



# The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

Fall 2020

Founded in 1951

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## The Reading Center

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www.TheReadingCenter.org

## Jean Osman, Reading Center Co-Founder and Champion of dyslexic learners

**The dyslexia community and The Reading Center lost one of our pioneers when Jean Osman passed away at the age of 90 on May 17, 2020.** Jean played a foundational role in building The Reading Center from an unassuming office in the Rome family basement



*Jean Osman:  
July 3, 1929 – May 17, 2020*

in Rochester into the thriving organization that it is today. Jean's legacy lives on through the work of The Reading Center's many staff and tutors.

**Jean Osman personally tested nearly 3,000 students who struggled to read, tutored 143 students and trained 1,200 adults in the Orton-Gillingham approach during her 64-year career.**

Jean Osman was recruited and trained by Paula Rome in 1956 to help her teach

struggling readers using the Orton-Gillingham approach, a teaching approach developed by neuropsychiatrist Dr. Samuel Orton and psychologist Anna Gillingham. **Together Paula Rome and Jean Osman founded The Reading Center/Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota, a not-for-profit organization that has been teaching dyslexic people to read for nearly 70 years.**

Jean was a trailblazer for regional and national organizations that work for students with dyslexia. She was a force behind the creation of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, and she co-founded the Upper Midwest Branch of the International Dyslexia Association with Paula Rome and served as its president. **She was awarded the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Dyslexia Association in 2002.**

Jean Osman was influential in educating struggling students both near and far. Jean taught Orton-Gillingham at Winona State University, tested and taught students at Carleton College and tutored at the Federal Medical Facility in Rochester, Minnesota. She was also one of the first tutors to work with students online and advocated for its use with dyslexic students.

**Jean Osman was a national presenter on dyslexia, conducted trainings internationally, led simulations, and developed The Reading Center's Institute trainings and its Best of Basics Summer program.**

Jean Osman was known for her deep commitment to The Reading Center's motto: Toward Literacy for All. **Her tireless dedication to this work is reflected in the success of The Reading Center as an organization that leads the way in instruction for people with dyslexia.**

Jean Osman's legacy lives on in the many students whose lives she enriched and in the teachers who practice the skills she taught.

**Per the wishes of the Osman Family, donations in her memory can be made to the Jean Osman Memorial Scholarship Fund at The Reading Center. Donations are accepted by mail at 2010 Scott Road NW, Rochester, MN 55901, by phone at 507-288-5271 or on our website.**

## First Annual Student Honor Roll Event a Success – online!



Chuck Brust  
Board Chair

We had our sights set on using our newly constructed building to its fullest potential this year – but COVID-19 had other plans. Instead of hosting families and friends for our **1st Annual Student Honor Roll, we had a celebration online with a video shared with students and parents.**

The Honor Roll highlighted the strengths and accomplishments of our students with photos and comments shared by parents and tutors. **It was inspiring to see the depth of character, the variety of interests and passions of our students along with their smiling faces.** We will hold a 2nd Annual event in the spring of 2021.

Also new this year, we inducted our first class into The Reading Center's Hall of Fame. We combined these two events to help our students and their parents envision what the future holds for them after being diagnosed with a learning disability, and receiving appropriate services.

Each of the Hall of Fame inductees are accomplished adult dyslexics, and most are Reading Center alumni as well. All contribute greatly to our community and the success of The Reading Center. Information on all ten inductees are on our website. **They are Anna Mary Peterson, Carl Anderson, Brooks Edwards, M.D., Charles Crutchfield, M.D., Donn Sorensen, Ginger Holmes, Greg Nesler, Jeff Price, Joe Powers and Jean Osman.**

And special thanks to our 2020 Event Committee: Dr. Terri Edwards, Dr. Marcia Henry, Ilaya Rome Hopkins, Sharon Rome, Cindy Russell and Sarah Carlson-Wallrath, with special thanks to Jocelyn Jaimez who edited the video.



## Celebrate, and Thank you!

In the dark days this spring, as we learned of the reverberating impacts that COVID was having on our tutoring families, making it difficult for some to continue their tutoring, we issued a plea to our most generous donors and foundations – please help us to triple our scholarship fund so we can ensure that our dyslexic students continue making gains.



Cindy Russell  
Executive Director

**Thanks to our generous donors, those who could, answered the call and we tripled our**

**scholarship fund! This is truly a cause to celebrate!**

If you are a current Reading Center family or someone new to The Reading Center, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship. We do not want income disruptions to keep your student from the life changing interventions they need for success. Scholarship forms are on our website.

## Online Orton-Gillingham tutoring: It Works!

We've heard loud and clear from many parents that the online instruction they are receiving from schools does not work well for all students, especially those with learning and attention issues. But at **The Reading Center, we can confidently share that the online 1:1 Orton-Gillingham tutoring supplied by Reading Center specialized tutors works very well!** Orton-Gillingham online tutoring remains structured, prescriptive and diagnostic for each student, and we keep the instruction multi-sensory.

