

SALS JOURNAL

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Southern Appalachian Labor School*



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Summer 2015

SALS Celebrates 40 Years of Service with Awards Dinner Honoring Miners, Students, and Volunteers

The Historic Oak Hill School's banquet hall was filled with celebrants on the evening of July 2nd celebrating 40 years of service at SALS at the annual Solidarity Dinner. The crowd included several tables of student volunteers from Christian Endeavor who had come in that week to do service work at the school and local community. These students represent just a fraction of the hundreds, who come to work and visit each year to volunteer their time and energy to repair housing and keep the SALS facilities functioning.

John David, our Director opened the evening by recognizing several groups and individuals with Awards.

The "Mother Jones, Fight for Social Justice Award" was given to the United Mineworkers of America for its long history of fighting for justice in the coalfields in addition to their long-time support for the work of the Labor School. One of the big round dinner tables at the event was filled with members of the United Mine Workers Local 8843 led by District 17 International Field Representative Phil Camden and long-time SALS staffer Kathryn South whose husband, Mike South, was president of the National Black Lung Association, a miner's support group which advocated for those who are afflicted with the terminal disease caused by breathing too much coal dust. Mike succumbed to this preventable occupational disease a dozen years ago and is still remembered as a tough fighter for afflicted miners and their widows.

SALS Public Service Award was presented to the Taylor Books pottery team who makes and donates the hundreds of coffee mugs that we send out as "thank you" to SALS supporters all over the country. Jim Hores, one of our founders and long-time supporters has, in his retirement, become a pottery teacher. He and several of his long time students, have for many years now, thrown, glazed, and fired the pottery mugs with SALS logo on them. This labor of love is much appreciated. Those SALS supporters who have these sturdy mugs on their kitchen shelf can now see where they come from.

Next came various recognitions and awards for SALS staff, several of whom have been with the organization for decades in various capacities.



Miners accept award - left to right: Stanley Elkins, Randy Bowen, Dr. John David, Mike Rosenbaum, Tom Gibson, Phillip Camden, Tom Dunn, Lawson Shaffer

The festivities continued with the silent auction (adorned by several beautiful hand-made pottery bowls donated by the Public Service Awardees) and finally, a cake auction with many delicious entries. All in all it was a great evening and a great way to kick-off the 4th of July weekend! See page 7 for a historical overview of SALS.



Pottery class members Lakshmi Gogineni, Jayasree Mukkamala with teacher Jim Hores display award.

Helen M. Powell, A Tribute

by John David

I am extremely saddened to share the news that Helen M. Powell passed unexpectedly on May 5, 2015. Helen was a key leader with SALS, serving as Treasurer and then Chair for over 30 years. She also had leadership roles in the WV Rainbow Coalition and Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County, two of the organizations that became part of SALS as well as the National Black Lung Association, New River Health Association, Appalachian Research and Defense Fund (Legal Aid), Council of the Southern Mountains, WV Welfare Rights Organization, and the Disabled Miner's and Widows Association.

With the Black Lung work, she helped draft the Federal Black Lung Bill and lobbied Congress and President Nixon for successful passage. Her leadership with the Disabled Miner's and Widows Association and the Black Lung organization was instrumental in those groups joining Miners for Democracy and successfully implementing the national reform movement within the United Mine Workers of America.

Helen was involved in the civil rights movement with Martin Luther King Jr. and the campaigns of Rev. Jesse Jackson. She taught for Antioch, obtained an Honorary Doctorate from WVU Tech, received the West Virginia "Living the Dream" award, and awarded the "Hats Off" award from the WV Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. She was featured in "Women of Southern Appalachia", a six month exhibition at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History and in July 1984 was featured in the Ladies Home Journal as one of Americas 50 "unsung heroines".

Helen was a leader in the fight for Social Justice, Working Peoples' Rights, Welfare Rights, Economic Rights, Political Rights, and Equal Rights. She traveled everywhere and fought for Land, Bread, and Freedom. Her mission was to eradicate illiteracy so people would be free from ignorance and oppression; obtain universal health care so people could live, grow, and develop to their full potential; seek healthy housing and water/waste-water systems for a clean environment so people could live a decent life; and create productive work to make products we all need and can use so people can live with freedom from fear, freedom from economic insecurity, freedom from guilt, and freedom from want. To do this, she followed the words of Frederick Douglas: "Power yields nothing without a demand—it never has and it never will". Helen has passed the torch on to all of us to continue the struggle.

SALS Journal



A Service of Memory
-- Celebrating the Life --
of



Helen Marie Taylor Powell



Earthly Life Began
February 25, 1929

Eternal Life Began
May 5, 2015

The SALS Journal is published by the Southern Appalachian Labor School, a grassroots organization dedicated to social & environmental justice and workers rights.

