



# NYSAFLT

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## News

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### The President's Corner



**Michelle Shenton**

As a leader of a successful and well-established organization, I was starry-eyed and wanted to make a difference and accomplish some great task. I am not sure that vision has been realized; however, I am happy to give back to the organization and profession that has given me so much. I am going to revisit my C's for world language teachers (see the March 2018 Newsletter) in this last message of my presidency.

**Communication/Connections:** Over the last nine years as a NYSAFLT officer, I have enjoyed networking with fellow NYSAFLTers, fellow officers, directors, and organizational leaders. I have been able to help others, I have been able to grow both professionally and personally, and I have been able to hang out with like-minded people. It has been so rewarding and I highly recommend it.

**Collaboration:** I am glad to have been a part of the process that will align NYS and ACTFL standards. Look for further information and professional development from NYSAFLT. I assure you we will be here to support you as the refreshed New York State Standards are rolled out and put into action.

**Champion:** Under **Bill Anderson's** leadership, NYSAFLT has a new [Strategic Plan](#) to see us through the next five years. The focus areas are teacher recruitment and retention, building capacity for leadership, and outreach and advocacy. I admit I am jealous that I will not get to operate under this new plan and benefit from the committee's hard work.

**Careers:** I am starting my own little WL recruitment movement in my school district by tapping students who have the potential and enthusiasm to join our ranks some day. Our own



teachers and professors have encouraged many of us, which is why we are WL teachers today. Give your students a nudge, host a student teacher, and mentor a new colleague. Potential and new WL teachers need you!

**Contribution:** At the Annual Conference, I was honored to recognize *others* who have contributed to NYSAFLT and the profession. I gave the 2018 President's Award to a wonderful group of women, WL educators, and NYSAFLTERS. They have been my FL/LOTE/WL and NYSA-mentors, as well as friends, for over 20 twenty years: **Sue Barnes**, **Laurie Clarcq**, **Rosemary Fry**, **Toni Johnson**, **Karen Moretti**, and **Dawn Santiago-Marullo**.

Also under **contribution**, thank you to the officers, directors and committee chairs who have enhanced the organization throughout the years. I am excited to see **Jenny Delfini**, 2nd vice president elect, **JoAnn Thomasson**, secretary-treasurer elect, and **Diane Tyminski**, 2019-21 Newsletter editor, move into their new roles. I am also looking forward to the successful contributions from our Leaders of Tomorrow cohorts.

It is bittersweet to be at the end of my presidency. Everyone has been so helpful, supportive, and gracious. Thank you!

Best wishes to you all,

**Michelle Shenton**

2018 NYSAFLT President

## NYSAFLT Annual Conference 2018



We are thankful for our incredible members who shared their expertise and energy at the **101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference** in Rochester. Together we are **Inspiring Proficiency for Life** in our students and ourselves. Our keynote speaker, **Noah Geisel** ([@SenorG](#)), reminded us that as language educators we lead with relationships. He challenged us to beg, borrow and steal ideas and then change the world! Noah was awarded the Robert J. Ludwig Distinguished Leadership Award for his many contributions to our profession. Noah celebrates the inspiration around us with his takeaways from the 2018 ACTFL convention [here](#).

NYSAFLT was honored to present the Culture Through the Arts Award to Sandra Uwiringiyimana ([@sandras\\_story](#)), author of *How Dare the Sun Rise*. Sandra's powerful story of survival, hope and determination inspires all of us to use our voices and effect positive change in the world. You can learn more about Sandra's work [here](#).





NYS AFLT President **Michelle Shenton** assembled her inspiring team of mentors and honored their dedication to our profession with the 2018 President's Award. The self-proclaimed "Divas" (from left to right: **Rosemary Fry, Toni Johnson, Dawn Santiago-Marullo, Michelle Shenton, Karen Moretti, Sue Barnes, Laurie Clarcq**) reminded us all of the importance of cooperation, collaboration and NYSA-friendship. This incredible team embodies the meaning of how to lead with languages.



