

About Tina B. Carver

Tina Carver worked in the field of English language teaching for nearly 40 years. She received a bachelor of arts in Spanish and French from Northeastern University (1966) and a master's degree in adult education and administration from Boston University (1974). Tina began her professional career teaching high school Spanish and soon transitioned to teaching English as a second language (ESL) to adults at the community college level. For more than 25 years, she worked as an editor, editorial director, and publisher at three major publishing houses: Prentice Hall Regents, St. Martin's Press, and McGraw-Hill. In these roles, she served as a mentor and inspiration to a generation of language teaching professionals, including Betty Azar, Steven J. Molinsky and Bill Bliss, and Douglas Brown. Tina played an instrumental role in finding, developing, and publishing innovative materials that shaped English language teaching and learning and that continue to be used in English-language-teaching classrooms worldwide.

Tina co-authored *A Conversation Book, Books 1 and 2* with Sandra D. Fotinos, a two-level, cross-cultural conversation text for beginning and low-intermediate adult ESL students. Tina also co-authored *A Writing Book* with Sandra D. Fotinos and Christie K. Olsen, a collection of personalized practical and social writing tasks.

The life of *A Conversation Book* reflects changes over four decades in the ESL field. The first edition manuscript was typewritten, with more than 900 pen-and-ink drawings, plus photos by Tina. It was the first adult ESL text published by Prentice-Hall. As a result, the authors were very involved in the publishing process. This taste of publishing led Tina into a lifelong career as an ESL publisher at an opportune time for new ideas and approaches.

Over the next three decades, Tina's global work in publishing informed the updating of pedagogy, art, design, topics, and activities in each new edition of *A Conversation Book*, which evolved from loosely developed single books in the 1970s into a complete integrated skills program with multiple texts, a testing program, teacher's guide, overhead transparencies, and audio tapes in the 1990s, then shrank and added CDs to adapt to the leaner style of the 21st century. The two most recent editions of *A Conversation Book* have been used by students not only in the United States but worldwide. Through all the years and all the changes, the texts have remained true to their original philosophy: that students acquire communication skills best in any language and culture when their own experiences and interests are validated. This student-centered philosophy was reflected in all of Tina's work in publishing, writing, and teaching.