

*In the Heart of Another:  
Immigrant Women Tell their  
Stories* by Susan Philips opens  
minds and hearts

She may be the one who cleaned your hotel room, the one who sewed a hem in your new suit, polished your nails, or perhaps picked the fresh fruit for your breakfast table. She's there, often working behind the scenes. Many American immigrant women feel invisible.

Susan Philips, in her new book *In the Heart of Another: Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories* (AYWN Publications, 2009, 136 pages, \$16.95), interviews eight women immigrants from Armenia, Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador, and China. Their stories come in their own words from their own experience. They tell why they came, how they came, and how they have struggled to learn English, find jobs, adjust to a new culture and raise their children. It hasn't been easy.

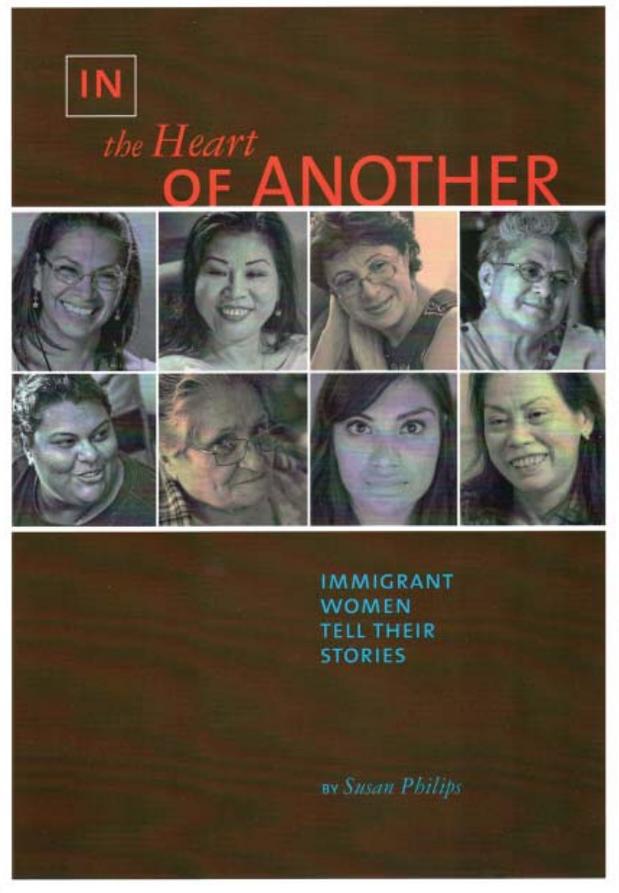
Some left satisfying careers in their original countries. Ana and Nara were teachers; Thyunga, a computer programmer; and Xidan, a doctor and business owner. Here, without a mastery of English, they had to start all over again.

They tell stories of violence and death in the El Salvadoran Civil War, imprisonment in re-education camps in China and Vietnam, poverty in Mexico, war and destruction in Armenia. They express gratitude for the refuge the United States offered them and appreciation for the freedoms so many Americans take for granted.

This book will take you on a tour through history and geography via stories that come from the hearts of the people who lived them. Historical notes throughout the book illuminate the events that are background to their stories, and forty-five photographs of people and places illustrate them.

As the Iranian proverb at the beginning of the book says, "Words that come from the heart enter into the heart of another."

This book is available from Baker and Taylor Books, Amazon.com, or from the publisher at [www.aywnpublications.com](http://www.aywnpublications.com)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Frances Caldwell, AYWN Publications, 503-206-8853, [fran@aywnpublications.com](mailto:fran@aywnpublications.com)  
or Susan Philips, 323-660-4799, [sphilips4@aol.com](mailto:sphilips4@aol.com)

### New Book Gives Immigrant Women Their Voice

“Invisible,” “stupid,” “powerless”--that’s how some immigrant women describe their feelings as they struggled to learn English, find jobs, and raise their children in the United States. But now author Susan Philips in her new book *In the Heart of Another: Immigrant Women Tell their Stories* (AYWN Publications, 2009, 136 pages, \$16.95) has given eight women an opportunity to tell their stories. With immigration legislation on Congress’ agenda, their message can shed light on this important issue.

Philips proved her interview talent in her first book *Stepchildren Speak; 10 Grown-up Stepchildren Teach us How to Grow Healthy Stepfamilies* by interviewing adult stepchildren. The book won an i-Parenting Award in 2006. Here the challenge was greater, but she meets it gracefully with a little help from interpreters.

The stories are inspiring. Nara describes the astonishment of her employer when it was discovered that she, a hotel maid, could play the piano and lead singing at the annual Christmas party. She was a Russian language and literature teacher in Armenia. Most of the other women also left successful careers behind. Ana was an elementary school teacher in El Salvador, Xidan a doctor and business owner in China, and Thuynga a computer programmer in Vietnam. Here, the women have struggled to find meaningful work.

