



» THE LANTERN «

ORLEANS COUNTY ADULT LEARNING SERVICES—*LIGHTING THE WAY TO LEARNING*

Volume 6 Issue 2

DECEMBER 2012



Meet Our New President, Penny Nice

At the September 11, 2012 Annual Dinner Meeting leadership of OCALS passed from Rosemarie Ruck to Penny Nice. Penny is a native of Medina, NY having graduated from Medina High School. She then did her undergraduate and graduate studies at SUNY College at Brockport in Elementary Education with a minor in sociology.

Penny taught in the primary grades for 32 years at Lyndonville Central School. While at LCSD she served on the Effective Schools Leadership Team and presented workshops with the First Grade Team at area literacy conferences. Penny also served as part of the Reading First Leadership Team.

Following retirement Penny became involved in the leadership team for After School Adventures, an after school program at Brockport Free Methodist Church in partnership with Brockport Central School and funded by federal grant monies.

Currently, Penny and her husband reside in Albion operating Nice Farms. She has been an OCALS Board member since May 2010, serving on the Program Committee and assisting with the development of the OCALS Family Literacy Program. Penny is one of the Early Childhood Tutors volunteering at the Agri-Business Child Development Center in Holley known as Grace's Place.

Our THANKS to ROSE OCALS President 2006-2012

At our Annual Meeting held September 11, 2012 incoming President, Penny Nice, offered the following in tribute to Rosemarie Ruck as she steps down from the role as OCALS' President:

"Tonight we want to take a few moments to reflect on and honor the leadership that Rose has given to this organization. I do not believe that I would be stretching the truth to say that without Rosemarie Ruck, Orleans County Adult Learning Services would not exist to meet the literacy needs in this county.

Anatole France is credited with this quote: *"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan but also believe."* I think that this is a very good characterization of you and your leadership throughout the last six years as president, and we stand indebted to you for your passion and pursuit of meeting the literacy needs of Orleans County. You have persevered through illness, major surgeries followed by long recovery periods, as well as facing the challenges involved in leading this type of organization.

Beyond that, you have generously offered your friendship and shared concern and care sincerely from your heart. Therefore, we hope that you will accept this gift as a small token of our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for your years of service to Orleans County Adult Learning Services."

A gift of a mantel clock was presented to Rose on behalf of the OCALS Board of Directors.



OCALS is counting down the days to ROCtheDAY and hoping for your support on this one important day. Let OCALS be your **CHARITY OF CHOICE** on 12/12/12.

(See insert for more information)

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OCALS1 AND OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.OCALSFAMILYLITERACY.COM

OCALS SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

On September 11, 2012 OCALS sixth annual dinner meeting was held at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall in Millville, NY. As usual, everyone brought a pot luck dish and we all enjoyed good company and good food. A short business meeting was held after dinner and awards were presented. Tutor of the



Year and Student of the Year were recognized, along with many others who have contributed in special or meaningful ways to OCALS. A special gift was presented to outgoing President, Rosemarie Ruck, by incoming President, Penny Nice, in appreciation of her years of hard work and dedication. The evening was topped off by a



Student of the year—Son Nhut Ta
Tutor of the Year—Marcia Stornelli



Guest Speaker—Michael Guerin

speech given by Michael Guerin: an inspirational success story by a former GED graduate whose words reminded us of all the many reasons we are donating our time and talents to this important literacy organization.

OCALS AWARDS

Tutor of the Year: **Marcia Stornelli**
Student of the Year: **Son Nhut Ta**
Volunteer of the Year: **Penny Nice**

Special Friend of the Year Award given to **Father Mark Noonan of St. Mary/St. Mark RC Church** in appreciation of the years they allowed OCALS to use their facilities as our library and office.

APPRECIATION AWARDS Accepted by:

United Way of Orleans County—**Lisa Ireland**
Grace's Place—**Jessica Suleski**
LPP/LIFE Program—**Teresa Elam-Zwifka**
Orleans/Niagara BOCES—**Sue Diemert**
Batavia Daily News—**Virginia Kropf**
Batavia Walmart Store

HIGHEST CONTRIBUTORS OF THE YEAR

(\$2000 and above)

Terry and Kevin Novak
Donna & Shane Seyler
Mark & Nancy Schaaf



Special thanks to United Methodist Church of Millville, Georgia Thomas for all her hard work on the meal, Barb Dunham for her organizational skills, and all others who helped in any way to make this evening such a success!

OCALS 2ND ANNUAL BAKE SALE AT KNIGHTS GIANT PUMPKIN PATCH



All donations from families using the bounce house went directly to OCALS.



