



» THE LANTERN «

ORLEANS COUNTY ADULT LEARNING SERVICES—LIGHTING THE WAY TO LEARNING

Volume 5 Issue 1

MAY 2011

OCALS is pleased to announce the acquisition of two new Board Members voted in at the March 17 Board meeting held at Oak Orchard Estates, Albion, NY:

DELLA MORALES



Hello, my name is Della Morales and I am the newest addition to OCALS list of board members. I have lived in Orleans County for 15 years now with my husband and four children. I am currently employed with the Holley Central School District as a teaching assistant at the elementary level, and I have seen first hand the impact that illiteracy can have in and around our communities. My educational background has given me many opportunities to interact with so many, and at varying learning levels.

I have a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies/Cultural Diversity and a Master of Education in the concentrated area of School Library Sciences and Information Technology. I currently hold certification as a School Library Media Specialist K-12. I am also an English Language learner, Italian being my natural

language; so I know first hand the struggles that can manifest themselves in this area of illiteracy.

As the newest member of the OCALS team I will be taking on the role of Leader Trainer in the area of literacy. I am currently scheduled to complete certification training in the areas of Foundations/Basic Literacy and ESL - English as a Second Language. I will also be one of OCALS Literacy Representatives in and for the Holley area.

I look forward to learning and working with all those who value the need for literacy, and I strongly believe that in order to combat the long term effects of illiteracy we must put in place strategies and services that focus on the entire family unit.



THERESA NEALE



My name is Theresa Neale. I have lived in Orleans County most of my life, although I lived a few years down in Alabama and Kentucky. I am married with two young children.

As a child I was affected by adult literacy with a parent who is severely dyslexic and didn't complete any school past 7th grade. When I was approached to come to an OCALS meeting I was very intrigued. After witnessing this wonderful program I couldn't pass up the opportunity to become a part of such an essential organization. I am presently taking the ProLiteracy America on-line tutor training course, and in October of this year I will become an AmeriCorps member, possibly focusing on the programming needs of tutoring.

*******OCALS recently became a member of Smoke Free NOW, and joins in their efforts to reduce the influence of tobacco advertising, sales and marketing towards youth and adults in Orleans County.*******

THE MISSION of OCALS is to promote and foster literacy in Orleans County and contiguous areas by utilizing trained volunteers. These services will be available free of charge to all those in need regardless of gender, religious affiliation or race.

WEBSITE

OCALS Website can be used to access the following important information:

- Contact Info
 - Student Info
 - Tutor Info
 - Brochures
 - OCALS Pictures
 - Past Newsletters
 - Literacy Websites
 - Library Materials
 - Upcoming Events
- AND MORE...



IT OUT!!

OCALS would like to thank Sheri Jahnke and Lettie Davey for the contributions in memory of Adult Learning Services volunteer Ella Jones: a wonderful and lovely lady who tirelessly contributed her time to the literacy cause and supported LVA Orleans, Inc. and OCALS.

WWW.OCALSFAMILYLITERACY.COM

—LOOK AT OCALS HOME PAGE!!—

ORLEANS COUNTY ADULT LEARNING SERVICES

HOME CONTACTS STUDENTS TUTORS LIBRARY DONATIONS UPCOMING EVENTS

LITERACY LINKS

OCALS' NEWSLETTERS

WHO ARE WE??
Orleans County Adult Learning Services (OCALS), affiliated with ProLiteracy America, is a not-for-profit group of volunteers who provide FREE, one-to-one tutoring instruction to adults who want to improve their reading, writing and English speaking skills.

WHY ARE WE NEEDED?
Literacy was once defined as the ability to read or write. We now realize that literacy extends beyond the acquisition of reading and writing and entails the ability to use these skills in a socially appropriate context. The true definition of literacy now encompasses anything from computer literacy to citizenship to home budgeting. By learning to read, write, speak English and communicate more effectively, our students become more successful and fulfilled in all aspects of life.

OCALS
11 S. MAIN ST.
HOLLEY, NY 14470
(585) 590-1292

Why Reading to Children is Important

The benefits to reading aloud to our children can never be measured or easily summed up and put into words. Yet, many articles have been written, books published and lectures given based on the importance of reading out loud with and to our children.

Research shows that reading out loud has proven to increase a child's vocabulary, comprehension skills, critical thinking, writing skills, and expands the imagination as well as instilling a life-long love for reading. But even though we are infiltrated with so much information pointing to the many benefits of reading aloud with our children, the level of illiteracy, low reading

scores and drop-out rates continue to rise.

As an advocate for family literacy I cannot stress enough the insurmountable benefits to reading with children at the earliest age possible. Children who are read to during the early stages of development have a better grasp of language patterns by hearing letter sounds and words. Reading increases a child's listening skills along with developing an increased stored memory bank to draw upon when more advanced reading and writing come into play for academic success.