We welcome articles and submissions by our readers.

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Director's Report

by John David

SALS is sliding along cautiously. Proposals are being regularly submitted, both to do the same and to move in different directions.

In Gauley Bridge, SALS has contracted with Community Housing Partners for re-construction of 24 apartments of Scrabble Creek, all financed by the WV Housing Development Fund. A management agreement with the Central Appalachian Empowerment Zone is also involved.

In Montgomery, a loan from Community Works in West Virginia is permitting completion of a donated home. Two houses were donated in Boomer and donated homes in Gauley Bridge and Oak Hill are in progress, along with a new home in Oak Hill.

In Beards Fork, the SALS Community Center has added a YouthBuild Global Volunteers' Sustainable and Affordable Housing Demonstration Farm that surrounds the lighted walking track, shuffleboard court, and benches. The farm consists of a high tunnel vegetable garden, bee hives, chickens, goats, and grape/raspberry bushes.

In Oak Hill, the SALS Historic Oak Hill School has created space for Housing Counseling encounters and the radio station studio, which will be a LPFM, WAGE, 106.5.

After the boiler failure during the winter, zoned electric/gas units were installed and the facility now operates more efficiently. Several graduations used the auditorium during the Spring, including the Fayette Institute of Technology (Fayette County Schools) and A Place To Grow, an early childhood center. It has also been used for meetings, movie auditions, and various community functions.

Those on the SALS staff have completed numerous professional certifications. Perhaps the most impressive is Vickie Smith's Homeownership and Community Lending Professional Certificate, which was earned based on a tough comprehensive exam that covered a series of courses taken over more than a year. SALS was also one of a few groups in the state renewed to engage in housing counseling.

SALS has suffered several losses. They include Helen M. Powell (see tribute), Teddy Taylor who lived at the Historic Oak Hill School for several years, many relatives of staff, and Becky, who was married to SALS Co-Founder Bill McCabe. In Page-Kincaid, we lost Grier Kincaid at age 104, who made it possible for us to settle in Kincaid, and both Priscilla and James Asbury, who was part of our effort to create a clean environment along Loup Creek. Two others whose loss will be felt by many are African-American Poet, Norman Jordan, and Black Lung pioneer Dr Rasmussen. See more on these men on page 8 and our cover.

SALS has been selected for a new VISTA project that will focus on agriculture volunteer coordinator, and socio-media/marketing/communications. This is in addition to the Summer VISTA program, staffed by Michelle



SALS high-tunnel greenhouse extends growing season & provides fresh produce for programs

Muska from Rutgers U and William Austin from Beards Fork, which provides free lunches to children at 7 sites in Fayette County. In addition, the YouthBuild VISTA program focuses on youth education and career advancement. Barbara Painter, who served 5 years as a SALS VISTA, will join Experience Works and assist SALS with AmeriCorps duties.

The spring and summer period has brought nearly 1,000 volunteers to SALS from universities, faith-based organizations, Group Cares/Workcamp, and Global Volunteers. They are all vital to our work and we appreciate their support greatly!

SALS staff members have become highly integrated in new collaborations, including "Our Children, Our Future" and several initiatives sponsored through health groups. They are also active on the Family Resource Network as well as local emergency teams that have been formed over the past period due to FEMA declarations, train wreck, spills, and similar incidents.

Finally, we are pleased to note SALS has been accepted as a partner in the United Way of Southern West Virginia and the Combined Federal United Way Campaign.

Again, we thank you for your loyal and generous support. Without your help, we would not survive. Be Well, Do Good Things, and Stay in Touch!

Constructing Change

Vickie Smith

Winter ended very hard in Southern West Virginia this past year but even with all the snow we managed to accomplish many tasks and now working on a job in Montgomery with hopes of finishing in the next month or so. We have many jobs waiting on our small crew of six to tend to. We have a new home to get under roof, foundations to repair, houses to repair, and acres to mow. We spent a month or so preparing the Regina Three Rivers Apartment complex in Gauley Bridge for its extensive makeover and we completed several rehabs. Several of our previous crew members completed their education and have jobs in our community. We are very proud of their accomplishments and dedication in achieving their dreams.

I have taken numerous classes and tests over the past couple of years in Housing Counseling. This is now complete and all tests have been successfully passed which means that SALS is now certified to provide Housing Counseling classes for our community. We held several classes over the past months which enabled families to become homeowners. I enjoy the classes and feel that those who complete the classes are well prepared to be new homeowners.