The **Annual Conference** celebrates language learning and professional development at its finest. Whether in the classroom or on the dance floor, NYSAFLT members inspire proficiency and positive energy wherever they go! Don't miss out on next year's celebration. Submit your proposal today for the 102<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Conference** in Saratoga Springs by following [this link!](#)



Thank you to [@markdugganphotography](#) for capturing these amazing moments at AC2018!



## NYS AFLT Mentor/Mentee Program Sponsored by RBE-RN

Once again the NYS Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network at NYU offered a generous grant to sponsor the NYS AFLT Mentor/Mentee Program at the **Annual Conference** in Rochester. This year there were seven mentors and mentees who participated. The group met for breakfast on the first day of the conference to review the program and to discuss any questions about the conference and workshops. During the two-day conference mentors communicated with their mentees to answer any questions and to touch base. For the final session on Saturday, the group reconvened and debriefed with NYS AFLT Executive Officers **Sally Barnes** and **Leslie Kudlack** and shared experiences and suggestions for future mentor/mentee groups. Whether they shared a meal, a meeting, questions or discussion, the mentors and mentees both agreed that this is a valuable program for all involved!

NYS AFLT would like to thank RBE-RN for its continued support of this program and the mentors and mentees for participating and developing new NYSA-connections. Check out the website to apply for sponsorships at NYS AFLT's 2019 **Annual Conference** in Saratoga Springs!



### RBE-RN Mentor/Mentees 2018

Left to right: **Amy Zawadzki, Abigail Cleary, Angela Cataldo, Valerie Greer, Jessica Robb, Eleanor Dana, Emily Schnepf, Ricardo Vargas, Wendy Mercado, Mike LaPaglia, Deirdre Kelly, Alexis Thornton, Karla Balarezo**

Not in photo - **Pamela Russel**



## Member Spotlight



The “Member Spotlight” feature will highlight the work and accomplishments of one of NYSAFLT’s members. If you know someone who should be highlighted, please let us know!



This edition’s Member Spotlight focuses on **Françoise “Swaz” Piron**

I was born and raised in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the daughter of a Belgian father and a French mother and I now live 20 minutes from the Canadian border, so I have always had many connections to “la francophonie.” My parents worked for the UN as translators (and actually met in New York City), and my sister is fluent in Russian, so suffice it to say, linguistic ability is in our genes. I have always been interested in languages and have had the privilege of traveling to numerous countries on several continents. I studied English at the University of Geneva, Switzerland and imagined at the time that I would become an English teacher in Europe, but when I went to SUNY Potsdam for a year to practice my English, I met my partner of 33 years, Virginia. I became interested in teaching French in an Anglophone context instead of English in a Francophone milieu. One could say that my career as a French teacher in Northern NY took its roots in languages: my father was a strong advocate for the international language Esperanto. He had befriended a fellow esperantist who eventually became the president of SUNY Potsdam. This language connection allowed me to spend a year at SUNY Potsdam as a graduate assistant. The rest is history.

I have been working at South Jefferson CSD for the last 33 years; I started as a Middle School French and German teacher and have taught every level of French since. The school has always been exceedingly supportive, going as far as sponsoring me so that I could obtain permanent residency in the US.

My memories of my first NYSAFLT conference are a bit hazy. I remember that it was at the Concord and 4 out of my 5 colleagues had been encouraged to go, however our school was too frugal to cover hotel expenses. We ended up sharing a room at an inexpensive motel in the area. Being the youngest and greenest member of the team, I offered to take the roll away bed. My colleagues made me regret that offer by promptly short sheeting my bed!

I later attended conferences every few years and always came back highly energized by the fantastic workshops, the highly professional atmosphere and the great camaraderie. Progressively, I became more and more involved, becoming the director of the Northern-West Region and thus a member of the Board of Directors. I have been presenting workshops for many years on many different topics, but mostly on culture and technology. I have also joyfully been the co-chair of the



Hospitality Committee for the last 10 years. I am currently the chair of the Awards Committee and have a fantastic team working with me to solicit nominations and select winners. As a winner of such awards, I can vouch for the fact that it is a tremendous honor. I was delighted to be presented with 3 such awards: the ISE Language Matters Award (2009), the Dorothy Ludwig Service Award (2010) and the Ruth Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award K-12 (2015).

