

ESL Reflections

A LIFE CHANGING EVENT...

By Gordana Melselli

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Published by
the students
and faculty of
the ESL Department,
North Shore Community
College

My life has been a mix of difficulties, sadness, and happiness. The saddest event in my life was when my father died two years ago. Dealing with my grief has been very difficult. The hardest thing has been being open with other people and talking with them about what happened. I didn't want to talk to anybody. My friends came every day to see me. I didn't say a word to them. I just wanted to stay in bed.

My mom was so worried about me. In her sweet way, she told me to stop crying and to accept what happened. She taught me that life continues, no matter what happens. She told me that she was in so much pain when both her parents died several years ago and now when she lost my father. She told me that she had to be stronger because she had a family and two wonderful children. And after she continued, this is life. Everybody who comes into this life will die one day. It was very hard for me at that moment to think about it. All day, I thought about her words. She told me to be stronger because

if I acted like that, I can lose the control of everything in life.

The next day I woke up in the morning, dressed and went to work. Everybody was so surprised to see me. I started to work and talk to people. Being with other people helped me a lot those days. I'm proud of my mom's lessons. She helps me all the time. The most important thing is that I am a stronger person now. I'm not afraid to talk with my friends now. I can tell them what I feel about something that happens to me. This life event changed me a lot as a person.



Life is at the same time simple and hard, but also life gives us many bridges to cross.

More Life Changing Events Inside...

CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR

By Solida Heng



Caption describing picture or graphic.

The second day of Cambodian New Year is called Wanabot

What is Cambodian New Year? Khmer New Year is the greatest traditional festival and national holiday. Khmer New Year begins on April 13th or 14th, depending on the ancient horoscope, “MohaSangkran”. The majority of the Khmer populations are farmers. Farmers reap and harvest their crops from the rice fields all year long, except during April. In April, there is no rain and it is very hot. Therefore, the farmers rest from working in the rice fields and celebrate the New Year.

This year is the year of the Tiger (Klar) and the Angel is named Mondar Tevy. The first day of New Year is on April 13 which is called “Moha Sangkran,” meaning “welcoming their new angels.” Khmer people clean and decorate their homes and prepare fruits and drinks to welcome their New Angels. Elderly people like to meditate or pray the Dharma because they believe that any angel who comes to their homes will stay with them and take care of their family for that whole year. In the morning, Khmer people go to the temple to offer food to the monks and to receive blessing.

On April 14 which is the second day of New Year is called “Wanabot,” meaning “to offer gifts to the par-

ents, grandparents and elders.” In the evening, people go to the temple to build a mountain of sand to remember those ancestors who have passed and have the monks give them a blessing of happiness and peace.

On April 15 which is the third day is called “Leung Sakk;” that means “the year starts to be counted up from this day.” In the morning, Khmer people go to the temple to perform the ceremony of the mountain of sand to get blessed. The last ceremony is called “Pithi Srang Preah”, meaning to give a special cleansing to Buddha statues, the monks, elders, parents or grandparents to apologize for any mistake they have done and to gratify them. Khmer New Year is not just a great traditional festival. It is also a generation passing on traditions

A MEMORABLE DREAM

By Leonardo Roa

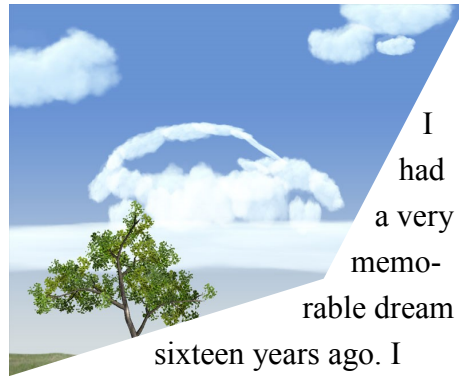
Facts about Dreams

- Blind People Dream
- You forget 90% of your dreams
- Everybody Dreams
- Dreams Prevent Psychosis
- We only Dream What We Know
- No Everyone Dreams in Color
- Dreams are not about what they are about
- Quitters have more vivid dreams
- External Stimuli In-vade Our Dreams
- You are Paralyzed when You Sleep

Bonus Facts:

When you are snoring you are not dreaming

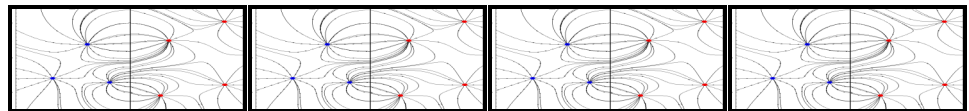
Children only Dream about themselves after the age of three.



