



the Lantern



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

Enthusied Husband and Wife Love to Tutor

Eagerness, enthusiasm, enjoyment — three words describing the feelings of the husband and wife tutor team of Tim and Mary Moothart.

“I love it,” says Tim, “and I eagerly look forward to spending time with Fadi (Syria) and getting to know him, his wife Hala and their two children.” Fadi and Tim are working on writing a resumé and talking about the culture of business in the United States.

Both busy persons with many years in professional careers, Mary in counselling and Tim in engineering, this couple comes to Presentation Lantern on Wednesday mornings to tutor.

Mary and Tim find that being part of the Lantern Center as volunteer tutors is a great fit. Their adult children live away from home — as far away as Italy. Tim worked with suppliers in places like Russia and South Africa in his previous career. Spending time with people in other cultures is a plus for the Mootharts.

“It’s a great experience for us to gain an understanding of the Syrian culture and what it means to be a Christian in Syria,

a largely Muslim country,” comments Mary, who tutored Fadi at an earlier time.

Whether helping students to adjust to the cultural differences or learning about a particular country’s election process, Mary appreciates learning the “backside of the story” from students and getting an enhanced understanding of current events.

Tim and Fadi have explored the topic of communication from the single fact that many Americans use TXT on their mobile phones instead of talking.

“With Tim, I can understand more,” declares Fadi.

Mary began meeting with Ana (Mexico) in June. Using her personal comfortability, Mary applies effective communication and relational skills to their times shared.

As Tim continues working with Fadi, he looks forward to having a Syrian meal with Fadi’s family and sailing with his new friend on the Mississippi. Fadi, who lived in Damascus where there is no inland waterway, is also eager to sail. Such experiences strengthen friendships.



Left, left to right, Ana (Mexico) and her daughter, Fadi (Syria) and tutors Tim and Mary Moothart chat between sessions of studying English and sharing stories.

LANTERN CENTER

Welcome



by Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action” offers 19th century philosopher Herbert Spencer.

When our students find their voices in English they can communicate with their children’s teachers, discuss concerns with healthcare providers, visit with neighbors, read stories to their children and participate in the civic life of the community. They overcome the bonds of isolation. A former student at the center describes the long process of learning English this way, “It is like growing a new soul.”

Many refer to the United States as a nation of risk-takers. Like the immigrants of past centuries, new immigrants, with courage in both hands, face many of the same challenges. Knowing the stories of our own immigrant ancestors can help us show compassion for the newcomers who walk among us.

August marks the second anniversary of our move to the Schmid Innovation Center. In so many ways it has been a blessing. The space is beautiful and we have greater visibility in the city.

As a member of the Millwork Collective, the opportunity to collaborate with other nonprofits located in the building.

Tutoring at Presentation Lantern is a 'Give and Receive'

by Beth Kress, PBVM, with Dianne Harris



Dianne Harris began tutoring at Presentation Lantern Center seven years ago. She didn't think she possessed the qualifications, but Dianne's mother, June Ludovissy, a former tutor at the center, suggested that Dianne, a retiring nurse, give it a try.

"My mother was my inspiration. So with her encouragement, I decided to try it with an open heart," shares Dianne.

In the years since Dianne began tutoring, she has found many rewards.

"I love it!! I have met people from all corners of the world. Though they are all uniquely different, I have come to realize that we are all the same. We have the same needs and wants, including acceptance, freedom to worship, good jobs and healthy families," she states.

Tutoring for Dianne and all tutors at Presentation Lantern Center becomes a

virtual travel around the world. Dianne has tutored students from such countries of origin as Bosnia, Sudan and Morocco. She is now working with Betty from China.

"I am astounded at the determination of the students to learn and at their drive to fit in, to be part of the world in which they now find themselves."

Tutoring has many facets in which to engage, among which are listening, speaking, pronunciation, vocabulary and more.

"My favorite thing

to do with my students is to work at building confidence," comments Dianne. "Encouragement means so much to them. My favorite remark is, 'You are doing such a great job.'"

The act of volunteering as a tutor is two-pronged and Dianne vouches for that. "This opportunity has helped me to see that when you give back, you get back more than you could ever have imagined!"



Left to right, Betty (China) and tutor Dianne Harris get excited to study English together.



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The Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants, especially women, 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
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Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern. Thank You.

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PHOTO GALLERY

Life at the Center

Various activities occur at Presentation Lantern Center demonstrating that many persons partner in furthering the mission.

Top Left, left to right, tutor Mary Jean Gregory congratulates Kaoutar (Morocco) who passed the citizenship test. **Top Right**, Eugene Kazberouk welcomes visitors from Ukraine who came to Dubuque in June.

Bottom Left, left to right, Days of Caring Young Professionals, Brittani Olinger, Ashley Boylen, Faith Britt and Cameron Tiernan gave service time on April 25. **Bottom Right**, left to right, Dora Serna presents a check from St. Anthony School Community to Sister Corine for the Lantern Center.