I also had the great opportunity to work on state examinations at SED for years and have continued my involvement in assessment development by working with a regional committee for our local BOCES. The positive effects that all these professional opportunities have had on me are priceless and have contributed to making me a far better teacher than I would have been otherwise. I credit NYSAFLT with some of the best experiences of my professional career and I thank them for providing the highest level of support that a teacher could hope for!

## *Regional News*

### **Capital-East**

Many members from our Capital East region were featured presenters at this year's NYSAFLT **Annual Conference**. **Shannon Casso-Lundgren** from Bethlehem Middle School presented "*EdPuzzle - Using Authentic Materials in the WL Classroom.*" **Cindy Yetto** from Niskayuna CSD and **Melinda Barnes** from Brunswick CSD presented "*Supporting English Language Learners in the WL Classroom.*" **Mike Mitchell**, also from Bethlehem CSD presented on "*Sustaining an Independent and Self-Directed Learning Community in the WL Classroom.*" **Sarah Shainfeld** from Saratoga Springs MS held a workshop entitled: "*Muévense: Kinesthetic Learning in the WL Classroom.*" And **AJ Ferris**, our own Capital East Director from Saratoga Springs HS presented an interactive "*Who Durnit? Striving for Proficiency through Murder Mystery Parties.*" Thank you to all local professionals for sharing your expertise and helping us grow as an organization and as a teaching community!

Save the date! Our **Capital East Spring Conference**, sponsored in conjunction with **COLT**, will be held on **Saturday, March 16** in Mohonasen CSD. This year's theme: ***Inspiring Proficiency for Life!***

### **Central**

The **LECNYS/ NYSAFLT Regional Workshop** was held on **Saturday, September 29** in East Syracuse. "***This year ... Be Authentic***" was the theme. The event started with an immersion café, followed by a wonderful keynote address given by **Michelle Walpole**, and concluding with an Edcamp session. This was a very well attended event. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the **LECNYS** members who hosted the event.

There are several world languages events planned for the upcoming months. The **French and Spanish Conversation Groups** for world language teachers and professors are scheduled to



meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at OCM BOCES. On **February 2, LECNY** will be hosting its annual **LLL-LECNY** workshop at the Goldstein Student Center on the Syracuse University Campus. Hope to see you at these great events!

**Marisol R. Marcin, Ph.D.** is ending her term as regional director. She wants to thank the membership, the Board of Directors, the executive board, and all other NYS AFLTers for helping her learn with some of the best in the profession, and for allowing her to serve and represent her region in this important role. She passes the torch to **Stewart Smith**, a dedicated French teacher who will continue to lead our region into the future.

Please visit the Central NY Regional News section of the NYS AFLT webpage or visit the **LECNY [website](#)** for more Central NY regional information and updates.

### AATF of CNY

**AATF of CNY** hopes that everyone has had a wonderful start to the new school year! On our end, we have been very busy with our fall activities. For our fall workshop on **Saturday, November 10**, we welcomed Véronique Bennett, who gave an interesting talk on the Marquis de LaFayette, a French military officer who commanded troops in the American Revolutionary War and who also played a key role in the French Revolution. We hope you were able to join us for our annual French hockey night at the Syracuse Crunch on **November 17**. Le Grand Concours is right around the corner, so keep your eyes open for registration information.

### Mid-Hudson/Westchester

As Fall comes to a close and a new year will begin soon, teachers have become acclimated to their new students and classes and thoughts turn to their skills and talents. Many of our members did that by attending and participating in the NYS AFLT **Annual Conference** in Rochester. **Mary Holmes** and **Dr. Jennifer Eddy** presented pre-conference workshops, while **PWRFL** President **Alexis Thornton** conducted the session “*Les Contes de Salade*” in French. Other regional members who presented included **Patricia Moller**, **Maria D'Amato**, **Marissa Coulehan**, **Melanie Thomas**, **Jenny Delfini** and **John Schepisi**.

