

## Meet two of The Learning Shop's new teachers

They will provide instruction in Spanish, Greek

By Pam Fleming • STAFF WRITER • February 11, 2010

Two of the teachers in the new business, The Learning Shop, are Rafael Servin of Northville and Eleni Mareskas of Canton.

Servin teaches Spanish, and Mareskas teaches Modern Greek Language and Culture.

Servin met Deborah Stearns, owner of the new business, when they were both teachers for Northville Public Schools.

Servin is working at a substitute teacher for the district right now, in addition to working with Stearns.

"We talked in the lunch room at one of the schools, and she asked me if I would be interested in being a teacher in her new business," Servin said.

He's taught in the district after completing his student teaching at Amerman Elementary about two years ago and had a long-term substitute position at Moraine Elementary.

A native of Mexico City, his whole family came to the U. S. when he was about 7 years old.

He also plans to become certified in a couple of months in teaching English as a Second Language after he completes his master's degree at Wayne State University.

"So, I'll be helping her with those classes also," Servin said.

He said it is estimated that by about 2050 that Spanish is predicted to become a more dominant language in this area.

"I think it's pretty important to learn Spanish," he said. He has a Web site, [www.SenorServin.com](http://www.SenorServin.com), and plans to start teaching three days at the Learning Shop by March 1.

"I'll be helping her in my spare time as well," he said.

"When I came to the United States, I didn't know any English, so, therefore, I struggled a lot in school," Servin said. "Now, as an educator I want to help out all of the students who were in my situation. That's why I'm in this field and why I'm associated with the Learning Shop. I don't want them to go through what I went through."

He loves cooking, Latin dancing and traveling.

### BORN AND RAISED IN GREECE

Mareskas was born and raised in Greece and came to the U. S. because of the opportunities that are available here. She attended both high school and college in the U. S.

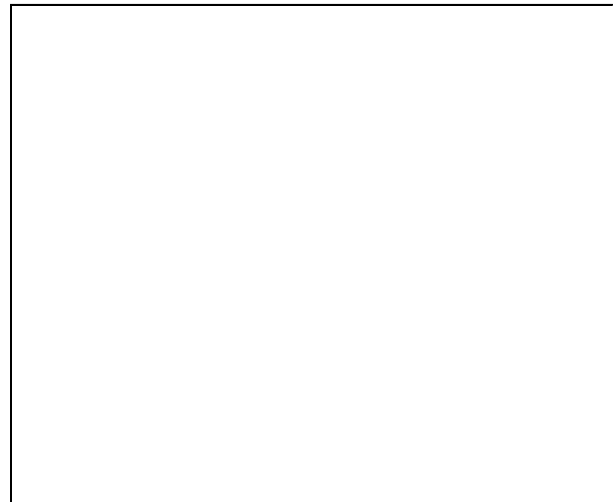
"But, I have kept very connected with my home (in Greece) through teaching and the church," she said.

Mareskas belongs to a Greek Orthodox Church. "That's one of the wonderful things about this country - that you can practice your faith without violating any laws," she said.

She works for General Motors and returns to Greece every few years.

Stearns approached Mareskas about learning Greek and then asked her to join her as a teacher at The Learning Shop. Mareskas tutors on the side and

Advertisement



teaches Greek through her church. She used to teach Greek at Wayne State University when they had a children's program.

She earned a bachelor's degree from WSU in 1989 and a master's degree from the university in 1992.

Mareskas said she has been impressed with Stearns' organizational skills and creativity.

"It's very exciting what she is trying to do," she said. "Greek and Japanese classes are hard to find; not all of the schools offer them. She's smart in what she's selecting. Hopefully, there's going to be interest to get this (business) off the ground."

[pfleming@gannett.com](mailto:pfleming@gannett.com) (248) 437-2011, ext. 260

Advertisement

