

THE STUDENT NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns, Inc.

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Maria Weeks, Editor

STUDENT STORIES

BECOMING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

One Friday morning in May, my husband and I went to New York City for my citizenship ceremony . It was at 0 o'clock. There were many people waiting. It was very noisy because people were talking and there were babies crying.

A security guard told everyone to come in and sit down. My husband Jose' waited outside the room. Because the loud speaker did not work well, I had to listen carefully to hear my name called. Finally, I heard "Delfa Delgado" and I walked to the table and presented my papers. I was given a new envelope with the oath of allegiance and a citizenship decree.

After a short wait, we were asked to stand, raise our right hand, and read the oath. We promised to "support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic...and bear true faith and allegiance to the same".

At the end of reading the oath, we all applauded. People from many different countries were now Americans.

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Delfa Arevalo De Delgado (American Citizen)

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. It was a big change for the whole world. Americans celebrate every year in October in memory of Columbus. Five hundred and nine years after Columbus discovered America, I came to this beautiful land from China in 2001. It was a big change in my life.

At the beginning, I felt alone. I had no friends here. I was eager to communicate with others. I tried to make new friends, but I failed. When you cannot speak fluently, how can you make friends? If people cannot understand each other, how can they

become friends? Language is the main problem for me. I learned English for many years, from third grade on in primary school. My English is still poor.

After I came to the U.S., I heard English everywhere. At least I practiced my listening skills. I found there is an organization called Literacy Volunteers of America. They help foreigners improve their English. I got a tutor from them. Her name is Kati Lawner. We meet twice a week at her home. Kati teaches me how to learn English better. Every time we are not only studying with books, but also speak about various topics, like history, traditions, life experiences, stories of our own. She is really a kind lady. She has much patience with me. We became friends, although we are not the same generation. With Kati's help, my English improves fast. At the same time, my self-confidence is coming back. Now my level gets higher than before. I have some friends now. I enjoy my life.

I was really moved by Kati and all the other volunteers. They help people who need help, and without expecting a reward. How great they are! Kati is an example for me to understand more about the culture of the volunteer. Volunteers have good influence on newcomers. I would be glad to be a volunteer in the future.

I will study English harder and harder. I am eager to be connected with learners of English from all over the world. We can share our culture, our history and all the interesting things, also the experience of learning a language.

-----Rui Zhou , 22 years old

ON SATURDAY MORNINGS

In the Spring of 2000, I joined the Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns (LVT) and began a six week tutor training workshop at Warner Library. The classes were informative and challenging as I began the process of learning how to speak English but to navigate in an English-speaking environment. Near the end of the workshop, I was asked if I would be willing to work with two sisters and I agreed. Since May, 2000, my students and I meet most Saturday mornings at the library. We begin our class by discussing current events in the world and in our lives. We practice pronunciation. We review vocabulary. We read and write stories. We work on listening comprehension. We laugh often. We trade accounts about customs. Many lessons come from events in our lives or problems that need to be solved. We learn from one another. The progress that my students have made is great to behold.

I describe our time on Saturdays as the most fun that I have all week and it is true!

-----Anne Habig
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

mailbox in the Warner Library.
We look forward to printing your
written contributions!"

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE
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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