**Diana Zuckerman** and **Barbara Patterson** presided over a Public Advocacy Committee Meeting as well as presented progress in public advocacy for world languages during the opening session on Saturday morning. NYS AFLT Executive Board members **Sally Barnes** and **Leslie Kudlack** oversaw the Mentor/Mentee Scholarship program sponsored by the NYS RBE-RN which welcomed the mentors and mentees on Friday morning with a breakfast and short orientation and concluded with a debrief meeting at the end of the conference on Saturday afternoon.

Several of our members received awards and recognition at the **Annual Conference**. **Joseph Schepisi** received a NYS AFLT Culture Award while a Teacher Incentive Grant was



awarded to **Roxanne Franquelli-Beras** of Valhalla UFSD. **Alexis Thornton** received the Leaders of Tomorrow 2018 Cohort. Pelham Public Schools received the Sally G. Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award.

<p><i><b>Diana Zuckerman</b> and <b>Barbara Patterson</b> discuss the state of world languages in their Public Advocacy Committee Meeting.</i></p>	<p><i><b>Sally Barnes</b> and <b>Leslie Kudlack</b> debrief with mentors and mentees at the end of the Annual Conference.</i></p>	<p><i><b>Jenny Delfini</b> presented a workshop entitled “Using Your Time Wisely: Getting the Most Output From Your Input.”</i></p>

On the regional level, **PWRFL** began the new school year with a workshop on **Tuesday, October 2** about “*The Virtual Reality Experience.*” VR is a wonderful vehicle to introduce students to countries and points of interest in target language locations from the comfort of your classroom. Thank you to Port Chester Middle School for hosting this meeting. On **Tuesday, October 30** the idea of travel continued with “*Breakouts in the World Language Classroom*” hosted by Spanish teacher Deirdre Kelly at Clarkstown South High School in Rockland County. We are so pleased to expand professional opportunities to our colleagues across the Hudson River. Our last meeting of 2018, “*Advanced Assessment Techniques,*” took place on **Tuesday, November 27** at Palisades Prep in Yonkers. Meetings will resume on **January 8**.

**ALoud** hosted a five-hour professional development at Ulster County Community College on **Saturday, November 3**. The theme for this event was “*The Best of NYSAFLT Annual Conference and Summer Institute.*” During this event, **ALoud** also continued the conversation on “*Comprehensible Input*” started at the 2018 **ALoud Spring Conference**. **Saturday, April 27** is the date for the 2019 **ALoud Spring Conference** cosponsored by NYSAFLT at Marist College. Mark it on your calendar and watch for more details.

A note from Regional Board Member **Charlene Sirlin**

In the new year, **Alexis Thornton** will replace me as our NYSAFLT Regional Board Member. I have had the pleasure of working with Alexis and know she will continue her commitment to the **PWRFL** membership and the teaching profession in her new role. As I leave the NYSAFLT Board and submit my last newsletter entry, I would like to thank **PWRFL** for the opportunity to serve our region and members.



## NYC-Long Island

On **Saturday, November 3**, over 200 new, experienced and student teachers, attended the 2018 **Annual Professional Development Conference** hosted by the New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (**NYCAFLT**) under the umbrella of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and co-sponsored by NYSAFLT. The all-day event was held at the UFT headquarters in Manhattan. Participants were able to attend three 85-minute workshops from a selection of 22 offerings, many of which focused on different aspects of foreign language teaching and learning: technology, pedagogical strategies, culture, and assessment.

During the plenary session, **Irma Evangelista**, President of **NYCAFLT**, warmly welcomed and thanked everyone for choosing to be present at the conference. NYSAFLT Executive Director, **John Carlino**, brought greetings on behalf of the organization. Conference Chairperson **Nunzia Manginelli** introduced the keynote speaker, 20-year world language teacher, **Joshua Cabral**, who, with his riveting delivery and inspiring words of encouragement, gave attendees a taste of what to expect in his workshop later on.

