

# ONE2ONE

Learning, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011



College graduate with her group of beginner students

*newsletter*  
**one2one-learning.org**

### One to One Learning, Inc.

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## Reflections on Ellis Island Medal of Honor

By Sister Cecilia La Pietra

On May 7, 2011 I received this honor conferred by the National Ethnic Coalition Organization. The mission of NECO is to celebrate the diversity, achievements, and progress of all ethnic backgrounds and to promote tolerance and cultural awareness. Among the 106 medalists honored, there certainly were persons of many and varied ethnic backgrounds who have made great contributions to life in our country. The initial task of NECO was to raise the funds to revitalize all the buildings at Ellis Island and as that has been accomplished, their next project is to facilitate the construction of a new museum to tell the stories of subsequent emigrations to the United States.

Standing in the Great Hall at Ellis Island, I thought about all the immigrants who had passed through those doors, including my parents and grandparents emigrating from Italy and Alice Mary Thorpe, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, coming from England. My mind went to the difficult times that immigrants experienced as each wave came through, looking for religious and political freedom, and human needs of food, clothing and shelter. There were those who helped them and there were those who shunned them. Remember the signs, "Irish need not apply"? And I reflected on the new wave of immigrants today and especially on the stories of our students. We know that our immigration system is broken and is in great need of repair. It will take a lot of grass roots pressure to bring this to the President and Congress. We will continue in hope to do all that we can do, to be aware of all actions on behalf of justice for our present day immigrants. One to One Learning is one of those torches of light, a symbol on the medal representing the



light and energy brought to the United States by newcomers, coming with their gifts and talents to build up the whole. On the back of the medal is "E Pluribus Unum" – from one are many. In this community we have that union. Our banner of so many colors symbolizes the cultural diversity of the many persons who are part of the fabric of who we are. The hands are reaching out in friendship and tolerance. As I reflect on my receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, I can humbly and sincerely say that it is an honor that I share with the students, teachers, board members, benefactors, and all Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. Without all of you we would not be.



### PARTNERING WITH ONE TO ONE LEARNING

*As we get ready to begin our school year in September, we ask you to partner with us in our mission, "Language empowers, language unites." It costs us approximately \$355 a year to educate each student due to the in-kind donation of approximately \$60,000 in donated services by our volunteer teachers. Last year 22 persons gifted us with \$6110; some donated the whole tuition, some more and some less. This educated 17 students. Thank you for your assistance last year. We hope that you will join us again for our September enrollment. We need new partners. You can donate in installments.*



**Goodbye and Go with God. Adios y Vaya con Dios**

One of our students, Ana Bertha Posada, will be returning to El Salvador in the fall. She greatly misses her children who are there. She writes to us about her goal.

*When I go back to my country, I have a huge and amazing mission that God has put into my head. I want to start a little English school for children. I have some children now waiting for me. They are three and seven year olds. The name of the school will be One to One Learning II El Salvador.*

I know that Sister Cecilia is very happy now because of the project and it honors her. This is how I say thank you to Sister Cecilia for sharing her knowledge with us. This has been a pleasant experience for me.

We are waiting for you, Sister Cecilia, to come to my country and mi casa es su casa. And, remember, you now have a little English teacher in El Salvador.

**Teacher Reflections**

**Mary Anne Sgroi**

*I have learned that mental stimulation and social interaction help one in later years of life to give purpose and rewarding satisfaction in life.*

*My students have become like a family-interested in each other's experiences. They exhibit a wonderful sense of humor in relating their experiences in learning a new language. They are so anxious to learn new vocabulary as they build their learning skills.*

*in Spanish and enjoyed this because it is my native language. The students were enthusiastic, motivated and very good people.*

**Frank Cappadona**

*What I so often noticed about my students was the joy with which they carried themselves. This was the case no matter what the level of English they were learning and no matter how difficult it was.*

**Peggy Concannon**

*The students in my group have really bonded. They help each other with assignments and share learning tips with each other.*

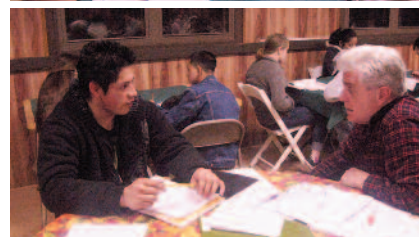
*They all care for their families, work outside their homes, and very rarely miss a class.*

*Many nights they are really tired but continue to persevere in their desire to learn English and become citizens of the USA. I am humbled by their diligence and dedication.*



**Iris Mabel Zamora**

*I think One to One Learning is an amazing program which gives the opportunity to many people to know that they are capable of learning a new language and many more things, no matter how old they are. What I have learned about myself during this time is that there is no better satisfaction than to know that you have been helpful to people, and been able to teach them English.*



**Sonia Alarcon**

*For me it was a very enriching experience to work in this program. Because the students that I taught were pre-literate, not able to read or write in Spanish, I worked with them*





May 13, 2011

Over 200 guests joined us to celebrate our 14th anniversary, to acknowledge the contributions of our honorees to society and to One to One Learning, and to recognize two of our honor students. We enjoyed delicious appetizers and dinner served by the staff of Nyack Seaport. Our DJ Alex Flores entertained us with music throughout the evening and a DVD presentation of class activities of our students. Our Master of Ceremonies, John Lawler lead us through the program. Msgr. John T. Mulligan prayed a blessing on all that has been accomplished through God's goodness to us. We had a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction with vacation spots, Yankee tickets, gift cards and other special items.

