



Dear Readers,

We, as the Next Steps Class, are honored to serve as the editors for The ILC Newsletter. We are excited to share what we have learned with fellow students and anyone else whose hands this paper falls into. We are grateful to The ILC. Here, we have gained the confidence and knowledge we need to create a happy life in a new country. We have done this while feeling supported,

respected, and empowered by the staff, our teachers, and classmates from around the world at The ILC.

When we came to the United States, we felt like strangers in a new land. It was difficult to speak to other people because we didn't know the language and felt embarrassed. We got lost in the streets. The food was different. The weather was different. We missed our families and friends at home. We couldn't make appointments. We couldn't get a job because we couldn't fill out the applications.

The ILC changed this for us. Here, we have learned grammar, spelling, reading, writing, and pronunciation. We expected this. Learning these things were part of our expectations. However, The ILC exceeded our expectations. Here, we found support in creating goals and meeting them, finding job training, talking with our children's teachers, and lessons important to our lives like health, getting a library card, identifying our personal skills, and how to handle ourselves in job interviews. We made new friends. We shared our experiences, our cultures, and our dreams.

As immigrants, we know how difficult the first steps of adaptation are in a foreign place. However, we hope that you do not give up on your dreams and start with small steps towards your goals. The ILC is the perfect place to start! Please enjoy our student newsletter.

Sincerely,

The Next Steps Editors



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## Student Editors by Morning and Afternoon Next Steps

### 2017 Student Newsletter

We, the Next Steps Editors, enjoyed our experience editing this year's newsletter! We loved writing, editing, laying out the pages, and interviewing Diane Portnoy. This is only one of the projects that have helped us learn English at The ILC. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as we enjoyed working on it. Thank you!



**Morning Next Steps Class Student Editors**

**Bottom row from left to right:** Memeus, Jean, Sandra, Qiao, Alana, Anna Mona and Albana  
**Second row from left to right:** Alelign, Gladys, Serge and Frenky



**Afternoon Next Steps Class Student Editors**

**First row from left to right:** Suze, Nadgee, Florence and Alena  
**Second row from left to right:** Rossini, Nativita, Beata, Joseph, Charles and Jessica (not in picture)

**Interview With Diane Portnoy**  
By Sandra, Alana, Frenky, Beata, Rossini, and Alena

We recently had the opportunity to interview Diane Portnoy. Dressed professionally and surrounded by books, awards, and photos, Ms. Portnoy took the time to make us feel comfortable and welcome in her office. She proudly told us of the twenty five years she has spent at The ILC and about her life. Our conversation was inspirational, discussing how Ms.Portnoy’s dreams became a reality reminded us that ours can too.




Diane explained that she dreamed of opening a school for immigrants for a very long time, ever since she and her parents arrived from Poland, settling in Malden after WWII. She always wanted to be a teacher and over time that dream developed into opening a free school for immigrants. If she had to rate her satisfaction with The ILC on a scale of 1-10, she would give it a 10 but it took a long time to get here and it's still growing. When The ILC opened its doors in 1992, Diane had her work cut out for her. She had to find an appropriate space near public transportation. Without the help of government funding or the Internet, she relied on the donations of friends and local business people, her own hard work, and the phone book. Yes, the phone book. She used the phone book to compile lists of telephones and addresses for organizations where immigrants may gather like churches and other immigrant agencies. She printed cards, letters, and flyers to hand out on the street.

Diane also answered some of the more fun questions. For instance, if she had to pack a book for a stay on a deserted island she would bring something that would help her forget about everything like a biography or historical book. She no longer speaks Polish because her parents wanted her to focus on English but she still likes Polish food. Diane was asked what's the secret to her youthful appearance? There is no secret. She says exercise, eat well, and keep a positive attitude. We also asked whether she considers a woman’s personal life or career more important and she told us it is a woman’s personal life. If she was given the opportunity to send the immigrant community a message, she would say, “Never give up!” We believe she sends that message every day when she opens the doors to this school and welcomes us in to make our dreams come true!



