



the Lantern

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A newsletter of Presentation Lantern Center, Dubuque, Iowa
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa

Lantern Center Continues Nano's Dream

by Sr. Beth Kress, PBVM

Entering Presentation Lantern Center at 1584 White Street, Dubuque, one sees a contemporary portrait of Honora "Nano" Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Sisters in Cork, Ireland, in 1775. Here the story of Presentation Sisters is re-told. In this place the mission of Presentation Lantern Center is carried out on a daily basis.

Nano Nagle was born in 1718 in an Ireland that suffered under oppressive British rule and that barred Irish children from attending school. Through family wealth she received an education in France and later began to secretly gather the poor children of Cork to teach them catechism, reading, writing and mathematics. At night she visited the sick and elderly at and became known as the "Lady of the Lantern."

Nano Nagle's vision was to share the gift of education globally. Today Presentation sisters and associates from 15 congregations have continued her work on six continents and in 22 countries. Presentation Lantern Center is one of the ministries sponsored by the Dubuque Presentation Sisters. The actions and relationships of staff, volunteers, visitors, friends and donors reflect Nano's heart that knew no boundaries.

On one of the walls at the center, next to a world map, is the list of countries that visitors call home. With a new visitor from Ecuador this spring the center has welcomed people from five continents and 40 countries.

At morning or afternoon break times,

during open house and at potlucks, the center is a great wide world of many individuals who celebrate their relationships as a large "extended family."

Mary (Spain): "I like to come to the Lantern Center because it's a nice place with nice people who help me with my English. It's a center with a lot of staff for learning English and it's a good place to meet people. It's difficult sometimes to meet people when you don't speak English."

Teresa (Colombia): "All of the people who come here to learn English learn bit by bit, but they learn."

ShanShan (China): "I have learned to love the tutors who help me without pay. I like to come here because I feel welcome at the Lantern Center."

Julia (Mexico): "When I first came here I liked everything about the center. I like that tutors help me with speaking skills. I also like that I can bring my son to the center. I like to gather as a group, even when I forget my English."

Jose (Spain): "The Lantern Center is a perfect place to meet people and to start your social relationships while volunteers help you to learn and improve your English."

Mary (Colombia): "I like to come to Presentation Lantern Center. I like the tutors and I like what they teach. I like the spaciousness and charm. It is beautiful to see people learning!"



Left, Sister Annette Skyles admires the portrait of Nano Nagle whose story inspired her to become a Presentation Sister and to share in the works of her congregation.

LANTERN CENTER Welcome

by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"

These words from author and artist Mary Anne Radmacher apply to our visitors.

Daily, I witness the courage of individuals who deal with the difficult challenges of learning English. Experts estimate that it takes most adults one to three years to learn social English and five to seven years to learn academic English. It is a long road.

During open house, April 4 and 5, many commented on the charm and spaciousness of our new location. In so many ways this place is a blessing.

The associates and Sisters of Charity, BVM, and students from Clarke University in Dubuque came for service projects.

FloorShow Furniture & Flooring and Canvas Products collaborated in a special project to provide several area rugs. The learning environment has been enhanced in a wonderful way.

This spring Presentation associates and sisters held the annual garage sale. The Lantern Center received \$5,333 as one of the ministries to benefit from this project. Thanks to all who worked to make the event a huge success.

Volunteers, Donors Share in the Mission

By welcoming the stranger and engaging in good works with our visitors, donors and volunteers continue to carry Nano's lantern of hope into many lives at Presentation Lantern Center.

Dick and Mary Jean Gregory: "We are pleased that FloorShow, together with Canvas Products, was able to help with flooring at the center. When we share with others we receive so much in return."

Tutor Mary Fitzgerald comments: "Coming to the Lantern Center as a tutor has been a rewarding experience for me. I have enjoyed meeting Trini and Jose so much and have learned about their Spanish customs and food. I look forward to seeing them each week and I enjoy their friendship."

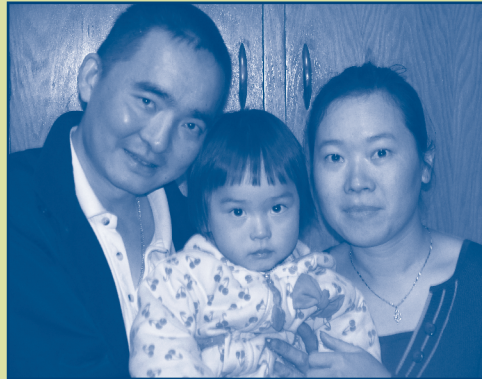
Tutor Paul Fitzgerald adds: "I truly enjoy meeting and working with Jose and Trini from Spain. They are both charming and enjoyable and they have much to contribute to our community of Dubuque."

40 Countries of Origin at Lantern Center

Argentina	Guatemala
Bosnia	Honduras
Brazil	India
Canada	Iran
Chile	Italy
China	Japan
Colombia	Mali
Democratic Republic of Congo	Marshall Islands
Ecuador	Mexico
El Salvador	Mongolia
Ethiopia	Morocco
France	Nicaragua
Germany	Pakistan

Panama	Syria
Peru	Taiwan
Philippines	Tanzania
Puerto Rico	Thailand
Russia	United States
South Korea	Uzbekistan
Spain	Venezuela

FOCUS ON VISITORS Family Reunited



Left to right, proud parents Michael and Xiao Ling (China) take joy in their daughter Yini.

After a long separation, Xiao Ling and baby Yini arrived from China. The family is delighted to be reunited and looks forward to making new memories in Dubuque where Michael works. In the past, Xiao Ling came to the center to study English. She also earned a CNA certification from the local community college.



1584 White Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
563.557-7134
lanterncenter@aol.com

Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children who are striving to better their lives. Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa, the center is a non-profit organization.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact us at
563.557.7134
lanterncenter@aol.com

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We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world. Should you wish to help us with a gift, please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

PHOTO GALLERY Life at the Center

Hospitality permeates all gatherings at Presentation Lantern Center. From welcoming new friends to volunteering in a variety of ways, friends and visitors feel at home.

TOP LEFT, left to right, Dora (Colombia) and Margaret Schmitz have a friendly chat during the April Open House. TOP RIGHT, left to right, BVM Associate Mary Ann Krems and Sister Nancy McCarthy, BVM, cleaned toys on a service day at the center. BOTTOM LEFT, left to right, Clarke University students Sarah Bunta, Mickie Launspach and Brittany Sova give service to the center. BOTTOM RIGHT, Left to right, Presentation Lantern Center Assistant Helen Cox and Loras College student Sara Pennebecker offer welcoming smiles to visitors.