*We make special mention of our Honorees:*

**Humanitarian Award** presented by Sister Cecilia to the **Gregory Family, Doctors Robert, Diane, Richard, and James**, for their healing presence through their Chiropractic Office and their community and global outreach.



**Advocate Award** presented by Sister Cecilia to **Martha Robles**, Executive Director of Catholic Community Services of Rockland, for reaching out with hands of hope and for being a voice for the voiceless.



**Founder's Award** presented by Sister Margaret Palliser to **Sister Daniel Catherine Connolly and Sister Barbara Jane Falloon** for embodying the spirit of Mother Catherine Antoninus Thorpe, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. Each of them in her own ministry and in their Christmas giving to the children of One to One Learning reach out with the same compassion and care.



**Corporate Sponsor Award** presented by Paul Piperato to **Linda Feger of Orange and Rockland Community Investment Program** for responding to a variety of needs within the community and especially for awarding grants to One to One Learning since 2005.

# hands of hope gala...

*Language Empowers. Language Unites.*

Service Award presented by Sister Nancy Richter to Betty Keyes for her many accomplishments within the community and in particular for her presence in the life of One to One Learning, first as volunteer in the children's program and then as member of the Board of Directors for six years and Chair of the Board for two of those years.



Directors for six years and Chair of the Board for two of those years.

Service Award presented by Sister Cecilia to Joyce Gavin for her commitment to One to One Learning for seven years, for her creative teaching, and for her innovative ideas for fund raising.



Youth Service Award, first time award, presented by Sister Cecilia to Yamaleth Castro for her service in the children's program and for her assistance at our fund raising events.



Honor Student Award presented by Sister Cecilia to Mayra Castro for perseverance in her goal to speak English and for her active participation in fund raising activities.

Honor Student Award presented by Sister Nancy to Rafael Antonio Lemus for achievement of his goal to become a citizen of the United States of America, for continuing to study in our literacy program, and for his active participation in fund raising activities.



*We received many kind donations to sponsor the Hands of Hope Gala and from friends who could not join us. These donations were acknowledged in the program booklet. The following donations arrived late:*

Grupo Rios de Agua Viva of St. John the Baptist Church

Rosemary Schultz  
Sister Diane McSherry  
Katherine Benezra

Clothes Works...so women can To honor Martha Robles

Mary Beth and Pete Modafferi  
Gerri Zabusky of RSVP  
Doris Feder  
To honor Betty Keyes

# WELCOME TO STAR-FEST II

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

4 PM

Marydell Faith and Life Center

One to One Learning Site

640 North Midland Avenue • Upper Nyack, New York



For all who attended last year, you will, no doubt, want to return because the evening was wonderful with: John Patrick Schutz, cabaret performer par excellence, as MC. Many other famous classical, pop, and jazz entertainers, including Sue Matsuki (twice named Best Female Jazz Vocalist in NYC), Jan Lynch (a pop sensation in UK and Ireland), and Robert Mattern (operatic tenor, famous all over the US, Europe, and Caribbean). All promising to return this year.

Our venue, the lawn at Marydell with a backdrop of Hook Mountain. A Mini Taste of Rockland during intermission with appetizers and desserts from Nyack Seaport, Xaviar's, Del Arte, Pasta Cucina, just to name a few. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Cost of tickets is \$30 (Pre-paid) At the door \$35. To order tickets: Enclose this tear-off in the envelope provided with your check for payment. We will mail the tickets to you.

## STAR-FEST II – Sunday, September 18, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each. Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to make a general donation to the work of One to One Learning. Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: One to One Learning, Inc., 640 North Midland Avenue • Upper Nyack, New York 10960

# a thank you...

Language Empowers. Language Unites.

## DECAL PROJECT



Many of you now proudly show that you are a Friend of One to One Learning with a decal on your car window or other spot. Thank you for your support. You are in our prayers. So far we have raised \$8,036, 27% of our goal of \$30,000. **Our students raised \$1072 of this amount.** We continue our campaign and hope that you will join us by filling in the form included.



