

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Yeni Carolina Lera

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Immigrant Stories Oral History project

Interview # IM-A-L-2016-031

Yeni Carolina Lera, an immigrant from Venezuela who settled in Florida in 1995, was interviewed on date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Immigration Stories* Oral History Project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 16, 2016 Location: Key Colony Beach, Florida Keys

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Esarey, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:00 / 1.0 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 22, 2017.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Yeni Carolina Lera, *Immigration Stories*, IM-A-L-2016-031

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Yeni Carolina Maza, born in March, 1977 in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, was raised in a close knit Venezuelan family of four children and her parents, Diana and Jose Maza in the northern city of Puerto La Cruz. Yeni loved the closeness and comradery of family and friends who lived nearby and who supported many of the children's activities. Yeni remarks, "We all played outside together, children and adults. We knew each other and did things together." After graduation from high school, Yeni completed two years of college at the University of Santiago Marino as civil engineering student. She met her future husband, Jose Lera, and immigrated to the United States with him to Miami, Florida in 1995, knowing no English and leaving behind her entire family.

Yeni describes the difficulties of learning a new language in a new country with few resources for immigrants when they lived in Miami. The couple moved down to the Florida Keys and Yeni again found herself needing to learn how to live in a completely new community. Her story is one of finding the strength and persistence to learn how to succeed and live happily in a new environment. Yeni became a United States citizen in May, 2008. The mother of two children, she continues to live in the Florida Keys and owns her own business.

Subject Headings/Key Words:, family life in Venezuela in 1970's; education for women in Venezuela; difficulties in immigrating to a new country; learning English; adapting to life in the United States

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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