



the Lantern

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

Lantern Hospitality to Continue in New Location

By Beth Kress, PBVM

Since November 13, 2002, Presentation Lantern Center has continued to be a significant presence in the Dubuque community.

The dream for such a center began as a commitment of the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation. They desired to sponsor a place of hospitality that would reflect their founding charism and involvement in education for over 100 years.

And so the Lantern Center began ten years ago when Executive Director Sister Corine Murray, the first board of trustees and a handful of volunteers responded to the dream. They initiated the mission of providing a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adults, especially women and their children, who are striving to better their lives.

Since the opening of center, numerous visitors from across the globe, several hundred volunteers and many friends and benefactors have helped Presentation Lantern Center to fulfill its mission of welcoming newcomers.



Above, left, Mary Jean Gregory, Board President, proudly displays the newly signed lease for Presentation Lantern Center's new location in the CARADC building pictured at the right.

The leadership and members of St. Mary's Parish and the Archdiocese of Dubuque have been generous partners in the center's mission for its first decade. We are grateful.

Presentation Lantern Center will soon move to the Historic Millwork District at 9th and Jackson Streets. This space will provide opportunities for collaboration with other non-profits.

"The location in the CARADCO building will position us for greater interaction with members of the wider community," comments Frank Dunn, board member.

Excitement is in the air as staff, volunteers and friends prepare to move. As Dubuque grows, Presentation Lantern Center continues to be a place of connection for many people.

"This move is another piece of the center's ten-year commitment to the newcomers it serves," states Board of Trustees President Mary Jean Gregory. "It's exciting to know these individuals can continue to count on the center for help learning English and for advocacy, friendship, and a good cup of coffee in a warm and inviting place."



LANTERN CENTER Welcome

by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



When we count our blessings we count you twice.

The number of students continues to grow; we have about

60-65 each week. Our most recent newcomers are from Nigeria. To date, we have welcomed people from 47 different countries. Two more Lantern visitors studied for the citizenship test and passed. The center has helped over 50 students prepare for and pass that test. A Reading Companion grant from IBM complements teaching and learning opportunities for both tutors and students.

We have enjoyed our years here in the shadow of St. Mary's Church, originally in the school and more recently in the former rectory and parish office. We will always be grateful for their gracious hospitality.

The Board of Trustees has investigated options for a more permanent location. The opportunity to move into the CARADCO building this fall is another blessing. It is spacious and will provide opportunities to continue our services as well as collaborate in creative ways with other non-profits.

We are grateful to all of our friends and benefactors who partner with us in our mission and look forward to the day when we can welcome you to an open house.

Kaoutar Helps Tutor with ESL 'Homework'

By Mary Jean Gregory

When Pillsbury claimed "Nothin' says lovin' like somethin' from the oven, they were describing an international phenomenon. I was recently reminded, however, that regional differences influence the textures and flavors of this lovin'.

In early May, Kaoutar from Morocco agreed to help me with my own ESL homework, an assignment that involved the creation of a digital cookbook. She suggested Moroccan Chicken with Green Olives for the first entry, a dish she has prepared often. While she cooked, I snapped photos; these accompanied the recipe text she created later.

The project provided many English lessons for Kaoutar: cooking verbs; recipe language; spelling, punctuation, and grammar; and pronunciation practice. She simultaneously taught me about Moroccan food and its preparation. For example, Kaoutar



Kaoutar serves Moroccan Chicken with Green Olives.

painstakingly cleaned the chicken and then seasoned it with herbs and spices. She described the spices as "my gold," precious gifts brought from Morocco. As their pungent aroma filled the center's kitchen, I could appreciate why she metered their use. I learned Moroccan shoppers can select a live chicken at market and return 20 minutes later for the dressed bird. It is also common to see women carrying unbaked bread or meals to the neighborhood

"oven shop," paying about a quarter to have the goods baked and, by default, to maintain a cooler home. Moroccan cooks seldom use microwaves, preferring a pressure cooker for speedy prep.

Moroccan cooking fuses Berber, Moorish, Arab and French influences, and Kaoutar's chicken reflected this unique blend of cultures. How would I describe it? Pure lovin', of course!

Center Receives IBM Reading Companion Grant

The Lantern Center was awarded a grant from IBM for its Reading Companion Program that promotes literacy worldwide. Through this program, children and adults gain essential English language literacy skills using IBM's web-based literacy technology in schools and not-for-profit organizations.

A group of tutors are taking the lead to learn more about the program and will in turn, teach other tutors and visitors. They are very excited about this opportunity.



Left to right, tutors Catherine Basten, Sandy Amberg and Tom LoGuidice begin Reading Companion training.



1584 White Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world.

WISH LIST: Computer software for English language learners, tea and coffee, small paper plates, napkins, Hy-Vee gift cards for snacks and boxes of tissues are ongoing needs.

Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

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www.presentationlanterndbq.org
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PHOTO GALLERY

Life at the Center

Left to Right: TOP LEFT, Srs. Annette Skyles and René Laubenthal make crystal ornaments for the ever-season tree. TOP RIGHT, Volunteers from Dubuque Days of Caring do spring yard work. BOTTOM LEFT, Asian visitors see an Iowa farm. BOTTOM RIGHT, Elizabeth and Robert (Nigeria) enjoy break time.

