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In this issue of NYS AFLT News, you'll meet our new secretary-treasurer and check in with past president Susanne Hochmuth. You'll also find regional news along with updates from NELL, the Public Advocacy committee and more!

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## The President's Corner

Dear NYS AFLT Members,

Welcome to the 2019–2020 school year! It has been a busy summer for your NYS AFLT executive committee. We just returned from an incredible Summer Institute chaired by NYS AFLT first vice president **Sally Barnes**. As promised, this year's SI truly left us recharged, refreshed and renewed. (Check out Sally's article in this issue for all of the details!) Our 2020 SI Chair, **Jenny Delfini** is already hard at work on next year's program. Mark your calendars for **August 4–7, 2020** and don't forget to invite your colleagues to this incredible adventure of world language-specific professional development and networking, AKA Summer Camp for Language Teachers.



NYS AFLT first vice president and SI 2019 Chair Sally Barnes & NYS AFLT president Beth Slocum

In late June, second vice president **Jenny Delfini** and incoming second vice president **Marissa Coulehan** traveled to Nashville for the ACTFL Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (LILL). **Melanie Thomas** joined the group as NYS AFLT's delegate for Cohort 3. Melanie received her initial training in identifying her personal leadership strengths and collaborating with other nominees from around the country. For Jenny and Marissa, the event continued developing further leadership skills, with a focus on how to have crucial conversations – those difficult dialogues with others who don't necessarily see your side.

NYS AFLT Executive Director **John Carlino** and I represented NYS AFLT at the World Language Leadership Team meetings this summer. This team continues the important work of studying how the World-Readiness Standards will be integrated into the revised NYS Standards, establishing the ACTFL levels that correspond to each Checkpoint, and finalizing the list of revised topics and themes. The WL Leadership team provides the framework for the next stage of the standards revision process.

Last - but certainly not least - are the ongoing preparations for the 102nd Annual Conference, **November 1–2** in Saratoga Springs. Our president-elect, **Leslie Kudlack** has finalized the conference schedule and the preliminary program schedule is posted on our website. For the latest information about this powerful weekend of professional learning, check out Leslie's updates in this issue of the newsletter.

Please join me in welcoming the newly elected members of the board of directors: **Anna Collie** (Capital-East), **Brianna Jaspersohn** (Central NY), **Trish Moller** (MidHudson-Westchester) and **Wendy Mercado** (NYC-Long Island). We thank the outgoing board members **Mary Goetz**, **Laura Rouse**, **Eleanor Dana** and **Valérie Greer** for their distinguished service to the organization. A special thank you goes out to **JoAnn Thomasson** for her work as secretary-treasurer. Due to extenuating circumstances, JoAnn has asked to step away from the position and **Valérie Greer** has been appointed by the board of directors to complete her term. We extend our gratitude to both JoAnn and Valérie for their work in this important role. **Marissa Coulehan** is also joining the executive committee as incoming second vice president. Thank you to all nominees for their dedication to our NYS A-family.

On a personal note, I would like to share a quote that really hit home for me while reading **Dare to Lead** by Brené Brown.



Every day in the classroom is a testament to courage and creativity. Every lesson is a leap of faith. Am I truly teaching in the language and not about the language? Are my students really engaged or merely compliant? Meredith White put it this way, "Anybody can create activities for a classroom – **a true educator goes beyond creation to curation and makes learning a memorable experience, not a memorized curriculum.** Whatever it is that we're doing, *what does it all mean?*"



I've been in this business for over 20 years and I still have so much to learn. On my journey to lead with languages, I am grateful for my NYSA-friends and colleagues who I trust and admire. Brené Brown asserts "that trust is in fact earned in the smallest of moments... through paying attention, listening and gestures of genuine care and connection." This is true for our students and ourselves.

At the LILL debrief in 2017, Paul Sandrock reminded us that people follow the dream. In my notes I have doodled a lighthouse with the quote "*teach them to yearn for the sea.*" So as I prepare to step back into the classroom this fall, my goal is to **choose courage as I strive to light the way.** (As a reminder, the courage quote is pasted into my plan book right alongside the pathway to proficiency.) I cannot do it alone and am excited for PD opportunities to help me stay on track. Please consider joining me at EDCamp (**September 21**, Cosgrove MS, Spencerport), LECNY (**October 5**, OCM Main Campus, Liverpool) and/or the Annual Conference (**November 1–2**, Saratoga Springs).