Several special events have been held at The Historic Oak Hill School over the last several months which add lots of extra hours to ones normal week. The school seems to be evolving into an active, beneficial space for many. It is a beautiful facility that has come back to life with lots of love and hard work.

We have also had sadness in losing our long-time board chair, Ms. Helen M. Powell and our Teddy. Things will be sad for a time and will take a time to adjust to life without having these special people around us as we proceed forward with our mission. We know they will be guiding us each step of the way.



Supporting floor joists under a home in Scarboro

SALS Journal

SALS News

Kathryn South

This past winter was another cold one for all of us at SALS. School was closed for over 15 days because of snow and ice, which meant that we couldn't have our afterschool program those days. The staff at the Beards Fork site tried to keep things going with the difficulties encountered during the bad weather. Spring began our gardening project for this year. LaToya Ray and I purchased lots of plants, planted them in the greenhouse, and are pleased that the crops have done really well.

Before we could get started with the planting of the crops, we had to rebuild the greenhouse. The original team that worked with Gary Deluke did a great job, but time and weather deteriorated the structure. A team of Global Volunteers that visited in April reconstructed the greenhouse, put on new plastic, and built new boxes for the plants. Next we worked to get tomatoes and beans, and other plants in the ground before the season got too far ahead of us. We are getting some farming advice from my dad, Don Floyd, about when to plant which plants according to the phases of the moon.

Another venture that LaToya and I have been working on is the chicken farming project. We purchased 12 chickens, and we found out today that four of the chickens are ROOSTERS. OH, NO!!!! We did not really want any roosters, but I guess that they will help with giving us more chickens. The chickens are growing like weeds in the classroom and they make quite a mess in the box we have them in. Soon they will need to go outside so another project is building the chicken coop.

Enough about our farming ventures, on to volunteers. We'll have seven Global Volunteer teams this year working with the youth and community people. The first group came in April, which was team #95. Thus, we will celebrate our 100th team sometime this summer. Do we need another reason to PARTY?

I think not. I am now the Global Volunteer team leader for WV. Artie Mullins held that position for quite a few years and did a marvelous job. Thanks Artie for helping out with getting things started with the new venture for me and other who will assist.

Planning Ahead

LaToya Ray

We are excited about another season with our high tunnel garden here at the Beards Fork location. Youth in the afterschool program helped with the raised beds and the planting of many different vegetables. We had several groups from around the states to come in and help weed our garden and rebuilt our high tunnel. Along with the gar-



Energy Express students gently hold a baby chick

den we have two honey bee boxes and twelve chickens that we will raise for honey and fresh eggs. The kids are excited about both!

An Exciting Year at SALS

Vickie Mullins

Another year has come and SALS is still holding on. We made it through a harsh winter! Once Spring flowered, our After School program begun to dwindle down since a lot of the kids started in different sports. We missed their presence but were pleased to hear they had one a good job in their sport activity. We have had several new projects going on. One is raising chickens and starting beehives. We will also continue our community garden, butterfly bed, walking track and offering food bags for distribution once a month.

Our summer program known as Energy Express once again is going well. The 32 kids and 5 mentors spend a lot of time one-on-one reading, writing, drawing and making crafts. This unique six-week summer educational program helped children maintain their reading skills during the summer months.

In addition to reading and other activities, the mentors and kids ate nutritious family-style meals, mentors made family visits and completed a community service project. The service project consisted of collecting school supplies and backpacks for low-income children who attended Energy Express during the summer. Our mentors collected enough supplies for all our kids! The Ameri-

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Corps mentors made learning fun for the small group of school aged children by creating a safe, enriching environment and healthy nutrition during summer months when children are most at-risk for falling behind-a preventable loss known as the "summer slide".

As Summer ends and as the schools start back, we're adding the component known as STEM into our After School Program. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and we felt the children needed more exposure to the world of STEM. They have done several projects such as various experiments that worked with energy and made use of microscopes, as well as worked on building their own Robots!

Experience Works

Cynthia Rollins, SALS Receptionist

My time with Experience Works for this past year has been very rewarding. Not only did SALS and Experience Works provide me with a job, but they also motivated me. Since I have R/A, I'm on a lot of medication and I do suffer from depression. Staying busy helped me and I'm so grateful. In addition, I needed some new glasses and Experience Works covered that expense for me. Diane and the Experience Works office have been wonderful to me.

New Beginnings

Lisa Manley, Housing Specialist

Spring is a time for new beginnings. This is especially true for our new homeowners. That's right: we sold a house to a very nice lady and her son. They will no longer be renters. It took a long time to get it all together, but finally in April - and the day before her birthday no less - they signed the closing papers, got the keys and officially became the owners of a brand new house. We wish them the best of luck and many years of happiness in their new home.

