

## THE GARDEN STORIES

**Student:** Clarissa Thorne Disla

**Graduated:** 2010

**Currently:** At The Hewitt School on full scholarship

Zeneida Disla (mother): “The O’Gorman Garden is aptly named, because Clarissa and all of the children I have known who went there bloomed into lovely flowers. Every parent believes their child is special or gifted in some way, and I do too, but The O’Gorman Garden had a lot to do with Clarissa’s current success as a student and a thinker.

“The O’Gorman Garden not only provided an age appropriate basic education of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also weekly yoga instruction, classical music ensembles, French instruction, drama classes, trips to museums, etc. As a professional with a theatre background I have always been concerned that the arts will be left behind in formal education. I was pleased to discover all of the artistic and non-traditional learning that went on at The O’Gorman Garden!

“As a parent I was always confident that the staff of The O’Gorman Garden had the best interests of all the children at heart. As a result of her time at The O’Gorman Garden, Clarissa was accepted to three of the best independent schools in New York City: Spence, Convent of the Sacred Heart, and Hewitt.

“When she grows up, Clarissa would like to be an inventor, playwright, and surgeon. She gets good grades, but for me, schooling is more than just rank. Education is also about cultural sensitivity, diversity, the arts, helping others, pride in one’s community, and responsibility. This is the philosophy of The O’Gorman Garden and Ned’s legacy. It deserves to be preserved and emulated.”