Answers for Word Search from page 12


## Our International Food Culture By Morning and Afternoon Level 1



**Haiti**

**Soup Joumou** is a traditional food from Haiti. It has squash, beef, pasta, cabbage, and other ingredients.

**Legume** is a traditional food from Haiti. It has vegetables, crab, shrimp, beef, and rice.



**Honduras**

**Baleadas** is a traditional food from Honduras. It's a flour tortilla with refried beans, cheese, eggs, and avocado.



**Brazil**

**Churrasco** is a traditional food from Brazil. It has different types of grilled meat, a salad with vinaigrette, tomatoes, and onions, and rice.


**Coxinha** is a traditional food from Brazil. It has chicken and cream cheese, and you make it with white flour and chicken broth.



**China**

**Sesame Chicken** is a traditional food from China. It is chicken with sesame seeds, sesame oil, soy sauce, a little salt and sugar.

**Dumplings** is a traditional food from China. It has pork, seafood, and vegetables.



**Morocco**

**Harira** is a traditional food from Morocco. It is a soup with basil, tomatoes, onions, meat, and chickpeas.

**Couscous** is a traditional food from Morocco. It has beef, vegetables, and semolina.



**Dominican Republic**

**Sancocho** is a traditional food from the Dominican Republic. It is a soup with different meat and vegetables.

**La Bandera Dominicana** is a traditional food from the Dominican Republic. It has rice, beans, and some type of meat – usually chicken. You eat it with a salad.



**Cuba**

**Congris** is a traditional food from Cuba. It has rice, black beans, and pork.




**Vietnam**

**Bánh chưng** is a traditional food from Vietnam. It is a sticky rice cake, and it has mung beans and meat.



**Palestine**

**Maftoul** is a traditional food from Palestine. It is similar to couscous, and has flour, vegetables, and beef.



**Venezuela**

**Pabellón Criollo** is a traditional food from Venezuela. It has rice, black beans, plantains, shredded beef, and avocado.



**El Salvador**

**Pupusas** is a traditional food from El Salvador. It has cheese, beans, chicharrón, and corn. You eat it with tomato sauce and cabbage.

# First Jobs in the U.S.A. and Our Job Values

## By Morning and Afternoon Level 2

We have had many different jobs and work experiences in the United States. Our first jobs in this country were not the best jobs, but they gave us important work experience. Our work in this country is important. We all agree that the key to getting a better job is learn and practice English every day!

Here are some of the first jobs we had in the United States:

 <p><b>Factory Worker</b></p>	 <p><b>Babysitter</b></p>	 <p><b>Maintenance Worker</b></p>	 <p><b>Cargo Worker</b></p>
 <p><b>Waitress</b></p>	 <p><b>Dish Washer</b></p>	 <p><b>Busser</b></p>	 <p><b>House Cleaner</b></p>
 <p><b>Salad packer</b></p>	 <p><b>Kitchen Worker</b></p>	 <p><b>House painter</b></p>	 <p><b>House keeper</b></p>

Our first work experiences in this country were difficult at times. The biggest problems included low wages, no benefits, difficult work, communication problems with managers and co-workers, as well as problems with schedules. We look forward to learning more English at The Immigrant Learning Center and having more opportunities for better jobs in the future. There are many things that are important to us when we think about jobs in the future. Our career advisor, Robbin, taught our classes about job values.

**These are the things that are important to us in a job:**

- ❖ A good schedule
- ❖ Benefits
- ❖ Good pay/salary
- ❖ Opportunities for promotions/raises
- ❖ A good boss/supervisor
- ❖ Friendly co-workers
- ❖ Near public transportation

We are so happy to be in this country and we know that our contributions as immigrants are important to the U.S.A.!

## Advice about Jobs By Morning and Afternoon Level 3

The students in Andrew's Level 3 classes had many suggestions about finding a job and being a good employee. We also interviewed the students in Phoebe's Level 3 classes to learn about their jobs and countries and hear their suggestions.