Also it is the time of year to process applications for Group Workcamp. We received so many applications and the site writers visited many houses. But they had to narrow it down to 36 sites. I am glad I do not have to make that decision. I wish we could get enough donations to help everybody. There is so much need. Sometimes they just need a house painted. Other times it is a wheelchair ramp that's needed so someone can come home from a nursing home. I know we can't help everybody, but with more donations we could do more. Or if you are reading this right now, if you have a neighbor who needs a room in their house painted and you have leftover paint from a

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About Don West

Don West established the Appalachian South Folklife Center along with his wife Connie West after a lifetime of working for social justice across Southern Appalachia.

Don was born in North Georgia, the child of sharecroppers. In high school he led a protest against an on-campus showing of the film *The Birth of a Nation* and was eventually expelled for other conflicts. He was also expelled from Lincoln Memorial University, in Harrogate, Tennessee, for leading another protest against the paternalism of the campus, though he eventually returned and graduated in 1929. He went on to study under Alva Taylor and Willard Uphaus at the Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville and was influenced by the Social Gospel movement.

While still a student, he became an organizer and participated in labor strikes in textile factories and coal mines.

He and Myles Horton co-founded the Highlander Folk School which promoted adult education and community engagement. Don West devoted himself to writing, lectures, and social causes.

He later worked in churches in Ohio and Georgia, taught and became a public school superintendent, and eventually joined the faculty of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

Forced to leave Oglethorpe during the period of Red-baiting, he continued to edit religious publications and teach creative writing. In the 1940s, his collection of poetry, *Clods of Southern Earth*, became a literary phenomenon when it sold tens of thousands of copies.

Don's final years were spent on Cabin Creek here in West Virginia. He participated in SALS Senior Meals program when our offices were still in Chelyan. The late Linda Meade, SALS' first full time organizer, took Don for medical checkups during his final days.

*Appalachian South
Folklife Center*

50th Anniversary

SYMPOSIUM

CONCORD UNIVERSITY
ALEXANDER FINE ARTS CENTER
JULY 17TH
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HONORING THE
LEGACY OF
DON & CONNIE WEST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THE LEGACY OF DON WEST 9:00-10:00

WHAT IS A POET TO SING:
DON WEST'S POETRY 10:00-12:30

"IF MY LIFE CAN'T SPEAK FOR ME"-
DON WEST ACTIVIST & EDUCATOR: 1:30-3:15

TO TEACH MOUNTAIN CHILDREN
THE VALUE OF THEIR HERITAGE: 3:15-4:15

APPALACHIAN PORTRAITS:
THE ART OF CONNIE WEST 4:15-5:15

EVENING CONCERT AT APPALACHIAN
SOUTH FOLKLIFE CENTER
SINGING OUR HISTORY 7:00-MIDNIGHT

www.folklifest.com
Appalachian South Folklife Center 50th Anniversary SYMPOSIUM

Rasmussen, Hero of Black Lung Struggle

With deep regret we must inform our readers that Don Rasmussen passed away in July at age 87. Dr. Ras was a pioneer fighter for coal miners afflicted with Black Lung. Starting with his work at the Miners Memorial Hospital in Beckley (now Appalachian Regional Hospital), he worked with the Disabled Miner's and Widows Association, Black Lung Association, Miners for Democracy, and the UMWA for both the prevention of Black Lung as well as just compensation via presumption for coal miners. He was active in the struggle until a fall that occurred a few months ago.

Read more about this modern-day labor hero in Daily Mail Editorial: <http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20150727/DM04/150729584/1279>

He will be sorely missed.

Historical Overview of 40 Years of Community Service

SALS' traces its roots to the mid-1970s at WVU Tech where John David, David Greene, Bill McCabe, and David Morris began an extension program of labor-related courses for workers and their families as part of the Department of Social Sciences. Early grants came from the Fund for the Improvement of Post- Secondary Education, OSHA, National Science Foundation, and the University Year in ACTION. WVU Tech at that time was heavily involved in War on Poverty programs that included affordable housing, community organizing, business incubators, legal services, and Black Lung counseling. Thus, the name, "Center for Labor Education" was a natural fit.

In 1981, the Center was renamed as Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) and became a community-based non-profit organization headquartered in a donated building in Chelyan. When the Chelyan building burned in 1995, SALS obtained the former Beards Fork Elementary School, which had been closed and was in serious disrepair. With AmeriCorps help, SALS fixed the building, installed new HVAC, and began a community center component that continues to this day. The SALS Community Center in Beards Fork now consists of a high tunnel, demonstration farm, lighted walking track, playground, gazebo, community center, dorm, and two commercial kitchens. Programs at the facility include Accent Education and Energy Express for the entire area between Montgomery and Oak Hill due to the closure of all five elementary schools that once existed in that distance.

