The ESL Times

Edited by Norbert Hellmann (Feb 2012, Volume 8, Issue 1)

February Conversation Table

Photos by Norbert Hellmann
First of all, I want to thank every person who has worked on this event to make it better, especially our instructors. We all had a good time eating and talking at the same table in the same language with students and instructors. I think it’s a natural thing to talk with your English teacher in English, but don’t you think it’s a strange thing to talk with people from different countries or from your country in English…?! Most people might say it’s a strange thing, but it’s the reason why we're in this country.

In fact, the main idea for this event is to help the students to improve their speaking skills with other people such as: teachers, classmates and the other international students, and you could also make new friends through this event. People there are so friendly and they could help you with anything you want to know about the language. Not only the language, they could help you if you have any problems with your daily life if they could.

Actually, it’s not a strange thing to speak in English, but it’s really strange to use your mother language in front of international students, because nobody will know what you are talking about. So I think you must talk in English, at least during class time and college activities. We came from different distances to this country to improve our second language, but some people still want to improve their first language by whispering in class or if they had an activity. Let’s talk honestly, if you could say that in your language by whispering, why don’t you say that loudly at the Conversation Table or at the Speak Out Club in English and everyone will hear you and understand you, and they’ll just help you if you need help.

If you are a shy person or you want to reduce your stress, I encourage you to join our Conversation Table. You could feel free to talk about any topic you want, and you’ll enjoy eating too. So if you missed the first time, try your best to come the next time.

Thank you for reading.
Fun at our Fall 2011 End of Semester Ceremony and Holiday Party

Photos by Norbert Hellmann
Meet our Faculty and Staff

Connie Perdreau  
Julie O’Sullivan  
Jennie Castro

Catherine Siska  
Sarah Elia  
James Phillips

Norbert Hellmann  
Lisa Rost-Lewis  
Jessica Marchi

Warren Wilson  
Pablo del Olmo  
Christine Krug
A Favorite Recipe by the Level 1 Reading/Writing Class

**BEAN PASTE SOUP**
by Heejeong Kim

Ingredients:(four family size) bean paste (3spoonfuls), thick soy paste, mixed red peppers (1spoonful), seaweed (2g), dried shrimp (2g), dried anchovy (2g), water (2500cc), a small pumpkin, an onion, a cake of bean curd, Japanese apricot brandy (1spoonful), garlic puree (2spoonfuls), sliced green onion (1spoonful)

Directions: 1) Boil 2500cc of water and add shrimp, seaweed, and anchovy.  
2) After boiling, remove shrimp, seaweed and anchovy.  
3) Put bean paste, soy paste and red peppers in a sauce pan.  
4) Boil once again. Then add the sliced pumpkin, an onion, a cake of bean curd and green onion.  
5) Add garlic puree and Japanese apricot brandy.  
6) Put on the lid and simmer on low heat.  
7) After 15 minutes it can be eaten.

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**An Important Occasion in my Country**
by Guillermo Diaz Allegria

One important occasion in my country is the Bando de la Huerta. In English, it’s the marker gardens proclamation. This is a typical party of Spain, specifically of Murcia. In this party they usually have special things, like clothes and food.

The clothes are very simple. The men wear white trousers with a white shirt. Also, on the waist they put a sash, which is frequently green or red in color. Then on their feet they usually have special shoes. The women wear the same things as the men, but they change the trousers for a long skirt with a lot of flowers.

The food is usually pork, cheese and a lot of vegetables from the gardens of Murcia and beer is the typical drink. Then we have a very big parade with a lot of floats and the people in this parade usually dance traditional dances of Murcia.

In conclusion, it is a very big party. They always have fun and it’s so amazing!
Do you have something to say?  
Then come to SPEAK OUT, the speaking club for ESL students.  
Learn how to give presentations that will help you in your classes.  
No grades, no pressure, but a chance to improve your English, meet other students and have fun!  

Tuesdays, 3:00—4:00 PM, VHA 250B  

Important Reminder: Final Exams are REQUIRED for all classes. Do NOT make travel plans that would prevent you from taking your finals on the assigned dates and times. Instructors will **not** let you take exams on a different day.  
\[\text{THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.}\]

Trip to Albany  
See the State Capital building with the “Million Dollar Staircase”  

Tuesday, May 1  
Leave New Paltz at 1:00 PM  

More details will be announced.  

**Monday—Friday, March 19-23**  
**NO CLASSES. Spring Break.**  

Thinking of planning a short trip to Canada or another foreign country with your friends during this vacation?  

Be sure to contact the ESL Office ASAP to get required paperwork. Be sure to bring your passport, I-94, I-20 or DS-2019 when you come for a travel signature.  

**Walk-in hours** for the International Student Advisor are:  
**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 12:00pm-2:30pm in VH 201**  

**Thursday, May 10**  
**End-of-Semester TOEFL**  
10:00 am. Location: TBA  
Only for students who have signed up and paid.  

Check your New Paltz e-mail, ESL Facebook, and @ESLnewpaltz Twitter for additional event announcements.