Christine Mooney



Gerardo Rodriquez  
211 Confetti Ristorante  
Lucille Levine  
Gabe and Mary Armstrong  
Yvonne Cheren-Pacheco  
Peggy and Sara Gearity  
Elizabeth Mazzeo  
Catherine McGuire  
Pia Silvestri



Lorraine Aci  
Ellen Ceriale  
Marian Coffey  
Emily Duran  
Sue Ann Esposito  
Carolyn and Willie Lonieski  
Randy Martecth  
Kevin McKearney  
Ed McKearney  
Vin McKearney  
Oscar Nordstrom  
Elsa Stoever  
Justine Troia



Sisters Agnes and Bernadette  
Laura Armstrong  
Theresa Asperth  
Bandi Basti  
Debra E. Boening  
Mildred Bonilla  
Chuck Borgman  
Noreen Brady  
Evelyn Cahill

Deb and Chris Capezzuto  
Mary Clifford  
Sister Agatha Cullen  
Dano Joseph and Firenze D'Auria  
Ana Ely  
Deborah Farewell  
Kathy Fulgione  
Diana Gensel  
Margaret Garvey  
Gerard Geisinger  
Betty Keyes  
Elaine Laurino  
Anna Logicice  
Denise Lynch  
Margaret Mapelli  
Robin Miller  
Sister Jeanne Miceli  
Aileen O'Reagan  
Elaine and James Pontone  
Phil Reinone  
Carol Schwalb  
Chris Sanders  
Eleann Sansolae  
Angela Sassano  
Ted Simone  
Sister Rose Vermette  
Visitation House  
Joe Vogler  
Virginia Wall

*If it were not for your generous donations we would not be able to continue our ministry at One to One Learning. We bring our benefactors to prayer each morning.*



Donna and Frank La Pietra  
Michael Gregg Foundation  
Gertrude Schlachter  
William and Maria Nest  
Keith Taylor



Maryann Beckerich  
Maurice Bibeau  
Sister Joan Correia-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Flora Landscapes LTD  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gallagan  
Rust Gilbert  
Sisters Betty Graham and Pat Neary  
John and Theodora Halliday  
Sister Virginia Kemp-Memory of Sister Linda Bonasera  
Sister Eileen Loftus, Kathleen O'Connor, Mary Dempsey  
Nicholas and Cassandra Ludington  
Margaret Mapelli  
Sisters Theresa McPartland and Eileen Guinan  
John and Mary McCoy  
Sister Jeanine Nolan-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Donna Nye  
Dennis O'Donnell (STAC)  
Kaz and Danuta Plenkawa  
Rau Family-Memory of Fred Rau  
Peter Turise



Elaine and Frank Cappadona  
Sisters Eileen Clifford and Sheila Gorham  
Anacleto and Themy Dumlao  
Dolores Fontana  
Lumen Community  
Sister Lois Liekweg  
Sister Marianne Morelli-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Sister Margaret Murphy-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Sister Catherine O'Leary-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Sisters Elizabeth David and John Theresa  
Sisters Mary Louis and Anne Foley  
Sister Margaret Teachan (in memory of Jubilarians)



Anonymous  
Brother John Bantz  
Sister Eileen Barrow  
Cheryl Burton  
Dorothy Burns  
Peggy Concannon  
Sister Marie Dougherty  
Sister Fan Dryden  
Sister Barbara Falloon-Memory of Sister Joan Looney  
Sister Barbara Falloon-Honor Diamond Jubilarians  
Sister Dolores Fischer  
Sister Cathar Mary Gorman  
Sister Margaret Harrison  
Sisters Peggy Hartling and Katie McKillop  
Joan Houllhan  
Mary Lacombe  
Sister Madeleine Murphy  
Ann Malsich  
Sister Catherine Nauthton  
Sister Margaret O'Driscoll  
Pat O'Prey  
Sister Ann Matthew  
Sisters Eileen and Patricia Ann Reilly  
Sister Catherine Tahaney  
Bernice Webb  
Sister Nancy Richter-Honor Diamond Jubilarians

### Friends of One To One Learning, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for one decal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ more decals and cards to tell others about One to One.

I would like to partner with One to One Learning. Cost per student per year is \$355. I would like to pay part or all of this amount either in one sum or in installments. You will receive a decal as a thank you. Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a general donation to the work of One to One Learning. Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to use Pay Pal please go to [www.one2one-learning.org](http://www.one2one-learning.org)

Please make your check payable to: One to One Learning, Inc., 640 North Midland Avenue • Upper Nyack, New York 10960

**We received a matching grant of \$500 for volunteer hours of Jack Hegarty, retired employee of IBM. Thanks to IBM and Jack for donating his time to teach in our program.**

**OMISSION FROM MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER: A donation was made by Sister Sheila in honor of her niece, Michelle Mullins, who is volunteering in Guatemala.**

One to One is a sponsored ministry of The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

# ONE2ONE

175 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 10976

Learning, Inc.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## OUR MISSION

*To provide English Classes and other supportive services for immigrants to empower them to reach their full potential and lead meaningful lives within their communities.*

## TRUSTEES

Sr. Irene Ellis  
Sr. Eileen Gannon  
Sr. Lorraine LaRocca  
Sr. Mary Murray  
Sr. Margaret Palliser  
Sr. Carolyn Wolfbauer

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## GoodSearch and GoodShop



Here's a simple way for you to help support **One to One Learning** or any other cause that you care about.

Each time you search the web with **GoodSearch's** Yahoo-powered search engine, about a penny will go your charity or school.

Also, every time you shop online at 2,000 participating stores including Target, Apple, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage of your purchase will be donated for free! The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons!

## Calendar of Events

- **September 18, 2011**  
**STAR-FEST II**



Language Empowers. Language Unites.  
[one2one-learning.org](http://one2one-learning.org)