I had a very memorable dream sixteen years ago. I was living in Montreal, Canada when it happened. One night, I dreamed I was with my mother and, and I can care of your two little brothers, and you have to be

strong for them. When I woke up, I said to myself, “Thanks God, it was just a dream.” But it was more than a dream that happened that night.

At around 7:00 the next morning, my older sister called me, and I immediately knew that something bad had happened. She explained, “Leonardo, our mother died just a few hours ago.” After that, I understood everything that happened in my dream was true.



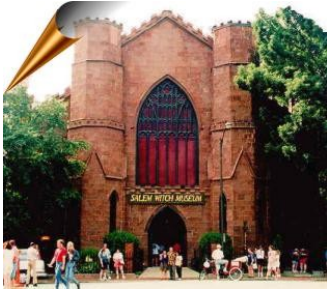
MY FAMILY

Delia

My family is a gift from God. I have a beautiful family that is my four wonderful children. They are Kelvin, Rachel, Indy, and Daniela. They are different from others. For example, Kelvin is the oldest. He likes sport and listens to music. Rachel is very intelligent, organized, and lovely. Daniela is very thin and sweet. Indy is my little girl, and she is smart and funny. We have been living in Lynn since 2002. In the house everyone knows their responsibility. For instance, every morning, Kelvin put the trash in the container, and calls his sisters to wake up to go to school. Rachel helps me to prepare the breakfast each morning. I enjoyed my family every day. I feel my family is the most important thing in my life.



My Family is the most important thing in my life
 Delia Gonzalez



Salem Witch's Museum

HOW I SPENT MY SPRING VACATION

By Felix Espinosa

My spring vacation was very good and exciting because I went with my friends to Salem's Witch museum. It was good but short and then after the Witch's Museum I went with my friend to the Salem Peabody Museum, and we stayed there for a while. Then my friend and I went home. Then one of my friends

named Vanessa Cruz invited me and my friend to her 20th birthday to go to a Peruvian restaurant. It was fun. I had a lot of the traditional food from her country. It was a great eating her traditional food and drinking her traditional drink.

Traditional Peruvian Dishes:

Inca Cola
Soft Drink

Comida Criolla
Term for all Peruvian Dishes

Aji Di Gallina
Shredded Chicken w/spiced milk

Adobo de cerdo
Pork Sauce with White Rice

My family bought me nice clothes, shoes, and a nice backpack.

MY CHILDHOOD

By Aida Gsmahili

While I am writing this journal about my childhood, I have in my memory all my events than I have experienced. The first thing that I will never forget is the time when I started the first grade. I was so happy. My family bought me nice clothes, shoes, and a nice backpack. When I went to school, I met a lot of friends and my first teacher. She was very lovely and a hard worker. After that, I always remember my happy time with my brother and my sister. We al-

ways played together and shared the few toys we had. Also, I had a happy time when my family celebrated our traditional holidays. We shared together love and happiness. We enjoyed a lot. Other happy moments were our birthdays. We had a very good time together. I will always remember my childhood as the special time in my life. I am lucky because I had a happy childhood.



A PLACE I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO...

By Rafael Deleon

In that place they really don't care about the environment, animals of natural things. ...

. In this place they love each other. But they don't care about the other places. In fact, any place thinks that any other place is wrong and misunderstood the truth. In the place they take some time to talk about bad thing that other place believe. In that place they really don't care about the environment, animals or natural things that make lived possible. And the reasons

for that is they all believe that this period of life is about to end. In this place there are people telling you that even when you read the same source they do, you cannot have the ability to understand it. In this place the silence is wrong, only they are right. I don't want to go back to that place.