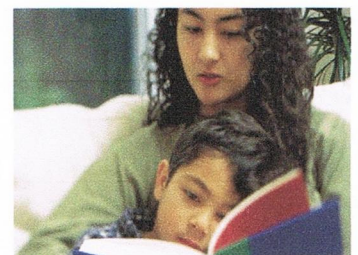
Personally and professionally I see no downfalls to reading out loud with our children, at any age. If one important point could be made, that would be to

begin a reading habit to expose children to books as early as possible and to keep them exposed.

Even if you have read and reread a story a thousand times, the child's imagination broadens, vocabulary increases and a love of reading and books begins to develop.

Reading is a life-long journey and reading with our children is one journey that should never stop, even when they can read on their own.

Della Morales



There have been many exciting changes for OCALS in the last few months. Not only are there several new members, many of the old members have changed positions or taken on more responsibilities. This issue of our newsletter has been dedicated to introducing some of our new volunteers. The following list should help clarify the recent changes:

Patricia McDonald—School Literacy Representative for Western Orleans County (staff position)

Jeanne Flow—Newsletter Editor/Website Designer/Grant Writer

Renee Garnier—AmeriCorps Member effective June 2011 (promotional & recruitment needs)

Barbara Dunham—Albion School Family Literacy Liaison/Tutor Contact

Penny Nice—Literacy Representative for Lyndonville Schools/Literacy Representative for Western Orleans County (working with Patricia McDonald)

Theresa Neale—AmeriCorps member effective Oct. 2011 (programming needs)

Della Morales—Leader Trainer/Annual ProLiteracy Conference Representative for 2011

For contact information on any of these OCALS members please email ruruck@juno.com or call (585)-746-2614



Patricia McDonald

Patricia (Tricia) McDonald lives in Medina, NY and

recently accepted the position of **OCALS** Representative in Western Orleans County. She is a graduate of Albion High School and graduated from SUNY Buffalo in 2009

with a Joint Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology. Tricia is planning on returning to GCC to finish her Criminal Justice A.S. and Health Studies Certificate, and continue on into the Nursing Program. Tricia's father is a former Board Member of LVA- Orleans County. Tricia has recently married and is excited to

be having a baby with her new husband. She also has a young son and step-children, which makes Tricia a very busy woman. She is excited to become a part of **OCALS** and work with Western Orleans County School Districts. OCALS is glad to have her as part of our team, and believes she will be a great asset to our program.



Renee Garnier

Renee Garnier has been with **OCALS** since the Fall of

2007. She started out as Family Literacy Coordinator, establishing a partnership with the schools in Orleans County. Renee has recruited potential tutors, paired

tutors with new clients, helped organize OCALS annual dinner meetings, and attended a ProLiteracy conference as an OCALS representative. On top of all of the work she has done for OCALS Renee has gone to college full time, recently obtaining her Masters, and has two young sons who keep her busy. OCALS would like to congratulate Renee

as a recent recipient of the *Adult Outstanding Student Award* at SUNY Brockport, plus a *Student Leadership Award* for her work with the Student Social Work Association. As OCALS newest AmeriCorps member, Renee will be focusing on the promotional and recruitment needs of our organization. OCALS thanks Renee for her dedication since 2007.

Hi Everyone!

I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Barbara Dunham and I'm a Speech Therapist with Albion Central School District. I am married to Kenneth Dunham and we have 2 married children, a son and a daughter, and 2 granddaughters. At the end of this school year I will be a retired Speech Therapist. I wanted to continue to be involved with literacy and learning, so last Fall I joined the board of OCALS. I can now see some areas where I might be of help so I have offered my services to be the Tutor Contact Person and the Family Liaison for Albion Schools. I hope this will help the organization and help to spread the word of the wonderful things you are all doing to help literacy in Orleans County.



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Orleans County Adult Learning Services

11 South Main Street
Holley, NY 14470

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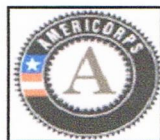
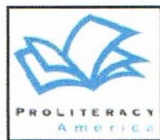
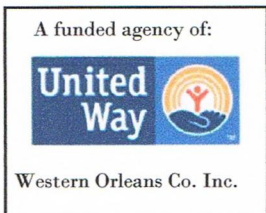
"THE LANTERN" is a publication of **Orleans County Adult Learning Services**. Submissions from staff, students and tutors are invited and encouraged.

Please send submissions to:

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- Treasurer.....Don Ruck
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- Fund Development.....David Callard
- Literacy Representative.....Penny Nice
- Board Member.....Kathy Bogan
- Program.....Renee Garnier
- Program.....Mary Lee Knights
- Program.....Barbara Dunham
- Program.....Della Morales
- Program.....Theresa Neale



HAPPY SPRING!!