Please reach out and share your story with @NYSAFLLT #nysachat across social media or email us at [info@nysafl.org](mailto:info@nysafl.org). What are you reading? Who are you following? How are you recharging your classroom this fall?

Thank you for sharing. Your courage is contagious!  
Warm regards,  
Beth

## NYSA-Welcome

Join NYSAFLLT in welcoming our new Secretary/Treasurer, **Valérie Greer!**

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way." – Frank Smith

My name is **Valérie Greer** and I will be serving as the secretary-treasurer for NYSAFLLT for the remainder of the 2019–2020 term. I have been teaching French at the Bay Shore UFSD on Long Island for 22 years and have a BA in French Language and Literature and an MA in Liberal Studies from SUNY Stony Brook.



In order to learn a language, you must speak the language. Teaching in context and providing students with comprehensible input opens the gateway to mastering a second language. By keeping the material relevant and the students engaged, second language learners have a higher chance of being successful in language acquisition.

Being a member of NYSAFLLT has taught me a great deal about language acquisition that I want to pass along and pay forward to its current and future members. I have been attending NYSAFLLT conferences since 1998, started presenting in 2012 and over the years have become more involved with different aspects of the organization. Most recently, I have served on the board of directors from 2017–2019. This experience has been one of the most professionally rewarding aspects of my career which is why I am honored to continue down this path as secretary-treasurer for this incredible organization.

## Summer Institute

NYSAFLLT SI was held at SUNY Oneonta **August 6–9** and had a stellar turnout! There were many first time attendees, two scholarship recipients, two past presidents and our Leaders of Tomorrow cohort in attendance. World language educators from all over New York State gathered for four days of top notch professional development. Here is a note from one enthusiastic participant:

"Dear Colleagues and Administrators:

I just returned from NYSAFLT's Summer Institute held at SUNY Oneonta from **August 6-9**. It was a week PACKED with engaging and useful activities! We learned about teaching intercultural competence through storytelling and puppetry. And I am up to date regarding the newest and most effective tech tools to use in the classroom. And who knew teaching using murder mysteries in the world language classroom could be so fun and engaging? I now feel more comfortable teaching using music and movement in class, and have learned many new activities to use to keep my students up and moving, which has been proven to be better for a child's brain. I also learned about the importance of teaching empathy and tolerance to my students. And now I have so many new ideas to share about teaching FLES! And I can tell you that world language needs to be taught in context, not just grammar and vocabulary. And everyone was able to design an Integrated Performance Assessment collaboratively to take back to their classrooms and departments. All this AND a reception and an immersion night to help us practice what we teach!

Who says professional development can't be fun? I am definitely marking my calendar NOW for **August 4-7, 2020!**"

Many thanks to Summer Institute presenters, all of whom gave of their time and talents in their workshops. Thank you to our participants (first time and returning) for taking time out of your summer to Recharge, Refresh and Renew. All the best as you start your new academic year!

**Sally Barnes,**  
2019 SI Chair  
Annual Conference



**NYSAFLT Summer Institute Scholarship winners:**  
Lori Vollmer, Sally Barnes (SI Chair), Wendy Torres



**NYSAFLT 2019 Leaders of Tomorrow**  
Melanie Thomas (Cohort Leader), Anna Cartwright, Dan Edwards, Jennifer Mongold, Deirdre Kelly, Brenda Buckley, Marissa Coulehan (Cohort Leader).  
Not pictured: Chris Thoren



**NYSAFLT 2019 Executive Committee:**  
Front: Jenny Delfini, John Carlino, Sally Barnes  
Back: Leslie Kudlack, Beth Slocum. Not pictured: Valérie Greer



Janis LaBroo, Sally Barnes, Beth Slocum, Maureen Feeley



Former NYSAFLT presidents Candace Black and Joanne O'Toole



SI Workshop at College Camp with Samara Spielberg and Camilla Iturralde



Workshop participants at a session with Candace Black from NYSED

## Annual Conference

Have you heard? ACTFL's Director of Education, Paul Sandrock, is NYSAFLT's Annual Conference Keynote Speaker. He will also be offering a three hour pre-conference workshop and a one hour session.

**Candace Black**, past president of NYSAFLT and Associate in Instructional Services at NYSED, Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages will also be updating us on the review of NYS World Language standards that is under way.

NYSAFLT's Annual Conference provides world language professional development to support your program and your career.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Saratoga! For more information and to register go to [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org).



