



the Lantern

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

Outstanding Service Award Given

by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM

The light of a lantern can bring hope and courage when life seems too challenging. Such is the light of tutors who journey with visitors to Presentation Lantern Center.

At the December 2009 Appreciation Dinner for volunteer tutors and the Board of Trustees, two volunteers were honored for their outstanding service.

Sandy Amberg, a retired high school Spanish teacher, has been a volunteer since January of 2006. She has shared her expertise and creative teaching methods with a variety of visitors. With a gentle voice and a loving heart, she welcomes newcomers and helps them understand not only the language but also the culture of a new country. Many a week she is at the center every single day.

"Volunteering at the Lantern Center has opened up a new world for me," shares Sandy. "I am grateful for the wonderful people I come in contact with daily. Everyone teaches me something. The languages may be different but the common denominator is that all people are seeking a life where they can live in peace, have enough food, adequate shelter and a purpose for being."

From the very first day that the center opened, Sister Francesca Presseller has been there sharing the gifts she has honed from a lifetime in the classroom. For years, she came each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. With the wisdom of her years, she has helped newcomers learn English as she has become their friend.

"What an honor to have received the Lantern Service Award. To be able to have been a part of the Lantern Family has been a great privilege," states Sister Francesca. "In my case it is more blessed to receive than to give! It has been a great privilege to work with the wonderful students/visitors who come to the Lantern. May the Lord continue to bless all who enter there."

Sister Corine, Lantern Center executive director, celebrates the gifts of Sandy and Sister Francesca. "I am so impressed by the generosity of these women. As volunteer tutors for people struggling to learn English they are helping individuals find their own voices.

Both Sandy and Sister Francesca have touched the lives of newly found friends from around the world.



Tutors, Sandy Amberg (left) and Sister Francesca Presseller (right) proudly raise their Lanterns and certificates.

LANTERN CENTER Welcome

by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



"To speak another language is to have another life," states poet and writer Maya Angelou. Almost daily, I experience the truth of this statement with our

visitors. Life changes in significant ways when people overcome language barriers and are able to read a newspaper, communicate with the educators of their children, interact with healthcare professionals, visit with neighbors and participate in the civic life of the community. Then, they do indeed have another life, a happier and more fulfilling one. Other events, such as passing the citizenship test and declaring one's Oath of Allegiance to the United States also signal the reality of new life.

I express appreciation to all of the people, businesses, churches and other groups who support the center and make it possible for our visitors to have another life. On the inside pages of this issue, please find a listing of friends and benefactors who supported our ministry of welcome to newcomers during the past year. Their generosity creates opportunities and touches lives in profound ways. This support is indispensable in carrying out our mission.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Friends of the Presentation Lantern Center

Presentation Lantern Center is sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. We are deeply grateful to all who partner with us in this ministry of hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to newcomers from across the street and across the globe. We appreciate your generosity and remember you in our daily prayers.

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Charlie loves to read at the Lantern Center while his mom studies for the citizenship test.

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Visitors and tutors help Sister Corine (front row, center) and Helen Cox (front row, right) light the seven-year anniversary candle.

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 Jeanne Harrington
 Andrew Ilcin
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Azar works on
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TOTAL \$31,322

Reading Pollitt, 1933 - 2009

With his family and friends we mourn his passing on December 13, 2009. For the lives Reading touched at the center, for his special delight in helping individuals prepare for the citizenship test and for the memorials received in his honor that will continue to benefit Lantern Center students we give thanks.

Visitors Achieve Successes, Reach Goals

by Mary Jean Gregory

Their hard work, tenacity and strong desire to be part of the United States fueled their success.



Ming Zhuang Ji



Vladimir Gonzales



Xiao Ling Song

Small successes are celebrated every day at Presentation Lantern Center. Mastering verb conjugations or improving conversational skills represent hours of study and practice for our visitors struggling to learn English. Occasionally a visitor achieves a particularly important accomplishment. We share the successes as three of our visitors reached their goals in recent months.

Min Zhuang Ji and her husband, JaPing, came to the United States from China ten years ago and settled in a Chicago suburb with their daughter. They had come with the hope of achieving citizenship. JaPing died in 2005 and their daughter and family returned to China for a job opportunity. Consequently, Ming Zhuang moved to Dubuque in 2008. Despite these personal upheavals, Min Zhuang remained dedicated to becoming a citizen. She studied the test questions and listened to the taped answers daily. Her interview was January 14, 2010, in Des Moines. She passed the test and can now proudly declare herself a U.S. citizen!

Vladimir Gonzales is another new and proud U.S. citizen. His native country is Chile, where an international company employed him. He traveled extensively, living and working in Indonesia and

Mexico, but it wasn't until he met his future wife that he considered making the United States his home. Vladimir followed Cathleen, a U.S. native and an IBM employee, to the States, eventually coming to Dubuque in May 2009. This world traveler officially put down roots in U.S. soil when he passed the citizenship exam in Des Moines on February 18, 2010. He now calls Dubuque "home."

Xiao Ling Song was a nurse in China before coming to the United States in 2009. Extremely skilled in her profession, she struggled with English. Tutor, Sandy Amberg helped Xiao Ling enroll in the C.N.A. course at North Iowa Community College. Tutor, Dianne Harris, a retired nurse, worked with Xiao Ling to improve her conversational skills and to learn medical terms in English. In December 2009, Xiao Ling passed the C.N.A. exam and is now certified to work in health care.

We celebrate these accomplishments with Min Zhuang, Vladimir and Xiao Ling. Their hard work, tenacity and strong desire to be part of the United States fueled their success. As their guides, we can only say it is a marvelous thing to witness.



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

The 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
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We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world. Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

PHOTO GALLERY

Life at the Center

Visitors, families and volunteers commemorate anniversaries, awards and achievements. They gather at potlucks. They mark holidays and seasons — all love the frequent celebrations at Presentation Lantern Center.

Left to Right: TOP LEFT, Tutor, Sister James Marie Gross, enjoys a friendly break with Letty and Bianca (Mexico). TOP RIGHT, Li and Fei (China) share a delicious meal during the fall potluck. BOTTOM LEFT, Veronica (Mexico) and tutor, Sister Rene Laubenthal, crochet a baby blanket. BOTTOM RIGHT, Tutor, Jane Wickler, and Domingo (Mexico) help decorate the center for the winter holidays.

