

# The Lamplighter too

A newsletter by and for the students of the  
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

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## I Am a Citizen Now!

Hello. My name is Liliana Ochoa. Last year I began studying with my tutor, Judy Walker, to prepare to take the United States Citizenship Test. I learned about the history of the United States and how the government works.

On December 8, 2004 I went to Miami to take the test. I passed the first two parts but I did not pass the part where I had to write a sentence. So, I had one more chance on February 8, 2005 to retake the writing part of the test. Everyday I practiced writing the 49 sentences. When I went to Miami the second time, I was very, very nervous and scared. The test only took 5 minutes. I had to write one sentence: "I live in the state of Florida." I did not make any mistakes. I PASSED! Now I can become a United States Citizen. Soon, I will go to Miami for the official ceremony. I am very happy and relieved.

Thanks to my tutor, Judy Walker, for helping me prepare for the test. I will continue meeting with her every week to study reading, writing, and speaking better English.

P.S. My sister Doris also just passed the citizenship test.

Liliana Ochoa

Judy Walker, tutor

Hola. Mi nombre es Liliana Ochoa. El año pasado empecé a estudiar con mi tutora, Judy Walker, para prepararme para tomar el examen de Ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos. Yo aprendí acerca de la historia de los Estados Unidos y como trabaja el gobierno del mismo.

En Diciembre 8, 2004 estuve en Miami tomando el examen. Yo pase las dos primeras partes, pero la tercera parte donde tenía que escribir oraciones, no la pase. Tube otra oportunidad en Febrero 8, 2005 para retomar la parte del examen. Practique todos los días escribiendo 49 oraciones. Cuando fui a Miami la segunda vez estuve muy muy nerviosa. Tuve que escribir una oración: Yo vivo en el estado de la Florida, no tuve ninguna equivocación. LO PASE! Ahora yo me puedo hacer ciudadana de los Estados. Pronto yo ire a Miami para asistir a la ceremonia oficial, estoy muy contenta y relajada.

Continuare viendome cada semana con mi tutora para aprender a leer, escribir y hablar mejor inglés.

Gracias a mi tutora, Judy Walker, pude pasar este examen.

PS: Mi hermana Doris Ochoa también acaba de pasar el examen para hacerse ciudadana de los Estados Unidos.

Liliana Ochoa

Judy Walker, tutor

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director  
Sonia Heredia, Office Assistant  
Monday to Friday: 9:00 to 5:00 pm

Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator  
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### STUDENT COMPUTER LAB

Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Palm Sunday 2005

About 10:45 on Palm Sunday morning, my friend Yolanda and I went to Cape Coral. Every Sunday I go there to see my brother Sofanias. He is a priest and works at St. Andrew's. My friend, my brother, and I ate lunch together at the rectory. I prepared the soup at my house. I put beef and vegetables in the soup. My brother likes my soup.

At 1:30 we went to church. My brother celebrated the Mass. It was a beautiful Mass. I liked the music. There were many people there. Everyone took some palms home with them. The Mass ended at 3:30. My friend and I came back to Bonita at 5:45. I went to bed at 6:30 because I was very tired and I had to go to work early the next day.

Margarita Ortez

Martha Mador, tutor

# My Life in U.S.A.

When I came to live in New York three years and five months ago, I carried many dreams in my head, to look again at my family, to find a new work, and to learn English, etc. One month after living in New York, somebody was helping me to find a new work. I went to work at the Hispanic bakery as customer service. It was a wonderful experience for me because I knew many people of different countries and sometimes had the opportunity to attend American people, when they asked me about the rice with chicken or beef and chicken empanadas. I felt dread because no one understood what they said; this one time I knew some words but I couldn't speak; often somebody laughed at me, but I never lost my interest to learn English. When working there, I went to a school to get the license as Home Health Aide. "Take care of older people;" it's not easy taking care of an older person, but for me, I liked it. Sincerely I enjoyed it too much, because I love so much all grandfathers and grandmothers. My decision to come to live here was for the weather. In N.Y. usually it is cold and here is more warm.

Now I am very happy to live here. I work as a custodian at the charter school. It is a wonderful experience for me because day by day I learn English. Besides thanks to Literacy Council, thanks to my teachers Maureen Lorenz and Amilcar Santos, I can write these words about my life in N.Y. and Bonita.

Thanks very much and God bless all the people that helped me.

Maria Franco

Maureen Lorenz, tutor

# Meet the Moms

My name is Demetria Gonzalez; I'm from Oaxaca Mexico. I'm 60 years old. I decided to come to the U.S.A. when my husband died. I didn't know what to do because I had five children. I didn't have a job, any money; I never went to school. I don't know how to write or read either. I didn't speak English or Spanish. I spoke Mixteco so it was difficult to communicate. Finally the only job that I could find was in the field cutting tomatoes. I started working there to support my children. I worked in the field for six years until I got sick and I couldn't work any more. The good thing of that job is that I learned some Spanish. I stayed home and one day a friend told me about the new Moms and Tots Program. I said I'm going to try so I went the first day and really liked it. Since that day I have come to every class. I have learned so much. We have excellent teachers. They encourage us to continue learning English every class and every day. They really care about us. This program is really making a difference in my life. Before I had to ask somebody who speaks English to go with me to the store to buy a money order to pay my rent, but now I can go myself. I say, "May I have a money order, please?" I know the numbers, too. Can you believe it? I never thought that at my age I could learn English, but I know that it is never too late to do something that is going to help you be a better person. Thanks to all the teachers for all the help that you are giving me.

My name is Martha Jose. I'm 20 years old and from Oaxaca, Mexico. I have been in the U.S.A. for one year. One day the teacher Katie invited me to the Moms and Tots program and what I love from this program is that I can bring my baby with me and both are learning English. It's difficult, but I really want to learn. When my son starts school, I'm going to look for a job. I want to be able to speak and understand everything in the interview when I take my son to the doctor. I am very happy in this program because I learn a different word every class. Thank you for all your help, teachers.

I'm Velia Guerrero from Tamaulipas, Mexico. I have been in the United States for nine years. One time I went to 3 Oaks school. I didn't like the program there and I stopped going. Then I heard about the new Moms and Tots program and I went and I liked it. I noticed a big difference. The teachers treat us as their friends. They're always smiling. They have a lot of patience. I have learned a lot in this program. Now I can understand my children when they talk to me in English and they say "Wow, Mom! You are learning." That makes me feel very good. I want to learn more and more. Now when I go to the store, I don't need to ask for somebody who speaks Spanish. I feel more secure to ask for anything that I want in English. I'm very grateful to be in this program. Nora Martinez, reporter and pre-school teacher  
Moms and Tots Program at Manna Christian RV Park