**NYSAFLT 102nd Annual Conference**  
**World Languages: Opening Doors and Making Connections**



**November 1-2, 2019**  
**Saratoga Hilton and Saratoga Springs City Center**  
**Leading with Languages since 1917**

## Member Spotlight

For this issue's Member Spotlight,  
**Diana L. Byron** shares her personal  
NYSAFLT story!

I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina into

a multilingual family. I am Ukrainian, and while living in Argentina, both Ukrainian and Spanish were spoken at home. My mother grew up in Argentina and my father lived in Argentina for part of his adult life. After the unexpected death of my paternal grandfather, the decision was made to come to the United States. Although my aunts were already living in America, my father felt that it was his duty to leave Argentina and take care of his mother. So in 1955 we arrived in Troy, New York to be with my grandmother. Since my grandmother did not know Spanish, unfortunately, we had to drop Spanish and speak Ukrainian at home and English everywhere else. My parents came to the United States with my sister and me. As the years progressed our family grew to a total of four girls and two boys.



My education started at School 10 in Troy, New York. After kindergarten, my family moved to North Greenbush, New York and I spent my elementary and secondary years attending the East Greenbush Central School District. At that time there was a FLES program at East Greenbush and I started learning French in the first grade at Bell Top Elementary. I continued learning French throughout my school years from Bell Top to Columbia High School. My undergraduate work was at Siena College. It was at Siena by the recommendation of my advisor who was also my French professor to take Spanish classes in addition to my French classes. To this day I am sincerely grateful for his guidance. If it weren't for him and another professor at Siena I would not have been dually certified in the two languages and perhaps after a few years I would have been without a job. Due to budget cuts in our school district, French was eliminated from our curriculum. Fortunately, I still had Spanish to save my position. The majority of my graduate studies were at SUNY Albany. During this time I received a scholarship to study Ukrainian at Harvard University during the summer of 1977. Studying my native language at Harvard was both a rewarding and humbling experience; an experience that I will never forget and will always cherish.

Keveny Memorial Academy in Cohoes, New York was my first full-time teaching position. It was there that I taught French 1 - 4 and Spanish 1 - 4. It was also at Keveny where I met my husband Mel and both of us have taught together in the same school districts for most of our forty plus years of teaching. Mel is a music teacher. When we started going out together one of our students dubbed us "French Horn." Our only child, Daniel was born while we were still teaching at Keveny. Keveny was a small private Catholic school and as enrollment began declining we saw the writing on the wall. Keveny closed in the spring of 1986. Luckily we were offered employment, although at this time we went to two different school districts. Mel went to Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons to become an Assistant Principal and I was employed as a French and Spanish teacher at Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD. As an aside, after five years in administration, Mel wanted to return to teaching and he was hired as the Band Director at Waterford. We were back to teaching in the same district. As the years went by, French was dropped from our curriculum but prior to that awful fate, I was able to bring back college level French into the district albeit for just a few years.

Up until this point, I have not mentioned NYSAFLT. I was a latecomer when it came to becoming a member. During my years at Keveny I thought about joining but the time never seemed to permit it. A comment made by one of the department chairs in the Suburban Council made me realize what a mistake I was making in not being a member of NYSAFLT. Her question to me was: "How do you know what is going on in languages?" How completely correct she was. It was shortly thereafter that I became a member of NYSAFLT and have been a member ever since.

A whole new world (with apologies to Aladdin) was opened up to me. The various conferences that I attended offered updates on the state of world languages and new methods to try in the classroom. These conferences were stimulating and exciting. When it seemed that the future of world languages was in dire straits, it was NYSAFLT that came to the rescue. The leaders of NYSAFLT were there to fight for the importance of learning a World Language. Although there was a bit of a negative reaction when students were required to take one unit of credit in a world language in order to graduate, it was NYSAFLT's tenacity that pointed out the positive reasons why the state should be following this course. One of the reasons that I was hired at Waterford was due to this requirement and after more than thirty years this mandate is still intact.

NYSAFLT has helped me many times. Whenever I had a question regarding world languages I knew that one of my reliable sources was NYSAFLT. My questions and inquiries were answered immediately and thoroughly. It is through NYSAFLT that I became involved with COLT, a language organization of the capital district. Many of the events sponsored by COLT are held in conjunction with NYSAFLT. It is truly great to have a local organization on which to rely. The people in this organization are professional, knowledgeable and helpful. Of course, many are also members of NYSAFLT.