At that time, SALS also began a new thrust into affordable housing, starting with a relationship with Fayette Institute of Technology for a home repair program in Minden. This expanded to now include single family construction, rehab and repair, as well as apartments, aided by thousands of college/faith-based/Global volunteers, a YouthBuild program, AmeriCorps Volunteers, and youth through the Workforce Investment Act.

SALS has also expanded with food pantries, FEMA emergency services, and programs involving health care, environmental stewardship, veterans, and a "Feed and Read" program for those 18 and under in apartment complexes. SALS is a HUD certified Housing Counseling Agency, a Community Housing Development Organization, and a Community Development Corporation. It has just been granted a FCC Low Power FM license and will broadcast at 106.5 FM from its new facility, the Historic Oak Hill School (formerly Oak Hill High/Elementary).

Over the past two decades, SALS has become highly involved in housing and youth transformation. SALS housing programs include Fayette Housing, which is in partnership with the Public Improvement Council of Kin-



Regina Apartments SALS is building in Gauley Bridge

caid and Upper Page, Youth Build, and the WV Housing Development Fund to construct new single-family units - nearly 30 to date in Page, Oak Hill, and Hilltop. In addition, our New River Safe Housing involves participation by AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Workcamp volunteers in the total rehabilitation of 200 coal camp homes owned by low income families. Finally, Coalfield Housing, which involves college students, Global Volunteers, and faith-based youth in weatherization and home repairs. Nearly 1000 volunteers each year come to SALS to work with its community gardening, after-school, and housing projects. To date, over 1000 homes have been repaired or made handicap accessible through this initiative.

Our Youth transformation work involves YouthBuild, which works with high school dropouts who obtain their GED degree while working with SALS Housing. To date, several hundred youth have benefited from this program. Other youth programs, located at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork and the Historic Oak Hill School, include Energy Express, TANF Energy Express light, and the 21st Century Community learning Center which is an after-school program that is a collaborative with the New River Health Association and the Fayette County Schools that we call "Accent Education."

The unique feature of SALS Housing is that the workforce consists of high school drop-outs who are learning construction skills while working on their GED's (YouthBuild), youth who are on probation, youth assigned through the WIA/YES out of school Workforce Investment Board Region I program, at risk unemployed adults, and unemployed adults. As noted above, these people are annually augmented by 1000 short term volunteers from faith-based groups, Group Workcamps, Global volunteers, and many colleges/universities.

Continued on next page

John David is the Director and co-founder of SALS. He's also a retired Professor of Economics/Labor Studies and former Chair of the Department of Social Sciences/Public Administration at WVU Tech. He is assisted by Ruth Lanham, who has also worked for SALS from inception. The SALS Leadership Team also includes Kathryn South (YouthBuild), Artie Mullins (AmeriCorps), Gary Zuckett (Social Justice), Lisa Manley (Housing Management), Vickie Smith (Housing Construction), and Ruth Lanham (Administration). The SALS Board was chaired by Helen M. Powell, a long-time fighter in the labor and Black Lung struggles, until she passed away recently.

Overall, SALS has been very successful in completing sound and affordable housing for low-income families and the projects have received considerable national attention. In 2001, SALS was featured in Appalachia, published by the Appalachian Regional Commission. In 2000, the WV HUD office nominated SALS for the annual Best Practice in low Income Housing Award. In 1999, 2002, and 2003 SALS was recognized by USA Weekend in the national "Make a Difference Day" competition. In 1998, SALS received honorable mention from the Fannie Mae Foundation in its Maxwell Award of Excellence for the Production of low Income Housing. In 2003, SALS Housing was placed on the living the Dream Service Organization Honor Roll by the Martin Luther King, Jr. WV Holiday Commission. Director John David also received the living the Commission's Dream Award a few years later. SALS received the Helen Lewis Community Service Award from the Appalachian Studies Association in 2006.

In recent years, SALS has taken on several additional areas of work including stream restoration, environmental health, food pantries, feeding programs, and Medicaid expansion. Also, in addition to being a CHDO, SALS is now a certified HUD approved Housing Counseling Agency and a Community Development Organization.

As long as the need continues, SALS intends to be a force for its stated mission: "...to provide education, research, and linkages for disenfranchised people in order to promote understanding, empowerment, and change."

“Unfit to be a Slave: A Guide to Adult Education for Liberation”

David Greene, a retired adult education teacher, moved back to Newark, Ohio with his wife Dr. Janet Greene in 2009. He has written a new and exciting book about education for social change. Both David, who co-founded SALS, and Janet were teachers on the SALS staff and instrumental in implementing SALS mission.