If you want to learn more about our online Orton-Gillingham tutoring, please contact our Program Navigator via our website, or call us at 507-288-5271.

## Fall Season 2020, What to Expect?

All our programming, from testing to tutoring, to training, has successfully made the transition to an online platform thanks to the determination of our fine staff. Our Best of Basics Summer Program 2.0 sold out and was fully online. Our popular Basic and Advanced Orton-Gillingham Training Institutes also transitioned to be fully online this summer, each selling out. We will continue offering these programming options online into the fall and winter of 2020-2021. When the weather is good, our tutors, in consultation with their student's families, can offer face to face tutoring in an outdoor setting while following safety guidelines. When our temperate weather flees for the winter, this new option will be shelved until spring. Look for further announcements as we learn more about the COVID situation in the winter of 2021.

# 2019 Year in Review

**199** - Students served 1:1 in our Orton-Gillingham tutoring program

**97** - Students took one of our classes- Best of Basics, Reading Club, Writing & Study Skills

**52** Adults were trained in our Orton-Gillingham Institute in one of 8 trainings offered last year

**61,900** People visited our website looking for information on dyslexia and structured literacy

**1/3+** of all tutoring sessions were delivered online

**152** Students were tested, an increase of 57% over 2017

**\$57,479** In scholarship dollars were awarded to students and trainees

**675+** Students were impacted across all our programs and partnerships

## Book Sign Sculpture Installed This Spring

In April, French born artist Sebastien Richer's steel book sculpture was installed at the corner of Scott and Commerce St. N.W. – right outside The Reading Center's building.

Sebastien created a statement piece that serves as our sign, shaped as an 8 ft tall book, sitting on its end with pages fanned out. If you look at the pages, you will even see that a page has been “dog eared,” so you can find your place.

You may have seen photos of the sculpture on social media this summer. **We are grateful to Rochester Home Infusion for their pledge to donate \$50 for each photo taken in front of the new sign and posted to our Facebook page.** In total, RHI donated \$10,000 to The Reading Center through our spring campaigns to fund student scholarships and support our programs – all programs are still serving dyslexic students online! **To learn more about the sculpture check our blog on the website.**



*New book sign/sculpture with artist Sebastien Richer*



## Congratulations on your retirement!

Two long-serving Reading Center tutors retired this year. **After almost 30 years, Dorothy Peterson tested her final Reading Center student.** For the past 20 years, Dorothy was one of our most prolific testers – guiding parents and students through the first part of their dyslexia journey. Dorothy says of her time with The Reading Center, “I cannot begin to tell you what working at The Reading Center has meant to me – it has been a major part of my life for so many years and everyone there has been a dear friend as well as a colleague. This has certainly been a unique working environment and one that I will forever cherish.”

**After 56 years, we also bid a fond farewell to Kay Hawley.** Kay tutored 137 students during her time with us and was a Master Teacher as well – she was Dorothy's Master Teacher back in 1990!

Kay says, “Journeying with students regardless of age as they achieve personal goals is priceless. Their tenacity, determination and confidence have been inspirational to me. I feel honored to have shared life and time with people [who are] dyslexic. They in turn have taught me valuable lessons about life.”



## Best of Basics – 4 great weeks of learning ONLINE!

Our month-long Best of Basics program moved entirely online for the first time due to COVID. **New program coordinator, Lillian Stewart, and her team of teachers did a fantastic job pivoting to this new format and delivering quality instruction to students this summer.** While we have been delivering online 1:1 sessions for years, this was our first time using an online format for group classes.

Best of Basics helps students in a way that a regular summer school cannot. Even online, our small group classes and one-on-one options focus on building skills using the multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham Approach. The success of these group classes has given us confidence to offer our winter Writing and Study Skills courses online as well. Check back later this fall for course dates and registration.



## New Faces on The Reading Center's Board of Directors

We said goodbye to three Reading Center Board Members who finished their terms, and hello to three new Board Members on July 1. A very hearty thank you to former Chair **Brittany Thompson**, former Treasurer **Danny Bucknell** and former Chair **Dr. Terri Edwards** for their service to The Reading Center.

We are happy to have three new board members join us for three-year terms. Welcome to **Greg Nesler, Anna Mary Peterson, and Dr. Joel Traver.**

**Greg Nesler** is the owner of Rochester Heating and Plumbing and is a **Reading Center alumnus, having been tutored by our late co-founder Jean Osman.** He says, "I use the skills that Jean (Osman) quietly drilled into me without even knowing that I am."

**Anna Mary (Ann) Peterson** is a retired audiologist at Mayo Clinic, **Ann is dyslexic with a background in Orton-Gillingham,** having been trained in Michigan.