**The best ways to find a job are:**

- Searching online (Craigslist, Indeed, Google)
- Word of mouth (talk to friends and family)
- Networking
- Looking in newspapers
- Going to businesses and asking about jobs
- Looking on bulletin boards

**Other advice about jobs for new immigrants:**

- Study English!  
"It's difficult to find a job if you don't speak English."
- Get job training / learn new skills
- Have a résumé



**If you want to get a raise or a promotion, you should:**

- ✓ Pay attention
- ✓ Do things the right way
- ✓ Work fast
- ✓ Follow the rules
- ✓ Do the best you can

**You shouldn't:**

- ✓ Be absent a lot
- ✓ Be lazy
- ✓ Make the same mistake two times



# Be Smart About Your Education!

By Morning and Afternoon Level 4



**Salem State university**



**Bunker Hill Community College**



**University of Mass. Boston**

Tuition	910.00	576.00	13,503.00
Fees	8,921.00	3,684.00	325.00
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$9,831.00</b>	<b>\$4,224.00</b>	<b>\$13,828.00</b>

The costs listed above are for TWO semesters, or ONE year of university.

Education can be very expensive so it is important to make good decisions.

## What should you study?

- Choose a degree or certificate program that you like, pays well and has available jobs.
- Look at websites to learn about job opportunities before you select.

## Where should you study?

- Talk to your Immigrant Learning Center Advisor about FREE education that might be available.
- Make sure any school you attend is licensed and accredited.

## What should you do before enrolling in a school?

- Don't sign up on the first day you visit a school.
- Don't sign documents you don't understand.

## How much should you pay?

- There are many forms of financial aid. You don't have to pay back scholarships and grants. A work-study program is a part time job on the university campus.
- Be careful about taking out loans! You have to pay them back, usually with interest.

## When I first came to the U.S.

### By Morning and Afternoon Remedial Writing

I came the first time to the United States on 8-12-2009. I was very tired, the travel was too much for me. My parents came to pick me up. I felt happy to see my family but in the airport and in the tunnel I didn't feel good. Then we came home and I took a shower, ate and slept.

I came to America in 2007. I went back to school because I needed more English. I just take English only for work. I just need more English to do something I want. When I first came I was very sad but now I'm ok. I love America. For now I'm happy.

I moved in 2013 from Colombia, it was a very confusing year, because I had many different feelings. I found my first job in the Prudential Mall in the food court. It was a good experience, I didn't know any English. I made many mistakes, and I remember the funniest thing when I work there we had to tell the customer "for here or to go", but as I was not clear how to say it I told the customers "for here or let's go".

When I first came to the United States I lived with a friend in Florida, and he gave me problems every day. I called my mom and told her I wanted to come home. She told me to wait to find a job. I called my friend in Boston and he said come to Boston I have place for you.



In 2000 I came here and I was sad because my children were with my mother in my country Guatemala. I came to get ahead and help them. In 2001 I had two jobs, one cleaning and one nursing assistant. My story is so sad and long that I could write many books.

In 1993 was moving from Canada to Boston. I was scared because I left my parents. And didn't speak English. I'm happy now because I can speak English by myself. I love music compa but I can't find it is hard to find Haitian music in America. I miss the compa music.

In 2015 I came to United States. I was very happy to see my sister and family. But I don't like the snow I was very cold. I could not speak English and the first time was difficult for me. I missed my children because I couldn't see them. I watched something funny on the TV [Jerry Springer]. I felt better a little bit now. But now I'm very happy because I got married last week.

I came to the U.S. in 2015. I have been in the United States for two years. I live in Malden. I am from Dominican Republic. I'm 30 years old. I remember when I first entered the JFK- John Kennedy International Airport, the luggage of other staff thought it was mine. My first day was very difficult for me and very sad. I first lived in Florida. A few months later I moved to Boston. I didn't know to cook on an electric stove. I had a small fire and smoke accident in my kitchen and the fire alarm on the floor of the kitchen went off. I felt depressed because I missed my family and was accustomed to my environment. It embarrassed me not being able to communicate in front of people. I cried every day. I wanted to go back to my country. It took me 1 year to adapt to a new life.