The book is entitled "Unfit to be a Slave", a Guide to Adult Education for Liberation. It is written out of over 40 years of experience in adult and worker education. The book was published in May by Sense Publishers and is also available from Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles and as an e-book.

David Greene will be speaking and signing copies of “Unfit to be a Slave” at Taylor Books in Charleston, WV Thursday, August 6th at 6:00 PM.

Starting from conditions of inequality, injustice and a diminishing standard of living, 'Unfit to be a Slave' tells the lived stories of many people trying to survive and protect their families and communities. Too often we blame ourselves for circumstances beyond our control. Social problems require social solutions, not mythologies that would have us believe, 'Things don't change' or 'We can't do anything.'

David's new work affirms that, "As a collective and organized force we can transform our communities, our countries and our world. To do this we need the clearest reflection of the real world.

"Unfit to be a Slave" employs the tools of theory and informed practice to guide us to share experience, study history's lessons and develop the consciousness that we need.

David Greene's writing also asserts solemnly the strengths and knowledge that the working class of people have, and their fundamental striving for a better life.

For More Information or to arrange book signings or presentations, contact: David Greene 740-641-2328 or 740-877-3500 or email DavidGreene3372@hotmail.com

Poet Jordan a Loss for SALS Community

Norman (Pete) Jordan, an acclaimed African American poet and cultural worker who co-founded with his wife Brucella the African American Heritage Family-Tree Museum in Ansted, passed away unexpectedly in .

Norman was one of the first AmeriCorps members with SALS and was instrumental in starting the "Prime Time" AfterSchool program at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, which continues to this day as "Accent Education".

Norman came back to SALS many times, reading poetry and depicting Carter G. Woodson, a Fayette County coal miner who founded Black History Month.

At the recent Celebration of Life Memorial held at Tamarack, Brucella was presented with a Taylor Books Pottery Class mug on behalf of the SALS Family.

Editor's note: See this Charleston Gazette article for more on Norman Jordan's life and career -

www.wvgazette.com/article/20150708/GZ01/150709333

Energy Express Open House at Beards Fork

SALS held an Energy Express Open House at our Community Center in Beards Fork on Thursday morning, July 23rd. Those in attendance, which included parents and officials, were treated to a series of creative presentations by the youth and volunteers, all coordinated by AmeriCorps Mentors. Following the class presentations, guests were permitted to tour the classrooms and view the work completed by the youth since the program began in June. The event concluded with a special lunch served family style.

Those attending the open house learned about Energy Express and how it provides learning opportunities and nutrition during the summer months, when children are most at risk for falling into the “summer slide.” The summer slide occurs when children fall behind academically because they do not build or maintain their reading skills throughout the summer months. College students and community members serving as AmeriCorps members are staffing the program, which continues through Friday, July 31. Energy Express is an award-winning summer reading program that has served children in Fayette County since 1998. This summer’s program – geared toward students entering grades 1-6 – began on June 22.

“Things have gone tremendously well, said Energy Express Site Coordinator Paul Baker, who teaches and coaches at Collins Middle School. “The kids we have, the mentors, everybody’s top-notch. “And the kids have had a bunch of fun”.

John David, SALS Director, was quick to note the support from a variety of entities which made the Energy Express program possible. They include WVU-Extension, AmeriCorps, City of Montgomery, Fayette County Commission, Fayette County Schools, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, SALS, WV Department of Education/USDA, faith-based organizations, and many other Friends of Kids. The assistance, he said, is especially welcome because he knows “everybody’s going through hard times.” Even with the aid from the public agencies, SALS “has to put in lots of money and resources” to pull off the program each summer.

Unlike many other Energy Express programs that are hosted at schools, SALS doesn’t have access to Title I funds. Also, SALS must pay for utilities and for expenses involved with running four SALS vans to shuttle the children to and from their homes to the center.

SALS has used some of its tax credits to secure some of the supplies necessary for the children. Through it all, David said the program has survived and continues to help the children it serves. “Lots of times, programs look at short-term benefits,” he said. “What I look at is the long-term effects of what we’re doing. Are more kids staying in school, are there fewer dropouts, are more going to college, are kids healthier?”

“Our children, mentors and volunteers work hard

throughout these summer months, but they also have fun and take pride in what they do,” said Andrea Mender, of the Fayette County Energy Express program. “They look forward to sharing their art and writing with their community leaders, neighbors, friends and family.”

For more information, to volunteer or to donate supplies or money for the program, contact SALS at 304-779-2280 or 304-779-2772 or Mender at 304-574-4253 or via e-mail at andrea.mender@mail.wvu.edu. Note: Steve Keenan was a contributor on this news article.