This year's theme, ***Celebrating Cultural Relevance in our LOTE Classrooms***, was highlighted, as evidenced by the many workshops which maintained culture as a focus. Keynote speaker **Joshua Cabral** facilitated a workshop entitled "*Language and Culture: The Path to Global Citizenship.*" He captivated his audience with his witty, yet very enlightened contribution. During his presentation, he encouraged educators to prepare students to be global citizens with a strong Cultural Intelligence (CQ). Conference attendees were also treated to workshops such as "*Integrating Culture, Content and Language in a World Language Classroom*" where educators were highly engaged in activities to be used with their students. Another workshop entitled "*Teaching Culture through Art in the LOTE Classroom*" called on teachers to use visual arts to enhance language development through non-verbal methods of communication.

Some workshops targeted their audience and were geared towards teachers of specific languages. Dr. Polly Duke, sponsored by the American Association of French Teachers (AATF) shared "*Ways to Engage Students While Teaching Saint-Exupery's Philosophical Novella: Le Petit Prince*" with teachers of French. Dr. Annamaria Monaco, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI), conducted a workshop on "*Immigrazione in Italia: cambiamenti e trasformazioni tanto storici quanto inevitabili*" with the teachers of Italian. Huichen Yu and Wei Guo directed their workshop entitled "*Career Ready: Challenges New Teachers of Chinese Face in the Classroom and Strategies to Address Them*" to teachers of Chinese. The versatile duo of Nataliya Ushakova and Kateryna Ratushnyuk were able to make the material accessible to all attendees to their workshop "*Integrating Culture, Content and Language in a World Language Classroom,*" despite the fact that many of the examples were directed to teachers of Russian. Teachers were even able to walk away knowing a few words in Russian.

Attendees were not to be disappointed by frequent presenters such as **Vivian Selenikas**, who shared best practices for organizing questioning and discussion in the LOTE classroom in her workshop entitled "*Achieving Highly Effective Questioning and Discussion Results in the LOTE*



*Classroom.*” **Rosa Bonilla** explored the reader/writers workshop model with “*Building Literacy in a Spanish Classroom*,” and **Nunzia Manginelli**, received rave reviews once again with “*Questioning and Discussion through Engagement in the LOTE Classroom.*”

Special recognition to the Planning Committee of **NYCAFLT/UFT** for organizing another successful **Fall Conference**. The next event will be the **Spring Professional Development** conference in April at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan. Once available, details will be shared via the regional news section of the NYSAFLT website and the UFT website.

On **December 6, Dr. Jennifer Eddy** will present a LILT PD workshop entitled “*New NYS World Language Standards: NYSED Updates and Exemplars*” which will cover the new World Language standards for NYS. This workshop will be held at Connetquot High School in Bohemia, NY from 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visit [www.liltfl.org](http://www.liltfl.org) to register.

Are you following LILT on Instagram? LILT is now running an Instagram photo contest. Share your travel pictures on Instagram and tag @liltflinc and use the hashtag #liltphotocontest. Winners will receive a \$10 Dunkin gift card.

Be on the lookout for details about how to enter your students in the LILT student competition for 2019 and don’t forget to register for a LILT winter workshop. Details coming soon. Visit [www.liltfl.org](http://www.liltfl.org) for more information.

## Western New York

Greetings from the Western Region! There is so much going on in the area – you don’t want to miss out! **WNYFLEC** is in the middle of holding its annual Foreign Language Week Poster Contest. This year’s theme is “World Languages Matter.” If you are a member of **WNYFLEC**, and your students would like to submit an entry for the contest, the deadline is **Friday, January 18**. See the **WNYFLEC website** for more details.

Mark your calendars! Conference season is right around the corner! The **WNYFLEC Regional Conference** will be held on **Saturday, March 2** at Lewiston-Porter Senior High School. Keep an eye on the **WNYFLEC** Facebook page for more details as they become available!

The 49<sup>th</sup> **Rochester Regional Conference** will take place on **Saturday, March 9** at Nazareth College. This year’s conference theme is *Focus on the Future: Preparing the Global-ready Graduate*. Visit our conference [website](#) to register and for more details! We hope to see you there!

Finally, we would like to take a moment to say good-bye, as both of your directors wrap up their final days as directors. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your regional directors. We have learned so much and made so many wonderful friends and connections as we served on the board. We hope to continue to see you at NYSAFLT events!