Thanks to the generosity of Ken and Mary Lee Knights in letting us set up our bake sale tables at their Pumpkin Patch in Medina, OCALS was able to raise a total of \$644.20. Thanks to Della Morales for her recruitment of workers from the Albion School District, and a big thanks goes out to Stephanie Merkel for doing such a great job in coordinating this event and supervising the workers.

OCALS FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM: Partnership at Grace's Place Update



Jessica Suleski from Grace's Place accepting Appreciation Award from Penny Nice for their support of our Family Literacy Program.

It has been one year since the OCALS Board put into motion the efforts to develop a partnership with the Agri-Business Child Development Center at Holley, known as Grace's Place, to pilot our initial phase of a Family Literacy Program.

With a mission to provide opportunities to families that give them the ability to learn and grow together ensuring the cycle of learning passes from generation to generation, OCALS' vision for a Family Literacy Program recognizes the need to form partnerships with other organizations or agencies that have a common interest in supporting literacy needs of families. These partnerships facilitate the necessary collaboration among families, service providers and community agencies in the sharing of information, resources, experience and knowledge.

With the allocation of grant monies from the United Way of Orleans County to fund needed resources and supplies, we forged a partnership with Grace's Place to provide Early Childhood Tutors to support their Kindergarten Readiness goals. OCALS brought Pamela Foss of Medina on board as Family Literacy Program Director and April Fuller of Albion assumed the role of Home Connection Coordinator. The program at Grace's Place commenced on March 26, 2012 with 4 volunteers tutoring 10 students preparing to enter Kindergarten, and 6 three and four year olds for a story time.

The results of our post-assessment, as well as those done by Grace's Place, showed significant growth in meeting the Kindergarten Readiness goals. At the Fall meeting of the Education Advisory Committee at Grace's Place we also heard positive comments from one of our student's parents on their observations of her child's readiness for school.

After a short break to allow for class transitions at Grace's Place we kicked-off the 2012-2013 year on September 24th and currently have 3 tutors working with 20 students. The Family Literacy Program Director manages day to day operation of the program and provides monthly Tutor Trainings. Our Home Connection Coordinator is working with eight families and will be present at the November Parent Night, along with the Family Literacy Program Director, to provide information and sign up new families.

We are currently recruiting Early Childhood Tutors to serve either as full time tutors or to act as substitutes. Please contact Pam Foss at 585-813-8350 or Barb Dunham at 585-798-4935.



Lighting the Way to Learning: Greetings from the Board President

As I step into the role of OCALS' Board President, my first realization is that I have very big shoes to fill. Rose has provided both leadership and inspiration in her years as President. Her example reveals to me the need to be able to deal with the realities of the present while casting a vision for the future.

My second realization is that I am not in this alone. OCALS has a strong Board of Directors, resourceful individuals who bring a wide variety of experience and skills to share with our organization to fulfill our mission and meet our goals.

Thirdly, we have a dedicated group of volunteers with a passion for literacy and compassion for individuals and families in need.

Our Annual Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that makes me humbled and yet proud to assume this office. We had the opportunity to bring together our Board members, our tutors, our students and representatives from some of our partner organizations. We recognized the accomplishments of our outgoing President; presented awards to our Tutor of the Year, Student of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. And what better inspiration for staying on mission than our guest speaker!

In closing, I pledge to do my best as I enlist your continued help and support as we ***Light the Way to Learning*** in Orleans County.

Blessings,
Penny Nice

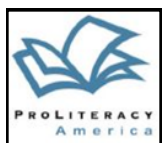


Orleans County Adult Learning Services

134 S. Main Street

Albion, NY 14411

“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:
Jeanne Flow
17068 Brockport Holley Rd.
Holley, NY 14470
jeanneflow@rochester.rr.com



OCALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—**Penny Nice**

Vice President—**Mary Lee Knights**

Secretary—**Jeanne Flow**

Treasurer—**Don Ruck**

Chair of Adult Learner’s Support Group - **Marcie Van Epps**

Nominating Committee—**Lorienda Smith**

Fund Development-**David Callard, Chairperson of Orleans County Legislature**

Literacy Representative-Medina/Lyndonville School System—**Penny Nice**

Literacy Representative-Holley School System - **Della Morales**

Literacy Representative-Albion School System—**Barb Dunham**

Program Committee—**Renee Garnier**

Board Member—**Kathy Bogan, Asst. District Atty**

Board Member—**Georgia Thomas**

Board Member-**Rose Ruck**

