



SHARED JOURNEYS:

LEARNING ENGLISH & CIVICS THROUGH THE STORIES OF IMMIGRANTS PAST

SHARED JOURNEYS MAKES LEARNING ENGLISH A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Shared Journeys is a series of six educational workshops for Adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

Each workshop includes a tour of a restored apartment in the historic tenement at 97 Orchard Street and a discussion about the connections between immigrant experiences past and present. The program provides a unique context for English language learning, helps students place their own immigration experience within a broader historical and political framework, and promotes critical engagement with civic issues.

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE, SEVERAL OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS, IN ANY ORDER. THE PROGRAM IS APPROPRIATE FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED ESOL STUDENTS.

OUR IMMIGRATION HISTORIES: TELLING OUR STORIES

In this workshop, participants visit the apartment of a Sephardic Jewish family and meet a costumed interpreter playing 14 year-old Victoria Confino, who lived in the tenement in 1916. Victoria tells participants about her culture, and discusses with them the challenges of being an immigrant in 1916. After meeting Victoria, participants work in small groups to discuss their own immigration experiences.

Can be adapted for beginner level ESOL students

RAISING A FAMILY IN THE US

Visit the apartment of Natalie Gumpertz, a single mother who raised her children on her own during the economic depression of the 1870s. Participants will use this story as a foundation for a discussion about the challenges of making a living and raising a family in the United States today.

MAKING A LIVING

Visit the 1897 home of the Levine family, who ran a small garment factory in their home. Conditions in factories such as this sparked a national debate about what constitutes acceptable working conditions. Participants learn how immigrants organized for better working conditions in the past and discuss the challenges of making a living, and working conditions today.

HEALTH ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Visit the 1869 apartment of the Moore family. The family is in mourning because their youngest child has died of marasmus, known today as malnutrition. Participants will use the Moore story to discuss issues related to immigrant health and the barriers immigrants may face when trying to access health care.

COMING TO THE UNITED STATES

Visit the 1935 apartment of Rosaria and Adolpho Baldizzi, Italian Catholic immigrants who came to the United States during the height of the first immigration restrictions. Participants will compare their own immigration experience with that of the Baldizzis, and discuss “Who should be able to immigrate to the United States?” and “What does it mean to be ‘American?’”

HOUSING, THEN AND NOW

In this workshop, participants discuss the question “What are acceptable housing conditions?” They learn how immigrants helped shape ideas about housing standards between 1863 and 1935 and the steps they can take to improve housing conditions today. Participants take on the role of housing inspectors in the early 1900s and, using the 1901 Tenement House Act, “inspect” the tenement building at 97 Orchard Street. They are then given information about current housing laws and consider whether their own homes meet today’s standards of acceptable housing.

PARTICIPANTS AND INSTRUCTORS HAVE SAID:

"Many immigrants think they are the first ones to have experienced what they are living. This program gives them the sense of the greater experience."

"It brought topics to the surface that can be hard for a [non-immigrant] teacher to bring up, and it gave us a chance to discuss them all."

“I learned a lot of history about people who emigrated from different parts of the world and [it] is interesting because sometimes I see myself reflected.”

“It makes me feel I’m part of the American history but in a new way .”

“I like the tenement tour, I think the people who lived there, and they were workers just like me. It feels familiar because the way they were living...it was like they struggled a lot.”

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Program Availability:

Monday- Friday, 9-11 am and 6-8 pm.

note: If your class is late, your workshop may be shortened or cancelled.

Reservations:

Phone: 212-431-0233, ext. 241

TTY: 221.431.0714

Fax: 212.431.0402

Reservations are **required for all groups** and must be made at least **3 weeks in advance**. To make a reservation, please call, or send an e-mail to groups@tenement.org. The available slots fill up quickly, so please call as far in advance as possible and have alternate dates available.

Group Size:

There is no minimum group size. The maximum group size is 15 people.

If your class is larger than 15 people, you will need to book two simultaneous workshops.

Please let us know of any special needs your group has. The Museum offers assistive listening devices and large print materials. 97 Orchard Street is not wheelchair accessible, but programs are available in our accessible Visitors Center at 108 Orchard Street. Please inquire.

Fees

Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Studies, the Museum can now offer the workshop series to ESOL classes **free of charge**. Space is limited, so please call today to book your free workshops!

The Museum also offers free group tours (for at least five people) in Spanish and Chinese: For more information call 212.431.0233, extension 244

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