Congratulations to WNY's own **JoAnn Thomasson**, who received the Dorothy Ludwig Memorial Award for Service to the Profession at the **NYS AFLT Annual Conference** in October! It is well-deserved! Pictured are JoAnn and her nominator and colleague, **Kristina Strauss**.

### AATF of WNY

Western New York celebrated **National French Week, November 1–7** in a number of ways during October and November! Our **French Career Panel Presentation on Thursday, October 25** was chaired by Marc Cousins. Six professionals who use their knowledge of French in the workplace shared their experiences with our audience of over 200 students from the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, Buffalo Public Schools (Hutchinson Technology), Lewiston-Porter, Lockport, North Tonawanda, Pioneer, Sweet Home, Williamsville East and Williamsville South. A parent from Lockport, Linda Schrader, gratefully shared with her son's French teacher, **Joyce Merkle** and the Superintendent that her son, who wants to pursue studies in multiple foreign languages, said that he left the field trip "energized and full of ideas of career possibilities." The presentation was co-sponsored with SUNY University at Buffalo Career Services directed by Ed Brodka in collaboration with the departments of Romance Languages and Literatures, Learning and Instruction, and Admissions. Our panelists gave inspiring talks of how French study has played a vital role in their career path. We heard from: **Ashley Feneziani**, French Teacher and Yoga instructor; **Dr. Erin Kearney**, Teacher Education Researcher/Specialist; Camille Le Caër, Pastry Chef Entrepreneur; Thomas Moriarty, Meat Specialist / French Trained Butcher and Entrepreneur; Jeremy Spindler, Court Certified Interpreter and Refugee Counselor; and Jeffrey Grieco, Independent Foreign Policy Government and Private Consultant. Jeffrey Grieco, a former student of **Brenda Benzin**, flew in from Washington D.C. and also gave a talk on the vast opportunities with an International Affairs degree to Williamsville East French Students in **Michèle Roberts'** afternoon class after the morning presentation.

In October and November, our chapter promoted **French Week** in the community for our students and teachers as well as Friends of French. On **October 18**, Bernard Kunz and Marc Cousins organized Soirée Poésie Musique at Pastry by Camille on Hertel. On **November 1**, students from Hamburg Middle School with their teacher **Sheri Green** joined **Ashley Feneziani** on Channel 7 Weather Outside to kick off French Week. Our committee, chaired by Bernard Kunz, sponsored the Franco-Festibal du Beau Fleuve on **November 3**. We are thankful to our musical



guests from the Rochester French American Choir and Franck Desiré's Haitian performance, as well as The French ConéXion Jazz Musette troupe. Guests from the community as well as **Kaitlyn Hatch** and her 25 students from as far away as Alfred Almond High School enjoyed a sampling of francophone cuisine including quiche, jambalaya, couscous, ratatouille, brie and gruyere cheeses, baklava, crepes, croissants au chocolat and much more! Cultural crafts included making berets, masks, and Belgian *Schtroumpfs* (Smurfs) doll cut outs. On **November 4**, **Ashley Feneziani** instructed in French a *Soirée, Yoga et Méditation* hosted by Love in Motion in Buffalo on Niagara Street. On **November 5**, our Board hosted **Le Grand Gala** for our colleagues and Friends of French at Webster's Bistro in North Tonawanda which featured French hors d'oeuvres complemented with a glass of wine and live music by French ConéXion, creating a lovely ambiance to celebrate French culture in our community. **Brenda Benzin**, Past President, and **Michèle Roberts**, President, presented Friends of French awards to the musicians of the French ConéXion: Bernard Kunz, guitar, Marc Cousins, bass-violin and Jeremy Spindler, accordion, for the continuous generosity of their exquisite music performances at our chapter's functions. We also presented a Friend of French award to Dr. Jean Gounard, President and Founder of Buffalo-Lille Association who also has graciously supported our chapter's efforts especially at our past events located on the SUNY Buffalo campus. Camille Le Caër, owner of Pastry by Camille on Hertel was presented with a Friend of French Award at our Jazz Brunch, held at his restaurant on **November 10**. He was recognized for all of his support this year as host for French ConéXion performances as well as his presentation at our French Career Panel at UB. We also collaborated with **Kennedy Schultz** of The Park School and presented a Family Matinee French Film for "kids of all ages" to see the animated film "Une Vie de chat" (A Cat in Paris) on **November 10**.