# Experiences with a New Language

## By Morning and Afternoon Level 2B

*In my language, Haitian Creole, we have only one word for both he and she which is "li". Often, I said "it" for a man when I talked with my friend at work. Sometimes, I feel really ashamed about that.*

Haiti

*When I arrived in this country, I started to work as a hair stylist. The most difficult moment was when I attended an American person who needed a haircut. Even as he called me I was so scared. He asked for a certain style, and I thought I understood him. But, I gave him a different style. I felt so bad that I retired from being a hair stylist and started to study English.*

Colombia

*When I first travelled to the USA. The people working at the airport called me. I didn't understand because they pronounced my name differently from what I am used to hearing in my country. For me, the ticket desk called everyone but not me. That day, I missed my flight. Since then, I had the desire to go to school and to learn English.*

Haiti

*Before, I didn't know what the meaning of this question "Where were you born?" I replied that I was born in one place and after I was born in another place. I thought that "Where were you born?" is the same as "Where did you live?"*

El Salvador

*In a bank, I wanted to open an account to deposit my money. The banker understood that I wanted a loan. He told me that I wasn't qualified. Fortunately, a Moroccan woman heard our conversation. She helped us by explaining to the banker I needed a checking account and not a loan.*

Morocco

*Five years ago, my husband and I and our friend's family went together to dinner at his teacher's house. They started talking in English, and I didn't understand anything. I spoke just one word. The wife of my husband's teacher started laughing and that made me sad because I thought I was boring. Later, outside, I cried.*

Turkey

*There was a time when I went to the store to buy a pitcher. I didn't know how to say "pitcher" in English. So, I was trying to ask the cashier about it, but he didn't understand. He thought I wanted a bottle of water. After a few minutes, he called the manager to see if he could help but he couldn't. At the end, he had to call someone that spoke Spanish. I felt very embarrassed.*

El Salvador



*On the plane to America, I didn't speak English. My husband interpreted for me. While he was sleeping, the flight attendant came and asked me some questions. I didn't understand anything she said. I thought she asked me if I want to eat food. I just nodded. Then, she gave me baby food. My children slept and I ate baby food.*

Vietnam

*I was working with my manager. He asked me to do something, and I didn't because I didn't understand. He came over to me and asked why I didn't do it. I said, "I'm sorry. I don't understand." It's very difficult when you want to explain something but you can't.*

Haiti

*The second day after I came to the United States, I went to my aunt's party. I saw a lot of beautiful purple flowers. And, then, I said, "Beautiful, people flowers."*

China

*Two months ago, I was waiting for a bus. An American person asked me, "How long have you been here?" I thought the person was interested in asking me how long since I have come to the United States. I replied with a smile, and said, "About one year." He was shocked. That moment, I suddenly understood he asked, 'How long I was waiting for the bus.'*

China

# Our Dream Jobs

By Morning and Afternoon Level 3B

It is everyone's dream to do something they really love for a living. Some of us want to be a nurse. It makes them happy when they can help other people. Some of us are very passionate about playing basketball. They dream to be a professional basketball player in the future. Some students would like to be a veterinarian because they love animals and want to be around them as much as they can. We believe that if you follow your dreams and try your best, you will get your dream job one day! Here are some of the examples of our dream jobs:

## Nurse



### Skills:

- ✓ High school diploma
- ✓ Complete training program
- ✓ Wear uniform
- ✓ Pay attention to details and changes of patients
- ✓ Understand written and spoken language
- ✓ Spot problems and solve problems

## Flight Attendant



### Skills:

- ✓ Speak clearly
- ✓ Use reasoning to discover answers and problems
- ✓ Be friendly and caring
- ✓ Look for ways to help people
- ✓ Quickly and accurately adjust to different situations

## Nursing Assistant

Hospital

\$15.5 per hour

75 hours training program

- Help patients walk, bathe, eat, etc.
- Observe and report changes in patients' conditions



## Flight Attendant

American Airlines

\$29.90 per hour

- Work night, holidays, and weekends
- Complete training
- May work part-time



## Tour Guide



## Campus Tour Guide

Mandarin College Tours

\$25-\$35 per hour

- Cross-cultural experiences
- Make two times more than normal wage
- Mandarin not required