Nevertheless, they have few regrets. Though they came for different reasons and still love their country of origin, they are grateful for the opportunities the United States has provided. Thuynga, having survived a treacherous crossing as a Vietnamese boat person, treasures the freedom she has found here, as do Ana and Juanita who lived through the death and destruction of El Salvador’s Civil War. Maria and Michelle found opportunities they had not dreamed of in Mexico.

Enhanced with boxed historical notes that provide background for each story and illustrated with more than 45 photos, the book takes readers on eight compelling journeys as seen through the eyes of the women who experienced them. Philips’ painstaking interviews retain the flavor and voice of each woman.

This book will do much to improve relationships between new immigrants and those whose ancestors arrived many years ago. The Iranian proverb at the beginning of the book says, “Words that come from the heart enter into the heart of another.”

The book is available in bookstores, online, and from the publisher at [www.aywnpublications.com](http://www.aywnpublications.com).

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## What people are saying about *In the Heart of Another: Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories*

*“In these moving interviews, which took over two years to complete, Philips does a brilliant job of connecting historical/ political events in their home countries to the personal lives of these women. We learn about their family histories over three generations, so that the reader can appreciate their deep cultural roots as well as their struggles to adapt to a new society. The book is liberally studded with vivid photographs as well as historical side-panels – all contributing to a stimulating read as well as an exciting learning experience.”* Adele Wallace, Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library

*“This book is a wonderful way to teach students about the similarities in the life experiences of various immigrant groups. Every student will relate in some way to the personal stories of these women.”* Mark Elinson, Educational Consultant, Los Angeles, CA

*“One of the major words used in education circles is the word standards. Both the book *In the Heart of Another* by Susan Philips and the accompanying teacher guide reach the highest standards! The book reads well, is interesting, and full of all kinds of valuable information. The very useful teacher’s guide offers dozens of interesting classroom activities and will no doubt improve student retention! Both are of gold standard quality!”* Douglas Polly, Retired Social Studies teacher, Long Beach, CA

*“Ms Philips has opened my eyes. Eight immigrant women, eight stories. This small slice of the immigrant pie represents all foreigners’ struggles in America. The most common thread? Learning English. I feel blessed, but more importantly, I’ve found compassion.”* Bill Brown, dance instructor, business owner, Studio A, Los Angeles, CA

*“She is a strong and passionate woman and author. Susan Phillips is the new voice of the immigrants.”* Andrew Dang, Vietnamese student, Marshall High School, Los Angeles, CA

*“A truly captive, therapeutic, and educational read with which immigrants from all walks of life can identify and learn from.”*Mahtash Esfandiari, Ph.D., Professor of Statistics and Education, UCLA

*“In the Heart of Another touched me deeply. I heard the women telling their stories of war and danger, fear and risk, of families divided and the pain of loss. Each story brings alive the complexity of the women’s lives and the decisions they made. Ms. Philips has found a way to let the reader not only be a receiver of stories but also a learner of history. This book will let the world know that the stories of immigrant women matter!”* Ruth Beaglehole, Executive Director of The Center for Non Violent Parenting, Los Angeles, CA

*“Susan Philips has captured the essence of the immigrant experience in her poignant book which documents the lives of women from different parts of the world who endured pain and suffering in their countries and then faced new hardships living as refugees in the U.S. They are from Armenia, China, El Salvador, Mexico and Vietnam and each tells her personal story with sorrow but with dignity. This book is essential reading for all since, as Americans, we are all immigrants.”* Joan Sekler, documentary filmmaker, Los Angeles, CA

Susan Philips, author of  
*In the Heart of Another:  
Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories*

Susan Philips is a Senior Consultant with the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), a national citizenship and law-related educational organization. She also consults with LACER Hollywood Stars, an organization that promotes quality after-school programming in arts, literacy and sports in several middle and high schools. Susan received a master's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California and a teaching credential from the University of California at Irvine. This is her second book. *Stepchildren Speak: 10 Grown-up Stepchildren Teach Us How to Build Healthy Stepfamilies*, a collection of interviews with stepchildren, was her first. Susan lives in Los Angeles.



## Statistics on Immigrants from Armenia, China, El Salvador, Mexico, and Vietnam

- After World War II, 700,000 Armenians immigrated to Europe or the United States.
- About 60,000 Armenians came to the United States between 1969 and 1980. Most settled in California.
- About 3.6 million people of Chinese origin live in the United States today.
- Almost two million Salvadoran people live in the United States today.
- Approximately 20 million people of Mexican origin live in the United States. More than 25% have come since 2000.