Being a member of NYSAFLT gave me the assurance to join another local organization, CALL (Capital Area Language Leaders). This organization meets several times during the year to discuss world language concerns. Members in this group are composed of world language administrators, supervisors and teachers and of course, many of them are members of NYSAFLT. One of the many results that came from these meetings was the creation of the NYCAL exams to be administered in lieu of the eliminated Regents Language exams.

In all of my years of teaching I have a few regrets and one is not to have joined NYSAFLT earlier in my teaching career. That old saying "better late than never" is quite true. I may have lost out on some opportunities but what I have gained since becoming a member is so vast that it cannot be measured. The people that I have met through NYSAFLT have been my mentors, my colleagues and some have become my friends. Soon we will be approaching a new era in world language teaching and I know that NYSAFLT will be there to guide us.

## Where Are They Now?

For this issue, we check in with Past President, **Susanne Hochmuth!**

It has been interesting to reflect on how I became involved with NYSAFLT. Parts of it are a bit hazy, but I do remember that this organization was a lifeline for me. Although I was educated in Buffalo, life (or should I say, my high school sweetheart Ron, whom I married) took me to Greenville, North Carolina to start my teaching career. We spent eleven years there before we missed the snow and taxes (no-it really was family), and decided to move back to New York State. Due to the Fort Drum expansion, I was hired to teach English at Watertown High School. I stayed there for three years before I had an opportunity to get back into the foreign language classroom, which is where I really wanted to be. I had been teaching for thirteen years but was not familiar with the changes in the Regents or the new standards. I also felt that I needed to refresh my language skills. To that end, I applied, and thankfully was selected, for the scholarship to study at the University of Salamanca. This greatly helped me handle the challenges that my new teaching position at Sackets Harbor Central School posed - being a singleton language teacher in a one building district teaching Spanish 7, 8, 1, 2, and 3. Thankfully after two years, the students wanted a Spanish 4 class. Since I didn't have any room in my schedule, BOCES hired a teacher that we would share with another school. I wasn't a singleton anymore and **Jen Berie** joined me as my colleague, partner in crime and friend forever. It was this novice teacher who encouraged me to attend my first NYSAFLT conference as she had been encouraged to do so by her professors at SUNY Cortland.

As a result of receiving the scholarship to Salamanca I felt a strong obligation to give back to this organization for the wonderful opportunity they had afforded me. I started helping with the regional meetings and eventually was encouraged to run for a position as regional director. Locally through BOCES I attended turnkey training for the new standards and met another passionate language educator and forever friend, **Swaz Piron**. Through the years I served NYSAFLT in many capacities: director, Annual Meeting (that's what we called it in the old days) Planning Committee, Awards Committee, newsletter editor and Nominations Committee. It was this last committee that got me in trouble. Through the years I was willing

to serve this organization in behind the scenes roles where I was most comfortable. I had been encouraged to run for office before and did in fact run and lost an election. I vividly remember going to dinner on Saturday evening when we did not have anyone willing to run for second vice president. This was clearly outside of my comfort zone, but I offered to step in if we couldn't find someone else to run. The rest is history. Little did I know what was to come in March from the Board of Regents.

There had been rumblings for some time and as an organization, we had worked hard to maintain both our Proficiency and Regents Exams and our graduation requirements. In March my inbox exploded with word that the exams were being eliminated. Immediately, communication was established with the membership and we rallied the troops. Although we made our voices heard we were not able to persuade the Board of Regents to change their position. I must admit that it was a stressful year. Hundreds of letters were sent, countless phone calls made, and I must hold the record for the number of ListServ messages sent out to our members (Thanks **John Carlino** and Ken Hughes for all of your help). Although we were not able to preserve the exams, in true NYSAfashion, our members across the state came together and collaborated in different ways and regions to create these exams. Happily, the Regents did not alter the graduation requirements and today exams are still being created by different groups across the state.

While it was an extremely difficult year as president, when I think of NYSAFLT it evokes only positive feelings and memories. It was always a joy to be able to come together with like minded people who share a passion for teaching language. I learned so much and grew professionally through my NYSAFLT experiences. Whether it was at regional meetings, the Annual Conference, the Colloquium or NYSA Summer Camp aka the Summer Institute at Skidmore or Oneonta the opportunities for growth were endless. Being able to sit, listen, and to share ideas with so many experts in the field was a precious gift. The Dorothy Ludwig Award in 2006 was also a sweet surprise. It meant so much as **Lou Baskinger** read comments that had come from my son, Eric, who followed in my footsteps and also became a Spanish teacher. I still cherish that letter.

