

**Refugee Transitions' "World of Difference Benefit Luncheon"
San Francisco City Club
November 12, 2009
Student Speech: Toe Lwin**

My name is Toe Lwin. I came to the U.S. from Burma in December 2008. I am a former political prisoner. I had been working for Aung Sang Suu Kyi, democratically elected National League for Democracy party leader, who is under house arrest by the current Burmese Military junta. Due to my association with Aung Sang Suu Kyi and membership in the National League for Democracy party, my life was at risk.

As you may know there are thousands of refugees from Burma who have been persecuted by the current military junta and forced to flee. Most of those people are living in horrible refugee camps in Thailand waiting to be resettled in a third country. Some have been fortunate to come to the Bay Area and are receiving support from Refugee Transitions—and I am one of those lucky people.

RT's Family Advocate Zar Ni Maung & RT volunteer Josiah have helped me since I arrived in the U.S seeking asylum early this year. My tutor Josiah and I spend time discussing American culture and Education. Josiah is helping me understand the U.S. job market and look for employment. I am very anxious to find a good job, as I have a college education and very much want to be self-sufficient and start a new successful life here in the U.S. Josiah and I have also become good friends.

Because of the support from RT staff and tutor, my transition here has been smooth and manageable. Therefore I am grateful to Refugee Transitions. Thank you.