A New Beginning

by Barbara Painter

Well, I’m glad we’re finished with the winter and are into summer. Flowers and trees are blooming everywhere. It’s a welcome change!

I have been busy writing grants. The grant from West Virginia American Water was approved for \$500.00 for another Prescription Drug Take Back at the Page/Kincaid Public Service District.

Another grant that we sought was to assist with the SALS community gardens. This grant would have enhanced the growing process and provided healthier, fresh vegetables to the community. Unfortunately, it was not approved.

We are continuing to work with the Mountaineer Food Bank. At the Oak Hill site alone, we are serving a total of 343 separate families. You never realize how many people are hungry until you work with a program such as this.

I have completed my fifth year as VISTA and it has been great serving with SALS. The good news to that I will continue on under the Experience Works program.

I assisted with the County’s Emergency Preparedness Fair in early April. Many door prizes were given out, the children were fingerprinted and DNA samples were taken. Then the children were assisted in preparing emergency backpacks to take home with them. Tobacco Prevention was there along with the Red Cross, Raleigh County Cert Program, Best and Jan Care Ambulance, and several others hosted display tables to get residents ready for a disaster. It was a busy but nice day.

I continue to assist with information and referral at the Heritage House in Beckley. The residents have accepted me into their little family and I stay pretty busy assisting them to locate services they need. I am there 10 hours per month. One great success is that the Book Mobile now visits the apartment house twice a month and the residents are very excited about this! I have made several new friends, including some with four paws!

I attended the Hubalooza in Summersville, met a lot of new people including some good networking associates, and joined a group to learn how to do attention-grabbing flyers, emails, and public service announcements. So beware!

New Beginnings, continued from page five

project you finished, give them the paint. If they are elderly or disabled, paint for them and you will be rewarded far more than you realize.

Our Group Workcamp volunteers are mostly teenagers who are giving up a week of their summer to come here and help. They are very special people and I hope if a group is working on your neighbor's house go over and thank them because they are improving your neighborhood.

REHABs are going well. We have three finished, one almost finished and two ready to start. We have three going through the approval process. All of the REHABs will at least get a new roof. So that is a good thing because a leaky roof leads to lots of other repairs.

Accent Education - A Good Year!

By Charlene Newkirk

The Accent Education After School Program at SALS began with lots of kids needing tutoring help in math, reading and all other subjects that the public school system requires. But here at SALS, they did not only get help with these subjects but they were also introduced to a new world that focused on science and technology.

They learned how to make putty and bombs out of water and sugar which made a explosion sound.

The kids enjoyed experimenting with these items. This part of science is very important to teach because it will stay with them for a long time. The kids traveled to Charleston to visit the Capitol for Children's Day at the Legislature. They were able to visit our Senator's offices and also sit in on some bills being passed. The trip was a great learning experience.

Many of the kids are coming to our summer program where they continue to be taught reading and art, as well as exposed to making crafts, good nutrition, and family-style meals. The program ended in late July.

All kids need a safe environment where they can get homework help after school. Parents and grandparents look forward to SALS hosting an After School program because they know their kids are surrounded by good people and will be fed as well as bused home. Not only did we provide a safe place, but we also taught the kids survival techniques to help them as they become young adults.

The kids that come to SALS always had a smile on their face once they exited the bus and would say "Hey Ms. Red, I did this today at school"! This was a story to tell mom or grandma but instead we were the adult supervisors they saw four days a week.

We continue to ask for funding so our kids can come to a place that will welcome them and make them feel like they belong. As you read this article and others written by SALS staff, we ask that you would support us so we can open up our big doors for all these little people!!

SALS Journal



At their Open House: Paul Baker, Energy Express Site Coordinator and AmeriCorps Mentors Matthew White, Krystin Barton, Abby Browning, and Kayshawn Payne. Not pictured: Travis Buckley.

SALS Kincaid Office News

By Ruth Lanham

First let me express my sincere sympathy to Helen M. Powell's family. We have lost a great lady who I have known for many years. She donated a tremendous amount of hours to the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS). She will be sadly missed by all of us at SALS.

Our office is still very busy. We are spending endless hours writing and submitting proposals to try to keep funds coming in so we can continue the work that we do. We still have reports due for grant funds we have now and some of these reports are due monthly. We are trying to keep afloat with the funds we have.

We are still in desperate need of some good vehicles so that we can keep everything going. We could use a couple of work trucks and some cars. We have tax credits available at this time. The vehicle fleet we have at this time is getting very worn and old with extremely high mileage.

