problem is pronunciation. Most of the time, when I talk with other people, I understand what they say but they don't understand what I say. I will never forget the day when I went to a food store to buy banana ice cream. The seller gave me vanilla ice cream. I was embarrassed. I know the problem was my pronunciation.

Last December I met Cathy, my English teacher. She is a very nice person. She has brown eyes, gray hair and a big smile on her face. I enjoy studying English with her. She is very patient with me. When she found my pronunciation was not good, she created special ways to teach me. She uses tape to record my reading and speaking. Then I listen to it and she points out which word was not correct. I follow her and repeat and repeat...again. I also read some short stories and record them on tape. When I am back home, I continue.

She thinks once a week is not enough for me. She hopes my pronunciation will progress fast. We see each other twice a week.

Now I can talk with salesmen on the telephone. I can use the phone to order clothes, shoes, etc. I feel more confident. I will never forget Cathy's encouragement. I have a wonderful teacher and I really like her. (Pin Qiu Wang, student of Cathy Lawner).

MY FIRST LIBERTY

After the nine weeks of intensive training at the naval boot camp in Great Lakes, IL, my first liberty call arrived. The night before liberty the barracks were bustling with activity and "the smoking lamp was lit". We were smoking cigarettes, spit-shining our shoes, writing, ironing, and making sure that our uniforms were in "four-O" shape. In the din of activity you could hear laughing, chatting, and the clinking sound of our dog tags hanging around our necks as we all competed to get ourselves ready for the next day before the sound of Taps.

At the sound of reveille the next morning, everyone quickly headed for the showers, looking forward to liberty. Shortly after everyone was ready, the buses arrived on the base. They line up one behind the other and the company commander directed us to the bus of our destination. Liberty buses were headed up to Milwaukee, WI; Chicago, IL, and other major cities in the metroplex. Being from the Bronx and never having visited a mid-western State, I chose to go to Milwaukee. I had already had a peek at Chicago when I landed at O'Hare Airport and taken the 45-minute bus ride from the airport through parts of Chicago and the surrounding countryside to my boot camp in

Great Lakes. So, I boarded the bus for Milwaukee.

We finally arrived about 0900 hours. The city was quiet and unusually still. It was a Saturday morning in early November and there were few people on the streets. It was cold and misty. The buses left us in downtown Milwaukee across the street from the U.S.O. All of the sailors went for something cold to drink and waited for the bars to open. By noon the mist had cleared and the bars were open. All of us went into the same bar, just a few doors down from the U.S.O.. There were about 60 of us. Some sailors sat at the bar, some sat at tables, and others went right to the jukebox to select some music. I remember sitting at a table and looking around at all the well-dressed sailors in their uniforms and feeling proud that I was one of them—one of the thousands of young men who had chosen to serve their country. Most of us were away from home for the very first time. I remember feeling that moment to be a turning point in my life...(Submitted by Osborne Stothert)

MY TUTOR

My name is Akiko Ishigawa. I am Japanese. The reason why I came to this country is because my husband was transferred to the New York branch of his company. I have been living here for three and a half years now. Since I came to this country, although I had studied English for 10 years in Japan from middle school through college, I still had difficulty communicating in English, especially in listening and speaking. Then a Japanese neighbor told me about this literacy volunteer program at Tarrytown library. I registered myself immediately. Soon, they introduced me to Luddy who became my English teacher. It is not too much to say that having met Luddy changed

my outlook on life. She was not only a great English teacher but also a mentor of my life. I cannot write down everything here, but in those days I didn't have much confidence in myself. Luddy always motivated me to live positively.

There is something that Luddy told me in our first class. She said "Your English is now at kindergarten level, but I will make you extend your level from kindergarten to graduate level." Even now, I remember it very well. And now, what she told me has come true. Now I am taking a graduate course at Manhattanville College since last September. If I did not meet Luddy, I would have never thought of taking a graduate course. I am really enjoying the classes.

I am taking a TESOL course at Manhattanville College. TESOL stands for "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages" and this is the course to become an ESL teacher. There are two reasons why

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I chose this course. One is because, as I studied English with Luddy, I found the wonderfulness in teaching a language and, two, because I am really interested in how people learn their second language. I hope that when I go back to Japan, I will be able to teach English or Japanese to somebody as Luddy did for me in this country. (Mrs. Akiko Ishigawa, student of Ludwiga Barabas)

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

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