**Dr. Joel Traver is an Associate Professor of Teacher Education at Winona State.** He was attracted to The Reading Center's mission because, "Being an educator and now with children of my own, I have witnessed the power of the ability to effectively read. If a child learns how to read, there are so many more opportunities opened to them regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, etc. I believe the power to read creates equity for our children and families in the region and beyond."



Greg Nesler



Dr. Joel Traver



Anna Mary Peterson



## New Reading Center Building Opened December 7

On December 7, 2019 more than 300 people toured through our new building at The Reading Center's Grand Opening. Along with Reading Center students, alumni, staff and board of directors, we welcomed our broader community to see our new facility.

There are many thank you's due for this project. Thank you to our founders, **Jean Osman and Paula Rome**, for their foundation and vision. Thank you to the many generous donors to this campaign – alumni, parents, board members and staff/tutors, foundations and corporations. Thank you to former state **Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, Sen. Carla Nelson, Sen. David Senjem, Rep. Tina Liebling, Rep. Duane Sauke, Rep. Duane Quam and Rep. Nels Pierson** for helping secure state capital investment funds. Thank you to **Richard Devlin, Chair Sheila Kiscaden and all Olmsted County Commissioners** for their partnership.

It was wonderful to see representatives from the design and construction team who helped bring our vision of a new, exciting space from concept to completion. Thank you to: architect **Jill Kaehler and Jose Rivas** of CRW; **Andy Chafoulias and Brian Moser** of Titan Development; **Dave Buss, Levi Kaiser, Aaron Benike and Mike Benike** of Benike Construction; **Phil Reed and Billy Reed** of Med City Electric; **Nancy Hylden** and her team at Hylden Advocacy and Law; and **Eric Snyder and Kim Snyder** of Excelsior Bay Group.

And thank you to our Alumni Donors who created an Alumni Matching Fund to help us finish off the Unleashed to Succeed Capital Campaign strong! They are: **Drs. Brooks and Terri Edwards, Greg Nesler, Ginger Holmes, Amy and Christopher Davis, Carl Anderson, Jr., Donn Sorensen, Erik Funk/Thrivent Financial, Anna Mary and Terry Peterson, Jeff Price, and Mike Fogarty, Sr.**



*Pictured above: 1. Founder Jean Osman and Reading Center alumnus Greg Nesler. 2. Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Joe Powers and Drs. Brooks and Terri Edwards. 3. Ribbon cutting ceremony featuring Co-Founder Jean Osman and granddaughter of Founder Paula Rome, Ilaya Rome Hopkins*



# Newsletter Donor List

August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have so generously pledged or donated to The Reading Center. We strive to list our donors accurately, but occasionally we make a mistake. If your donation has been omitted, your entry is misspelled or put in a wrong giving level, please contact Sarah Carlson-Wallrath at [scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org](mailto:scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org).

If you would like to make a contribution, please use our secure online server at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org), contact us at 507-288-5271, or use the enclosed envelope.

## Paula Rome Legacy Society Those honoring The Reading Center with a planned gift

Mike and Joy Fogarty  
Kevin Kvale  
Tony Love  
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Joe Powers  
Lois Saxton  
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Pasquale's Neighborhood Pizzeria  
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### Grand Opening/Bright Stars Event 2019

Alan Anderson, CHTD, CPA  
Costco  
Honeybear Brands Company  
Lexi Lee Photography  
Premier Bank

### Dyslexia Dash 2019

Canadian Honker  
Caribou Coffee  
Culligan Of Rochester  
FOX47  
Great Harvest Bread Co.  
Kwik Trip  
Lexi Lee Photography  
Pasquale's Neighborhood Pizzeria



Rochester Public Library  
Sekapp Orchard

### Student Honor Roll (Bright Stars) Event 2020

Kwik Trip

### Best Of Basics 2020

Olmsted Medical Center

### Jean Osman Memorial Scholarship Fund

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# The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

2010 Scott Road NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
website: [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org)  
email: [Read@TheReadingCenter.org](mailto:Read@TheReadingCenter.org)  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Sept

**Dyslexia Coalition  
Panel Discussion**  
*September 28  
7-8 PM*

### Oct

**HELP Webinar with Dr.  
Mark Seidenberg**  
*October 1  
4-5PM*

**Virtual Reading  
Center Open House**  
*Tues, October 6  
7:30-8:30 PM*

**Hall of Fame Panel  
Discussion**  
*October 19  
7-8 PM*

### Nov

**Winter Basic Orton-  
Gillingham Institute**  
*Nov 30, 2020-Mar 7, 2021*

**Winter Advanced  
Orton-Gillingham  
Institute**  
*Nov 30, 2020-Feb 21, 2021*

**Give to the Max Day**  
*November 19*

### Upcoming

**Spring Basic Orton-  
Gillingham Institute**  
*Mar 1 - May 30, 2021*

**4-6-Year-Old  
Screening &  
Reading Club**  
*Ongoing, call for times*

**Study Skills  
(grades 7-11)**  
*TBD*

**Writing  
(grades 6-8)**  
*TBD*