### Skills:

- ✓ Speak clearly
- ✓ Be responsible
- ✓ A second language
- ✓ Be knowledgeable
- ✓ Understand spoken and written language
- ✓ Know the people and culture



## Restaurant Manager



## Restaurant Manager

Gecko Hospitality

\$51,000-\$63,000 per year

Full-time

- Taste cooked food to ensure quality
- Welcome guests

### Skills:

- ✓ Understand spoken language
- ✓ Speak clearly
- ✓ Notice when something is wrong
- ✓ Motivate group
- ✓ Teach others
- ✓ Solve problems and deal with complaints



## HELP WANTED

By Morning and Afternoon Level 4B Theater

Written and Directed by Alan Verly

Coming This  
Summer Exclusively  
to The ILC

An Immigrant  
Theater Group  
Production

When a letter arrives, saying that their rent will no longer be free...four roommates, from different countries, must find jobs.....

**Rita was a fashion designer in her home country. She loves wearing bright clothes and putting on makeup, and she always wants to make sure her hair looks good. She is confident about her English, but sometimes makes mistakes. She sometimes can talk too much and doesn't know when to be quiet.**

**Played by Wendy**

**Ted is really interested in fitness. His grandmother was the one who paid for the friend's rent, and Ted has never had a job in his life. He thinks that working is a waste of time, and would rather go to the gym instead. He's always trying to prove to his friends how strong he is.**

**Played by Quan**

**Phil loves computers, he's resourceful and tech savvy. He doesn't feel confident in his English, and uses the translator on his phone all the time. He thinks that by using technology, he doesn't need to learn English.**

**Played by Amine**

**Darlene is the most rational friend in the group. She has a big heart and loves helping people. She thinks that she and her friends need to take learning English more seriously if they are going to get jobs. She struggles with speaking English but always tries her best.**

**Played by Nativita**

**Henry is the landlord of the apartment the friends live in. He's really mean to them and wants them to move out if they can't afford the rent. He is also an immigrant, and thinks that his English is better than the friends even though it is not.**











**Played by William**

**Other Cast Members: Level 4 AM, Constanza, Pierre, Lexman, Jean, Job, Qui, Roxana, Uman, Claudete, Srijana, Carine, and Ketta**

## Read, Write and Talk about Shopping

### By Morning and Afternoon Literacy Level 2 & Level 3

Where do you shop for these things?


I shop for:	at a:
pants 	pharmacy 
medicine 	supermarket 
shoes 	department store 
milk 	shoe store 
paper towels 	dollar store 

Fill in the blanks below to make a sentence.

- I shop for \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I shop for \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I shop for \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I shop for \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I shop for \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Word Search Activity

G	Q	M	Y	V	M	S	S	M	I	P	J	Q	Z	F
M	Z	B	P	G	A	U	L	N	E	H	O	F	T	A
T	O	D	V	U	H	P	E	S	M	A	C	W	A	K
R	X	O	Z	N	S	E	W	B	T	R	C	S	O	Y
S	E	L	X	E	H	R	O	R	E	M	Q	C	K	V
J	O	L	P	X	O	M	T	N	N	A	L	K	J	O
Q	K	A	J	M	E	A	R	H	I	C	I	K	T	Z
K	Y	R	B	V	S	R	E	S	C	Y	J	X	K	H
H	A	S	G	E	T	K	P	T	I	B	Q	V	W	S
P	P	T	H	U	O	E	A	N	D	Y	N	G	E	K
W	J	O	B	V	R	T	P	A	E	U	L	O	B	Q
J	H	R	W	X	E	T	R	P	M	I	H	O	J	H
V	W	E	G	Q	U	G	B	C	V	S	V	V	H	W
D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	S	T	O	R	E
U	S	R	M	I	L	K	O	Z	I	B	W	C	O	Q



**Find the words:** pants, medicine, shoes, milk, paper towels, pharmacy, supermarket, department store, shoe store and dollar store

Check your answers on page 3