My duties with NYSAFLT, as immediate past president, ended six months before I retired. In the past seven years I have attended a few meetings, but my days are spent between Western New York; Long Island; Sacramento, California; Carrabelle, Florida; and international travels. We try to help our parents as they navigate their golden years and our children and five grandchildren as they deal with the busyness of everyday life. Ron and I have come to love a quiet area in the panhandle of Florida where there is one traffic light in the whole county. Of course, even there I can find a NYSAfriend and connect with **Roseann Loreface** and her husband George. Our travels have taken us far and wide - we have just four states left to complete our 50 and we have ventured further to Australia, Italy, a Danube River Cruise, the Azores, Peru and Machu Picchu, just to name a few. For the coming year we have booked trips to Costa Rica, Greece, France and Portugal. We hope to continue to cross more places off of our bucket list in the future. Even though we love to travel, there is a special satisfaction when we return home and can appreciate the beauty of the lake right outside of our window. I feel so fortunate. Life is Good! Thank you NYSAFLT for your part in enriching an already blessed life.



Enjoying a meal in Rome



My happy place- home on the lake!

## Regional News



### Capital East

Teachers in Washington County are teaming with NYSED for the Seal of Biliteracy!

The Adirondack PLC for World Languages will be working with **Candace Black**, Associate in Instructional Services at NYSED, Office of Bilingual & World Language, to develop and implement NYSSB in the region's Washington County Schools.

Beginning in September, the educators will meet with Ms. Black to begin the process. Going forward, the group will meet monthly under her guidance to work through a series of steps broken into a series of learning and informational modules. The goal is that by May, each of the participating schools will have a program for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy in place and be able to award the seal to its students in June 2020.

If your school is interested in participating, please contact Mary Goetz at [goetz\\_m@argylecsd.org](mailto:goetz_m@argylecsd.org)

### Central New York

The annual LECNY/NYSAFLT Regional Workshop will take place on Saturday, **October 5** at the OCM BOCES Main Campus in Liverpool. LECNY is also excited to partner with the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (Mid-State RBERN). This year's keynote speaker will be **Melanie Thomas**. Melanie teaches a variety of levels of Spanish focused on language acquisition and comprehensible input. This year's schedule will consist of an immersion session to start off the workshop, followed by Melanie's keynote address, lunch, and two break-out sessions. For more information on the LECNY/NYSAFLT Regional Workshop, please visit the [LECNY website](#).



In other news, the World Language Council of CNY will continue its monthly meetings. Members of the WL Council voice the needs and challenges in our field, discussing changes to WL Standards in NYS and professional development opportunities throughout the Central Region. WL Council meetings take place immediately following the monthly conversation groups held at OCM BOCES. Conversation groups (in the target language) take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 4–5 p.m. at OCM BOCES. Feel free to reach out to WL Council facilitator **Maria Fenton** at [mfenton@ocmboces.org](mailto:mfenton@ocmboces.org) with any questions you may have.

The Central NY regional directors hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation with plenty of time with family and friends. We hope that you have a great start to the new school year!

### AATF of CNY

AATF of CNY wishes you all a "Bonne Rentrée" as the summer comes to an end and another great school year begins!

We had a wonderful end of the year in Central New York! Sydney Havens, a student in **Françoise Piron**'s French 4 class at South Jefferson Central School, received the AATF Scholarship Award. Sydney started French in middle school and continued in high school, acquiring a great level of proficiency. She has also served as president of the French Club for the past two years. Sydney plans on working in the field of journalism and hopes to have an international career. Félicitations Sydney!

We also had excellent results for le Grand Concours. In our chapter, there were 61 bronze medals, 64 silver medals (including a FLES winner), and 26 gold medals! In addition, one student earned a platinum award -- a perfect score on the Level 2 exam. 166 students in Central New York earned honorable mention certificates. Bravo et félicitations à tous!

Throughout the school year, AATF of CNY hosts many fun events, including French Night at the Syracuse Crunch in the fall, our spring movie night, as well as some very interesting conferences and workshops. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to get together with fellow Francophiles during the 2019–20 school year. Stay up to date with our events by visiting our website, [www.aatfcny.org](http://www.aatfcny.org) and by liking us on Facebook.