MY LIFE CHANGING EVENTS

Osner Azor

I was so excited to become a dad....

Osner Azor



I was so excited one day because my daughter's mother came to me and said we are going to have a child. I asked her if she was serious and if she wasn't joking. I left Haiti for the USA in 1999 right after my daughter was born. I was so excited to become a dad and we were all very young at that time. We didn't know how to take care of a baby and I was very concerned about it. After a while I stopped spending money for unnecessary things because now I had a kid to take of. I could give my daughter what she wanted and I was very proud of myself after realizing that. My daughter changed me a lot. I stopped going out all the time and it helped me stay out of trouble.

I AM 80 YEARS OLD—WHAT HAS MY LIFE BEEN



My four years of high school were my best.

Today I am turning 80 years old. It seems like yesterday that I was playing basketball and running around with my bike, staying up late and waking up early and still not being tired. Well, I can't do that anymore. I also remember my life as a child and how people thought I was stupid and stuff like that. At the age of 9 I moved to Puerto Rico to live with my mother. I thought to myself wait I don't even know how to read or We moved to the U.S. Well here I said what am I going to do; I don't even know how to speak English. My first day at school was kind of cool: cute girls and a beautiful nice teacher. After a few years I was the smart one in my class. I learned English in a short period of time when I went to high school, I already knew English. I can't believe all the things my friends were saying about me.. And I still didn't believe then and look at me in high school. Mom was very proud of me in that part. She knew I was a very smart

boy. I just needed a break. My four years of high school were my best. I learned a lot of stuff, especially how to use a saw. I knew carpentry. At the age of 30 I got married and had a boy. I'm working in my major for my wife is the best there is. I can't complain the lord has been good to me all these years. I'm also preaching in my ministry. What I'm telling you is never give up, it doesn't matter what people say about you or think about you. You keep going and believe in yourself and you will make whatever you want go. God is with you. You don't need anything else. Well I like how my life has been so far . I did what I wanted to do. I'm not so proud of myself for some other stuff I have done. But I'm proud that I never gave up in my life. Maybe in twenty years I might be gone but remember me in your heart and memory. I love my family and my generation. I knew they would do greater things than I did. This life so far.

LIFE CHANGING EVENTS

Reynaldo Figuereo

When I came to America, my life changed. I was 19 years old. That was my first time out of my country and away from my mother. IT happened on June 3rd 2008. I was very happy because I got this opportunity in my life. But I

missed my mother and my friends. In the USA I lived in Lynn, MA with my brother, my father and other relatives. I have been living here over a

(Continued on page 7)

When I came to America My life Changed . I was 19.

I was very surprised because I didn't thought that I would have won the lottery..

(Continued from page 6)

year now. I really like being here because it is giving me opportunities to get a great education and to prepare my future. I'm taking English classes at NSCC. The life here is very different from the one in my country so I'm trying to adjust to it. For example the USA has cold weather and my country has hot weather. The clothing

style is very different too. Now in my free time I go to the gym, park or beach. I'm trying to learn English by being a good student and by practicing my speaking. Because the USA offer more opportunities, I'm very proud and happy to live here.

LIFE CHANGING EVENTS

Michel Lango

Today I am going to talk about one of the most important things that changed my life. (Coming to America). I used to live in France. I was so glad because I lived with my family. I had many plans in my life. When I got my Green Card, I changed my mind about moving to the USA, I didn't expect to stay here



before, just for the vacation. I thought a lot about this decision. When I was working on my Bachelor Degree Program in Accounting, I received a letter in the mail. It was in spring and I was 27 years old. My mother and my cousins which I live with were in the house that day in Paris. When I entered, my cousin told me that I had a letter on the table. I remember that I had applied for a green card. I was very surprised because I didn't thought that I would have won the lottery. This event was important and it changed my life. After winning, I

made the decision to move to the USA. I left one part of my life behind me in France. I thought a lot about whether it was a good decision. Since I moved here I started a new life, getting new friends and learning English. I wasn't accustomed to speak English back home only at school. I know that I have a challenge to improve my English. I know that I need to work hard and go to school to be a professional here. That is why I'm taking English now and I want to continue in Accounting after that. I work in the morning and go to school in the evening. Now I speak better English and I'll do the best to get better life in the USA.

