

WEST SIDE THE SPIRIT

July 26, 2007

CITYWIDE

NEW READERS—Adult literacy students recently read aloud personal essays, poems and stories showcasing their newly acquired skills at the annual Literacy Partners Student and Volunteer Recognition Celebration. The event, which took place at Our Lady of Pompeii Church in downtown Manhattan, included 25-year-old **Mihoko Saito** of Midtown West. She was accompanied by family, friends and supporters, as well as tutors and staff.

Saito received a certificate acknowledging her accomplishments after she read her original essay “The Meaning of Learning English.” The piece employed Saito’s personal experiences to convey the message that it is never too late to learn to read.

“More than one million New York City adults—or one out of every three adults—are unable to read beyond the fifth grade level,” said **Susan McLean**, executive director of Literacy Partners. “It is our mission to guide these adults and enable them to improve their quality of life.