



the Lantern

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

Students share thoughts on peace at open house

Presentation Lantern hosts 'Peace & Burritos'

"Peace is multilayered like a burrito," proclaimed the publicity and social media invitations to the public for the September 26 "Peace & Burritos" open house at Presentation Lantern Center. The event was one of many events commemorating the International Day of Peace in the Dubuque area this September. Adobos Mexican Grill partnered with the center stationing a food truck outside to sell burritos. Adobos also generously provided appetizers for Lantern guests at no cost.

As part of the event, Lantern Center students were asked individually to write a few thoughts on "what peace means to me." The student writings were posted at the center during the open house for guests to peruse and contemplate.

These thoughts on peace covered many different themes, such as:

- **Having work, opportunities and education.** One student stated, "peace means that everyone can go to school;" another that peace means "if you work hard, you can have more opportunities in the U.S."

- **Respect.** This includes respect for others and for self, a theme repeated by several immigrants. As one young Filipino man wrote, "[Peace] means respecting the other people ... and you [also] have to accept what you've learned about yourself."
- **Togetherness.** An Ethiopian woman wrote simply, "Peace means the people together." Another student shared that peace is "holding hands together" in cooperation for a brighter future.
- **Peace in the home.** Peace means a "good home", where "people in the home respect each other;" and, as another woman stated, "Not to argue in front of kids [at home] — no yelling, no bad words."
- **Inner peace.** Finding "peace in your own mind" was a common idea. As one student wrote, "[Peace] includes quietness and serenity and a bit of hope." while another said, "Peace means that I feel good inside and outside."

These reflection demonstrate that peace is multifaceted and multidimensional.



Top left, Rocio, a new U.S. citizen originally from Mexico, and her sons enjoy "peace" burritos at the September 26 open house. **Top right,** I. to r., Budo (Bosnia) and tutor Patrice Brimeyer work on writing skills. **Bottom,** I. to r., Tutor Mary Schmidt and Peggy (Taiwan) engage in conversation.



LANTERN CENTER Welcome

by Sarah Gieseke, Executive Director



In my new role as Director of Presentation Lantern Center I feel bolstered by the many people, including my staff, our dedicated

board members, the more than 50 phenomenal volunteer tutors who are the heart of our program, the Presentation Sisters and Associates, our inspirational students and, not least, the many individuals who support the center financially and morally. I am far from being alone in this great endeavor to welcome those who could otherwise feel so excluded.

In this newsletter, we share with you some thoughts on "what peace means" to the immigrants we serve. In addition to the themes included in the front page article, other equally important reflections shared at our open house last month included: maintaining good relationships; having good health; tending to the natural environment; enjoyment of human rights; engaging in one's favorite activities such as playing soccer or basic pleasures such as sleeping and eating; protection from people who seek to hurt you—that such individuals should face "consequences" in order that justice prevails; obeying the law; obeying God; the non-existence of war, violence, arguments, fear, worry, sadness, hunger, poverty; that "equality of conditions" equals peace; and that "God is peace."

Our students see multiple approaches to the work of peace.

Training tutors for citizenship education

by Beth Kress, PBVM

"Presentation Lantern Center is a 'welcome station' for the new immigrant," declares tutor, former teacher and Franciscan Sister Ruth Fagan.

With Presentation Lantern Executive Director Sarah Gieseke, Sr. Ruth participated in a training seminar for citizenship education presented by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in Omaha, Neb., September 1.

Topics at the seminar included, among others, components of the naturalization process, the interview, the civics and English test, effective teaching techniques and activities for citizenship education, citizenship curriculum design and a special presentation on human trafficking. Each participant received a packet of useful information and resources prepared by USCIS.

While accompanying Inna (Ukraine) in the process in 2015, Sr. Ruth learned about the stress carried by those seeking U.S. citizenship. "I pray that in the study and preparation process we help put our students at ease about the test. I also hope that they experience interviews conducted by persons with a heart," comments Sr. Ruth.

Speaker Chuck Pratt, Community Relations Officer, Kansas City District Office, took participants through the naturalization interview and identified that often new immigrants worry about being interviewed under oath in English, about being fingerprinted. He also mentioned that some immigrants and, even some lawyers, misunderstand the eligibility requirements for entering and exiting the U.S.

"Mr. Pratt shared that interviewers check a person's knowledge of civic facts in the citizenship test; they look for morals and attitudes, conscientiousness and the desire to become a citizen," adds Sr. Ruth.



Sr. Ruth Fagan is helping Jaime (Mexico) to study for the U.S. citizenship test.

The naturalization test was last revised in 2008. Studying for the test includes being able to answer questions about the United States government and current persons in office, history and laws and proving English proficiency by reading one sentence in English and writing one sentence in English.

Tutor and student can work to lessen anxiety about the test,

especially when practicing writing in English, comments Sr. Ruth. "It is a blessing to work with one student at a time. It is essential to help them concentrate on a few things at a time and to review. Using humor to relieve anxiety is also a great tool."

Executive Director Sarah Gieseke has been busy this fall recruiting and training new tutors. She found the seminar helpful and informative.

"The physical presence and residency requirements for citizenship were clarified for me," states Sarah. "I had known that absences from the U.S. can render someone ineligible. I now know that officers are required to look at each year individually and to confirm that an applicant was not outside the U.S. for more than half a year. If s/he was absent more than 180 days, the applicant must start over to accumulate the required five-year period of presence (or three-year period if married to a U.S. citizen.) The applicant must live in the USCIS district where claiming residence for at least 3 months prior to filing."

She adds that there are 200 questions in the test in England compared to 100 questions in the U.S. test.

Looking to the future, Sarah plans a citizenship tutor training. "Sr. Ruth and I will share what we learned," says Sarah. "In addition, I will also meet individually with each student-tutor pair when they come for their tutoring session to ensure that lesson plans are geared towards how the test and interview are administered."



SCHMID INNOVATION CENTER
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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
thelanterncenter@gmail.com

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Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

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PHOTO GALLERY

Lighting the Lantern

2016 Roshek Holiday

You are Invited to the
Nonprofit Holiday
Decoration Silent Auction
Roshek Building
700 Locust Street • Dubuque, Iowa
November 18 to December 10

Bid on Presentation Lantern's Decoration

Saturday, December 10, 2016

2:30 p.m. in the Roshek Lobby

Final Bidding will close at 2:30, Dec. 10
Winners will be announced at the event



Left, l. to r., Tutor Larry Kruse and Sarah Gieseke Hike to Help Refugees on Sept. 24. Right, l. to r., Franciscan Srs. Alice Erthum and Michelle Balek enjoy a burrito at the open house. Bottom, l. to r., Nicolas (Mexico) and Tutor Meghan Toohey study vocabulary.