### Mid-Hudson Westchester

Welcome back to a new school year! ALOUD and PWRFL both had a busy summer with many of our members and NYSA-members attending conferences, especially the NYSAFLT Summer Institute at SUNY Oneonta in August. We are so proud of all of our members who attended and especially to the presenters from our region: **Jenny Delfini**, **Marissa Coulehan**, **Trish Moller**, and **Jennifer Eddy**. Many thanks to **Sally Barnes**, NYSAFLT first vice-president and PWRFL past vice-president who organized this wonderful conference! We hope to see more members attending this great event next summer and presenting!



**Hudson Westchester members at Summer Institute:**

*Front: Patricia Long, Jenny Delfini*

*Middle: Patricia Moller, Jessica Robb, Sally Barnes, Eleanor Dana, Leslie Kudlack*

*Back: Deirdre Kelly, Enis Edgemir, Daniel Edwards*

ALOUD and PWRFL are both planning to provide you with high-quality professional development this school year! PWRFL is planning to hold our first meeting on Tuesday, **September 24** from 4–6 p.m. at Palisades Prep in Yonkers. Keep an eye out for our first newsletter of the year with more details!

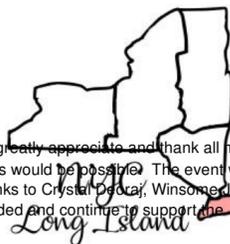
Congratulations to **Deirdre Kelly**, **Dan Edwards**, and **Chris Thoren** who were selected as NYSAFLT Leaders of Tomorrow from the Mid-Hudson region and will attend the NYSAFLT Annual Conference this fall. We hope to see many of you attending the NYSAFLT Conference on **November 1 and 2** in Saratoga.

### NYC- Long Island

On **May 4, 2019**, the New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) hosted its annual Spring Professional Development Workshops. The event began with breakfast at 9 a.m., after which, participants attended two sessions. Expert presenters conducted a total of six workshops on best practices in the teaching of world languages. Attendees

had the challenge of selecting from enlightening presentations such as *Getting On Board with Multiple Entry Points, Enhancing Teaching through Content, Building Literacy, Activities Introducing Academic Vocabulary, Rigorous Student Products, and Using Protocols in the LOTE Classrooms.*

Co-chairs, **Irma Evangelista** and **Gary Milgrom** greatly appreciate and thank all members of NYCAFLT, without whom, none of its successes would be possible. The event was well attended, and received rave reviews. Special thanks to Crystal Pooja, Winsome Johnson, UFT liaison coordinators, and all those who attended and continue to support the organization.



Save The Date, NYC Teachers! The NYCAFLT 2019 Fall Annual Professional Conference will be held on **Saturday, November 16** at the UFT headquarters in Manhattan. More information on registering for this event will be available via the regional posting in early September. Please note that you must pre-register via [Eventbrite](#) for this professional development opportunity. We look forward to seeing you there.

## 2019 LILT Annual Conference

FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE ON TWITTER: @LILTFLTEACHERS - #LILTCONF2019

### Making Connections



### Languages are Key

(Artwork by Trisha George - New Hyde Park HS)

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2019 LONGWOOD HS**

(Online registration opens September 1)

**Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Aubrey**

"Leaving Lasting Footprints: Empowerment, Empathy and Connections"

Co-Chairpersons: Jennifer Schuster and Jackie Ammirato

[WWW.LILTFL.ORG](http://WWW.LILTFL.ORG)

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### Western New York

#### FREE PD OPPORTUNITY!

It's an Edcamp for world language and English as a New Language teachers! On **September 21**, come talk all things CI, language acquisition, culturally responsive teaching, technology for language learners, and more. This is an Edcamp approved, open to the public, organic PD session, designed with all things language related in mind. The topics will be decided on the day of the event, based on interest. We welcome anyone who would like to learn more about culturally responsive teaching as well as language acquisition. Register for free on [EventBrite!](#)

#### WNYFLEC STAR AWARDS- 2019

On **Wednesday June 5**, WNYFLEC recognized STAR students from across Western New York. The event was one of the most successful in history with approximately 350 teachers, students, and family members! It was a wonderful night to unite as a community and recognize the many achievements of our world language students. More than 130 students took the stage to be honored for their global mindedness, academic effort, and appreciation of languages and cultures! An event like this allows teachers and families to encourage our budding language learners and support them as they continue on their path.