Words cannot describe how happy and fortunate I feel...

A THANK YOU NOTE TO MY TEACHERS

Djenabou Diallo

For three years I have been studying hard to get my Associate degree. I started first as an ESL student and now I will get my Associate degree in Business Administration at the end of this month. Words cannot describe how happy and fortunate I feel. I faced some difficulties in some classes but my tenacity to get my degree kept me going .During my study here I worked as one of the ESL Lab assistants. It had been an honor and a great opportunity for me to work with one of the best teachers, Tom Justice. Many of you know him or have taken a class with him. Tom always has time for his students if they need help and I cannot thank him enough for the help he has given me over the years.



Tabarka, Tunisia

MY FAVORITE PLACE

Nadia

I like to spend my free time at the green mountain Tabarka in the west of Tunisia. This place was like a secret hiding place, so it became my refuge. I often went there to escape from the noisy home and the boring people. I sat on the grass alone for hours relacing and meditating. This place is very wonderful. I was quiet and comfortable with the sound of many birds and the mixture of orange, red, yellow, and purple trees. The ground is like a soft rug, multicolored with bright green grass, red, and fellow flowers. The bussing of bees and the murmer of water seem like classical music; I sit at a wood table in the shade of a gigantic dark green tree to read my favorite mystery novels. I could spend all day in this place without being bored. When I want to feel this peace, I go to this place in my mind

COMING TO AMERICA...

My Friend Angel told me, "you can learn English over Time..."

When I came to the United States, I was 17 years old and everything was very hard for me. Not finding a job, I had to learn English and I did not like school because I didn't understand anything.

On my first day in school I felt nervous and insecure because I thought



that all my friends would make fun of me because I didn't speak English. My friend Angel always told me not to worry, "you can learn English over time". At that time, I

felt down because I didn't know English. I spend all my time studying English and trying to learn the best that I could. Now I feel good, not so nervous and with more confidence in myself.

Jochi Morales

.....

When I came to the United States on October 24th last year, I felt excited because I was going to meet new people, new language, and new culture. The best thing was that I was going and I needed to learn a new language for the best progress and the best life. When I came, I felt very sad. Sometimes I couldn't understand what people said and I felt nervous when someone came

next to me to ask me something. Because of that situation, I decided to take English classes. Now I study very hard and I feel happier because I can understand when some people talk to me and I can say and ask whatever I want.

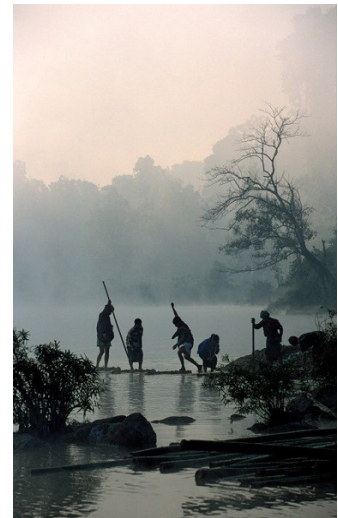
Santa Espinosa

A Place I don't Want to Go Back to

Burma is my country, a place I don't want to go back to. My country is a small country, and I grew up in a small village. I don't want to go back to my country for two reasons. First, there has been a war between the Burmese and the Karen since 1949. Also, there is no place to stay, no freedom, and no democracy. Second, there is no education. Some of the children have to grow up without education, and they have to work with their parents on a farm. Also, there are no jobs to make money to go to school. In short, a place I don't want to go back to is my country because of war and education. Now I am happy in my new life in the USA with all of my family. Also, I am working at North Shore Community College.

If you would like to know more about my country, just go to Google and type {Karen in Burma History}, and you will know about my country.

Blue Paw



NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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