Our office receives phone calls and walk-ins daily with needs such as food. There are times when families need furnishings such as a washer, stove, or refrigerator. Theirs has quit working and they have no funds to purchase these items. I would like to be able to help every phone call and walk-in but we are not able to do so. If you would like to donate in any way to help our communities anything and all things would be appreciated. Any used appliances would be great. If you would like to donate to SALS you can call our office at 304.250.7627 or drop it by our office on Route 61. Thank you in advance for your kindness to your community. God will bless you richly for your kindness.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

SALS Community Center in Beards Fork

304-779-2772/ph/fax or 779-2280 or 578-5057

www.SALS.info

SALS Historic Oak Hill School

304-465-4246 phone/fax

Kincaid office voice or fax: 304-250-7627

or 304-465-9732

John David, Director - 304-465-9732

Vickie Smith, Const. : 304-640-3792, fax 469-9721

Artie Mullins/Kathryn South, Program Support

304-779-2772

Ruth Lanham, Admin. Assistant - 304-442-3156

Board Officers

Marcus Wilkes	Interim Chair
Rick Wadsworth	Secretary /Treasurer
John David*	Director jdavid@citynet.net

Project Staff **are members of the SALS Leadership Team*

Kathryn South*	Youthbuild/Global Volunteers mustangkathryn@gmail.com
Vickie Smith*	Construction Manager vlsmith@citynet.net
Gary Zuckett*	Health/Economic/Enviro Justice garyz@sals.info
Artie Mullins*	Reduced Time Community Center/ AmeriCorps/Volunteers artiemullins@earthlink.net
Ruth Lanham	Administrative Assistant madelinelanham@hotmail.com
Lisa Manley	Housing - lisacmanley@hotmail.com

Project Staff continued:

Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/Green/Community
Linda Dillard	Custodian
Jimmy Adkins	YouthBuild Trainer
Terry Black	YouthBuild Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Kenny Price	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Daniel David	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Vickie Mullins	AmeriCorps
James Harvey	AmeriCorps
Tyler Atkins	AmeriCorps
Ryan Cochran	AmeriCorps
Latoya Ray	AmeriCorps
Jamie Criser	AmeriCorps
Michelle Muska	Summer VISTAS
William Austin	Summer VISTAS

'Accent Education' After School Program

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Wilda Salter	Foster Grandparent

Energy Express

Paul Baker, Site Coordinator
AmeriCorps Mentors: Matthew White, Krystin Barton, Abby Browning, Kayshawn Payne, Travis Buckley

WVU Extension Service

Lauren Weatherford, Andrea Meader
Casandra Bandy

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
Tom Bass, Artie Mullins

Special Events

Joe Mario



Yes, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward.

Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS, POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

Enclosed is: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 Other\$ _____

Please send me a thank you gift.. _____ \$50 + Donors will receive a SALS License Plate, or similar item

Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

E-mail _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/St/zip _____
Telephone _____

SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

SALS Journal

POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119


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Special 40th Anniversary Edition!

*see pg. 7 for a history of SALS
and its accomplishments!*

Visit us on the web: www.sals.info



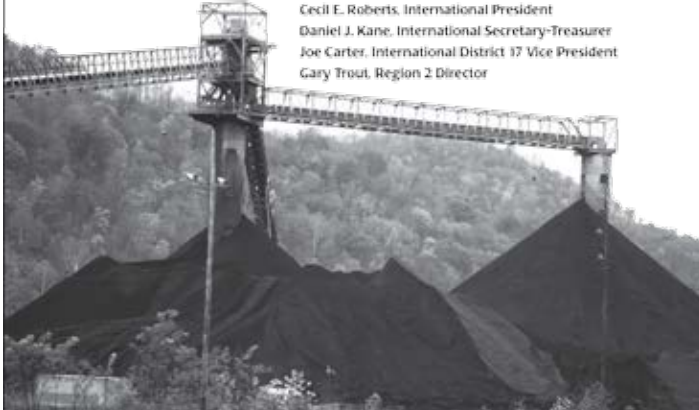
**United Mine Workers
of America**

Salutes

Southern Appalachian Labor School

For 40 Years
Providing Vital Services
To Assist and Empower
Workers and Their Families
Throughout the Region

Cecil E. Roberts, International President
Daniel J. Kane, International Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Carter, International District 17 Vice President
Gary Trout, Region 2 Director



This Christian Endeavor volunteer work crew repaired roof and ceilings on the Oak Hill home of Kathy Lilly, who is pictured on the far left.

**We keep busy here at SALS helping
those in our community.**

Your contributions help us keep busy!

Go to www.sals.info/donate to donate on-line, or
Fill out a check and send it in with the form on the
other side of this page!