The evening was also a time for a few special recognitions and awards. David Smaczniak, Assistant Principal at Frontier Schools, was the recipient of WNYFLEC's Friend of Foreign Language Award. Katherine Gernold from Orchard Park Schools was the Poster Contest winner. Flynn Harper, Michael Koester, Anna Reagan, Jamey Fox, Abby Eisenmann, Ella Forrest, Ethan Lenhardt, Allena Trice, and Kaylee Miskell of Hamburg Schools are all students of **Kristina Strauss** and NYSAFLE Video Contest winners. Annika Smith, a student of **JoAnn Thomasson**, also of Hamburg Schools, received the NYSAFLE Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award. It was a truly inspiring night!

### AATF of WNY

AATF – WNY Chapter French Teacher Immersion Week  
Franklinville, NY  
July 7–12, 2019

The Western NY Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French hosted its second annual French Teacher Immersion Week in Franklinville, NY at Whispering Pines. The planning committee for this event included **Brenda Benzin**, Marc Cousins, Ashley Feneziani, **Kaitlyn Hatch**, **Martha Horohoe**, Régine Marton and **Michele Roberts**. Our team prepared a Francophone program embracing culture in French spoken all over the world. Participants enjoyed a truly immersive environment in which they pledged to speak only French during daily activities, which included professional development workshops, meal preparation, and cultural activities. We all look forward to our third annual Immersion Week tentatively planned for **June 26–July 1, 2022!** Save the date!

For more information on this and future events, please visit the chapter's website: <https://www.facebook.com/FrenchTeachersWNY>.

Workshop presenters

**Candace Black**, New York State Education Department, OBE-WL, *L'état des langues étrangères dans l'état de New York – notre voie à suivre*

Joanne Boebel, Williamsville North High School, *Enseigner l'origami en français*

Marc Cousins, Lewiston Porter High School and Middle School et Ashley Feneziani, Williamsville South High School, *Input compréhensible dans la classe de FLE*

Neil Gablenz, University at Buffalo, *Franco-Amérique: la littérature franco-canadienne et la Francophonie du nord Etats-Unis*

Dr. **Martha Horohoe**, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, *Art nouveau en Belgique*

Dr. Deborah Hovland, Buffalo State College, *Les boucaniers de Saint-Domingue*

Ruben Juarez, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, *Conversation pour débutants*

Eileen Lapp-Hastings, Lewiston Porter Middle School, *Réponse Physique Totale (TPR) dans la classe de français*

Camille Le Caer, Pastry by Camille, *Atelier cuisine*

Régine Marton, St. Amelia's School, *Aimer ou adorer - Quel est le contexte de la culture française?*

Dr. Rafika Merini, Buffalo State College, *Nouveau roman et nouvelle vague*

Dr. François Paré, University of Waterloo, *Le Québec et ses liens profonds avec les Etats-Unis*

Dr. François Paré, University of Waterloo, *Les écrivains et musiciens autochtones du Québec*

Maggie Roston-Etchar, Buffalo State College, *La Réunion, un DROM, département et région de la France dans l'océan indien et le Madagascar, ancienne colonie française dans l'océan indien*

Dr. Kennedy Schultz, Park School of Buffalo, *Les tissus imprimé à la cire de l'Afrique occidentale*

Jeremy Spindler, French Connexion, *Chantons en musique!*

**SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE LOCAL EVENTS:**

Wine and Cheese Rentrée, **September 23**, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Alliance Française de Buffalo's French Play, **October 17**, 6:30 p.m.

Soirée Poésie Musique, **October 24**, 5–7 p.m.

National French Week Le Grand Gala reception, **November 7**, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Old Fort Niagara; French Heritage Day **November 8**, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (reservations go FAST!)

Pausa Art House French Night, **November 9**, 8 p.m.

Franco-Festival du Beau Fleuve, French Heritage Festival, **November 16**, 1–4 p.m.



*French Immersion Week Après notre atelier de La Réunion*



*French Immersion Week ATELIER Art Nouveau en Belgique*



*French Immersion Week DINER ENSEMBLE*

# Public Advocacy

## Regents Exams

The Public Advocacy Committee is continuing our push for reinstating our Proficiency and Regents examinations. The Board of Regents is presently reviewing graduation requirements with an end goal of the Fall of 2020. It is time to take action! Lend your voice to this critical push by following the suggestions and templates on our [Public Advocacy Center](#). The number of contacts received for each issue are tallied. The issues of greatest concern to the public drive their agenda. Be sure to share these links with your WL colleagues and administrators as well as educators from other disciplines. Don't forget the impact your relatives, neighbors and local business community members will have.