Our **AATF-WNY** chapter's committee worked very diligently and graciously through the summer to put together these opportunities as well as collaborate with Alliance Française de Buffalo, Buffalo-Lille Association and UB Career Services to promote these chapter activities as well as other French related events in Western New York! *Merci à tous!*



WNY area French teachers... Do your students love the music of Etienne?? Do you use his songs to help teach vocab and grammar? Would you like to see him LIVE?? The Etienne XXV concert is coming to Hamburg Middle School on March 14. For more information, contact [JoAnn Thomasson](#).



## Public Advocacy

### World Language Exams

Good news! One of the proposed budget priorities by the NYS Board of Regents (BOR) for the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) 2019 budget is the development of World Language exams. It is not a done deal yet. Join our postcard campaign (details in an upcoming NYSAFLT Listserv message) to urge our decision makers to retain the \$950,000 allotted for our exams.



In January, when newly elected officials assume office, you can continue to write, call or email your Senators and Assembly members about the importance of these exams and the benefits of World Language learning. In addition, you can express the need for expanding World Language programs into lower grades through post-secondary, and providing incentives to recruit new World Language teachers.

### World Language Bills

At the state level, write to Assembly members and NYS Senators regarding bills [A01154](#) and [S03641](#), respectively, to establish FLES programs in high-needs districts and funding for college students matriculated in World Language education programs. Write to your members of Congress and US Senators regarding funding for Fulbright-Hays, Title VI, the World Language Advancement Act, and earmarked funding for World Language programs in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### School Districts' Budgets



It's budget time in your school district. Your Board of Education has already adopted its budget calendar and budget development procedures for the 2019-20 budget. Between now and February the budget builders and finance committee will be meeting to create a preliminary budget.

Educate your administrators and the budget developers on the importance of World Languages to avoid cuts in World Language programs and staff, the need for additional languages, upper level courses, and expansion of the WL program into the lower grades. You can also attend any budget hearings to hear the discussions of each line item and the rationale for retaining or cutting it.

### Committee

Thanks to those of you who attended our PA committee meeting at NYSAFLT's **Annual Conference** in Rochester. We heard from our members and there was an overall concern with



districts' and universities' lack of emphasis on World Languages. It was agreed to continue our advocacy efforts in full force, including visiting legislators as well as educating students to continue in long sequences, and contacting decision makers to maintain and expand our critical programs.

### Co-Chair

In January, **Diana Zuckerman** will be handing the reins over as PA Committee co-chair to **Mike Mitchell**. Diana has worked tirelessly, in this position, to advocate for World Language teachers, programs, and students at the local, state and national levels. Her passion for advocacy resonated in her songs at the **Annual Conference** general meeting each year. It was always a spirited way to start the morning and, as a true WL teacher, Diana was able to get all attendees involved. [Check](#) out the 2018 **Annual Conference** attendees singing Diana's latest hit! Thank you to Diana for all that she has done and will do to help educate people on the importance of world languages at all levels and of immigrants' and refugees' human rights.

### Resource

Stay up-to-date on world language issues through our NYSAFLT [Advocacy](#) Center. We have a wide range of articles and research documents, a listing of ways to contact your legislators and take action, and links to valuable resources. You can also contact your Public Advocacy Co-Chairs [Barbara Patterson](#) and [Diana Zuckerman](#) (through December). Beginning in January, we welcome [Mike Mitchell](#), who will be your new Public Advocacy Co-Chair along with **Barbara Patterson**.



**Barbara Patterson, Diana Zuckerman** and **Noah Geisel** at the **Annual Conference**. Noah's keynote speech highlighted the importance of language advocacy.



## National Network for Early Language Learning / FLES News

NNELL is happy to announce that **Xianxian Cascella** is the New York State NNELL Representative. She is an elementary Mandarin teacher at the Glenwood Landing School on Long Island. Xianxian presented a workshop called “*Activities to Spice Up Your K-8 Classroom*” at the **Confucius Institute, 2018 Multi-State Chinese Teachers’ Professional Development Conference** in Lexington, Kentucky on **October 27–28**.