## Computer Coding Instead of World Languages?

On **June 5, 2019**, NYS Senator Chris Jacobs (R, C, IP of 60th Senate District) introduced Senate Bill S6343 which proposes that classes in computer coding replace the foreign language requirement in New York State. You can see the bill and its rationale at [this link](#).

Although most of the similar bills introduced in other states advocating computer courses at the expense of world languages have been defeated, an increasing number of states have introduced and even reintroduced legislation to this end. At the time of this writing, it passed in Texas and is being reintroduced in Florida.

It is absolutely critical that we educate our legislators and community about the erroneous thinking of this trend. It is imperative that we make our voices heard to defeat this bill.

Call, visit, write and email your state senators NOW.

## Got Articles?

Don't forget to continue to pass along articles, infographics and videos that you feel would be valuable additions to our collection of world language documents. Send the link to Marie at [mcampanaro@aol.com](mailto:mcampanaro@aol.com). We strive for articles that would be of value to WL educators and avoid articles that favor specific languages over others and that promote for-profit organizations.

## Classroom Advocacy

How have you advocated for world languages in your classroom this year? Share your successes with us so that we can promote your ideas at @jl\_delf or @nysafl on social media. Photos are always welcome!

## Advocacy Help

Stay up-to-date on world language topics through our NYSAFLT Advocacy Center. You can also contact your Public Advocacy Co-Chairs **Barbara Patterson** at [msspanish32@gmail.com](mailto:msspanish32@gmail.com) and **Marie Campanaro** at [mcampanaro@aol.com](mailto:mcampanaro@aol.com) for assistance in advocating within your district and community.

# National Network for Early Language Learning

NNELL hosted its annual Summer Institute in Chicago, Illinois on **June 22–23, 2019**. We hope that everyone will join us at our "NNELL Networking Breakfast" at the 2019 ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo in Washington, D.C. on **Saturday, November 23**, 7:30–9:30 a.m. Reserve your tickets now by registering at <https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/registration>. Stop by and say hi, win some raffle prizes, and connect with other early language teachers!

NYSAFLT continued its annual tradition of offering a FLES strand for early language educators at the Summer Institute in Oneonta, NY on **August 7, 2019**. Workshops included *Expression, Engagement and Connecting to Content in the FLES Classroom* by **Frances Corelli**, *#earlylang Best Practices* by **Marissa Coulehan** and **Jenny Delfini**, and *Diverse Storytelling to Foster Empathy and Cultural Competence in the Early Language Classroom* by **Camilla Iturralde** and **Samara Spielberg**.



Samara Spielberg and Camilla Iturralde sharing their passion with FLES teachers



Fran Corelli talking about her award-winning FLES program



FLES teachers creating a food from their culture using play-doh



FLES teachers creating a food from their culture using play-doh



FLES teachers creating a food from their culture using play-doh

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 also offers the Hahn FLES Incentive Grants 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 Members Only section of the website!

## Announcements

### Language Association Journal Call for Papers

Want to share ideas or research with your colleagues but prefer the written word? Then it is time to think about submitting to the *Language Association Journal*! We welcome a range of topics, generally following the formats of teacher to teacher articles, scholarly research, and reports. The *Language Association Journal* is published two times per year with the next deadline being **February 1**. Submit your work through the NYSAFLT publications page and share all the best with your colleagues!

### NYSAFLT Cards

Are there people whom you would like to recognize or honor? You can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYSAFLT card. For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will print your message to indicate that a donation has been made. These will be published in the *NYSAFLT News* and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship.

Cards may be obtained by going to the donations page or by sending a check (made

payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters  
2400 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

## Mark Your Calendar

### September

**Deadline:** [Journal Issue #2 Submissions](#), **September 1**  
Board of Regents Meeting, **September 9–10**

### October

Board of Regents Meeting, **October 7–8**  
Executive Committee (online), **October 16**  
Joint Executive Committee (Saratoga Springs), **October 31**

### November

**Deadline:** [December Newsletter Submissions](#), **November 1**  
**Deadline:** [NECTFL Mead Scholar Award Applications](#) (to NYSAFLT), **November 1**  
[Annual Conference](#) (Saratoga Springs), **November 1–2**  
Joint Board of Directors (Saratoga Springs), **November 1**  
Annual Business Meeting (Saratoga Springs), **November 2**  
Board of Regents Meeting, **November 4–5**  
**Deadline:** for online application for [Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award](#), **November 15**  
[ACTFL Annual Convention and WL Expo](#) (Washington, DC), **November 22–24**

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