There was much to celebrate at the 2018 NYSAFLT **Annual Conference**, as Pelham School District was honored with the Sally G. Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award and **Jenny Delfini** was awarded the Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship to attend the **2018 ACTFL Convention** in New Orleans, LA. In addition, students of **Xianxian Cascella** won the NYSAFLT Virtual Video Contest, Elementary Division.

Did you know that the NYSAFLT FLES Committee, co-chaired by **Harriet Barnett** and **Marissa Coulehan**, has defined FLES as any World Language program below grade 7, including but not limited to FLES, FLEX, bilingual education, dual language, and immersion programs? FLES teachers, please consider applying for a Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship Grant to attend a professional conference or to participate in professional development in order to enhance quality early language instruction and promote networking among FLES teachers in New York State. The FLES Committee is also pleased to announce the new and improved Hahn FLES Special Project and/or Resources Grant to support school projects and teacher efforts that are related to the improvement and/or expansion of the instructional or extra-curricular program of a class, school, or school district. Both deadlines are rolling so apply anytime on the NYSAFLT website!



**Xianxian Cascella** accepted an award for winning the 2018 NYSAFLT Virtual Video Contest Elementary Division for her students’ version of a Chinese Fan Dance.



The Sally G. Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award was accepted by FLES teachers **Fran Corelli** and **Lauren Gobbo**, pictured with FLES Committee co-chair **Marissa Coulehan**.



**Jenny Delfini** was awarded the Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship.



## Message from the Editor

Wow, it's hard to believe that this is my last edition of *NYSALFT News*. It has been such a pleasure serving as your editor for the past six years and helping to keep you, the NYSALFT membership, up to date on all things NYSALFT. I would like to thank all of the Executive Board members who have served throughout my term and from whom I have learned so much about serving our profession. I would like to thank **Bill Anderson** and **Marie Campanaro** in particular for the additions they added to the newsletter during their respective terms as president. Bill made the suggestion to add the "Where are they now?" and "Member Spotlight" sections, and Marie helped bring them back after a brief hiatus. I think it is important for our membership to learn more about each other and to see how past presidents continue to make a difference.

I would also like to thank the directors who have served on the Board and provided me, and all of our membership, with such great submissions covering all the great things happening in our regions. I've edited so many submissions while thinking "Wow, I wish I lived closer to THAT region and could participate in some of the great activities they offer!" Thanks to Executive Director John Carlino for all of his editing help and advice. While I didn't accomplish everything I had envisioned with the newsletter, hopefully he would agree that I've come a long way in my newsletter skills. Finally, I would like to thank my family for their constant support and for giving me the computer time I've needed every quarter to concentrate on the newsletter!

I have learned so much over the last six years as editor and I look forward to continuing to serve in my new role as Secretary-Treasurer. Best of luck to your new editor, **Diane Tyminski**, who has some exciting changes in store for the newsletter in the new year! Here's to 2019!!





## Mark Your Calendars

### December

- 1**     **Deadline:** NECTFL Mead Scholar Award Applications (to NYSAFLT)
- 10–11** Board of Regents Meeting
- 31**     Membership Year Ends

### January

- 1**     Membership Year begins
- 12**     Executive Committee Meeting, Financial Management Committee Meeting
- 15**     **Deadline:** France Teacher Travel Award (see application)
- 14–15** Board of Regents Meeting
- 15**     **Deadline:** Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications
- 16**     **Webinar:** Authentic Language Learning with the ACTFL Core Practices (Joshua Cabral)
- 24**     Board of Directors Meeting (online)
- 31**     **Deadline:** Vito Marcello Rochester-area Fund an Idea Grant

### February

- 1**     **Deadline:** March *Newsletter* submissions
- 1**     **Deadline:** *Journal #1* submissions
- 7-9**     NECTFL Annual Conference, New York City
- 11–12** Board of Regents Meeting
- 14–15** JNCL-NCLIS - Language Advocacy Day & Delegate Assembly in Washington

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