



**Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
of TEACHERS of FRENCH

# *Francofeuilles*

*Hiver / Printemps 2020*

## Un Message de votre Président

Chers collègues de l'AATF Chicago et l'Illinois du Nord,

Quel semestre nous vivons ! Ce qui a commencé comme un hiver doux s'est transformé en une vie que peu d'entre nous auraient imaginée : les cours et l'apprentissage à distance, la distanciation sociale, les voyages à l'étranger et même locaux annulés, parmi d'autres changements, en raison de COVID-19.

Cependant, ce numéro de *Francofeuilles* nous rappelle les événements positifs qui se sont produits dans notre chapitre au cours des derniers mois. Plus récemment, ces événements comprennent notre atelier d'hiver organisé conjointement avec ICTFL le premier février avec plus de 85 participants et la *Journée intensive en français* (également connue sous le nom *High School Immersion Day*) avec plus de 110 lycéens le 7 mars à Dominican University. De plus, notre chapitre a lancé un nouvel événement appelé *A Taste of Teaching* le 7 mars pour partager avec les élèves comment devenir professeurs de français, maintenant que notre profession commence à faire face à une pénurie d'enseignants.



Malheureusement, notre chapitre a dû annuler nos événements annuels d'avril et de mai de cette année pour les élèves et les enseignants. Ces événements comprennent notre réunion du Conseil exécutif en avril et notre atelier et déjeuner d'honneur en mai. Heureusement, Robin Jacobi, notre lauréate du *Prix d'excellence du chapitre* en 2020, a accepté de recevoir son honneur bien mérité l'année prochaine.

Pour les élèves, nous avons annulé le *Concours oral* ou *Champions d'expression* pour ce mois d'avril, mais nous serons de retour l'année prochaine.

avec notre dixième anniversaire pour cet événement populaire. Néanmoins, au moment où j'écris ceci, notre chapitre et l'AATF Nationale travaillent à offrir *le Grand Concours (National French Contest)* sous une forme ou une autre ce printemps.

Pour l'instant, maintenez l'équilibre, restez en bonne santé, et lavez-vous les mains.

Amicalement,  
Tom Sapp  
Président  
AATF Chicago et l'Illinois du Nord



Depending on State  
of Illinois Guidelines

*Saturday, August 22*

*On vous invite à notre 2e*

*Dîner en Blanc*

*Hosted by*

*AATF Chicago Northern Illinois Chapter*

*Pottawatomie Park*

*St. Charles*

*White clothing is de rigueur!*



### ***Prix d'excellence du chapitre 2020***

We are thrilled to announce that Robin Jacobi, retired from Hoffman Estates High School and a former president of this chapter, has been unanimously selected for this year's *Prix d'excellence*. Under normal circumstances, we would recognize Robin at the Spring Awards luncheon. We will recognize Robin at a later date, most likely at next year's Spring Awards luncheon.



***Félicitations, Robin!***

### **Chapter member wins ACTFL scholarship to study in Bordeaux**

Chapter member **Jeanne Engelkemeir** has been informed that she has won an ACTFL scholarship to study in Bordeaux. The stage was supposed to take place this summer but due to the current situation, it has been postponed until next year.

*Félicitations, Jeanne !*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## NFW: Déguster la France

Saturday, November 9, marked another memorable chapter event, “**Déguster la France.**” We returned to Chez Moi in Chicago where more than a few glasses (literally and figuratively) were raised to toast the end of all the student activities (and your hard work!) surrounding yet another successful **National French Week.** Over thirty lucky members, their family members and friends experienced five carefully selected pairings of French wines, cheeses and appetizers in this lovely French bistro setting. Our gracious host and wine sommelier for the event was restaurant manager and fellow Francophile, Chad Bertelsman, who worked closely with their head chef to create an experience that was unique, informative, delicious and memorable.

In case you missed it, here’s the menu:

*Tarte à l’Oignon / Melon de Bourgogne*  
*Salade de Lentilles / Grenache, Carignan, Cinsault*  
*Tartare de Thon / Nielluccio, Merlot*  
*Soupe a l’Oignon / Malbec*  
*Brie avec Cerise/ Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot blend*



Congratulations to the winner of the very special tombola prize -- a Magnum of Chateau LaTour-Martillac, Grand Cru Classé de Graves 2015!

*Chapeau!* to the National French Week Committee: Heather Meindl, Chair, Pam Cabeen, Jeanne Engelkemeir, Gina Del Fiacco, Maureen Madden, Kenya Madison-Gabler.

And . . . *un grand merci!* to everyone involved who made this event a big success.

### **Pam Cabeen**



# CHAPTER NEWS

## NFW: Déguster la France (continued)



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Workshop / Winterfest

On Saturday, February 1, over 80 foreign language teachers, including several pre-service university students, gathered at Barrington High School for a unique professional development event. This year, for the first time, AATF collaborated with



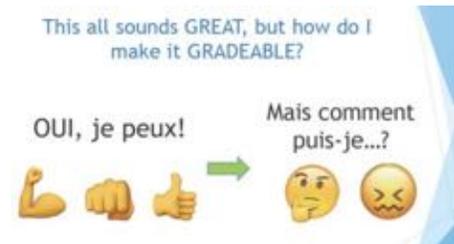
ICTFL (Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) to host a combined Winter Workshop / Winterfest. After socializing over a continental breakfast, attendees had the choice of participating in a three-hour Central States Extension Workshop on or three one-hour sessions on a variety of relevant topics.



Led by ICTFL teacher of the year Jane Swisher (Deer Path Middle School) and Michael Camp (Bloom Township High School), the session entitled “Can-Do Learning” focused on developing communication with language and culture. In this three-hour session participants analyzed the concept of interculturality and explored its implications and applications in the classroom. Strategies for teaching and assessing the culture standard were presented and participants left with model lessons that could be adapted to any theme.

Participants who opted to attend three of one-hour sessions had an *embarras du choix*.

In her session on “Swapping tests for tasks in the introductory-level classroom”, Dr. Polly Mangerson of DePaul University demonstrated how traditional grammar and vocabulary testing can be replaced with proficiency-based tasks that assess reading, listening, writing and presentational speaking skills. Using examples of new assessment methods from DePaul’s first-year French classes, Dr. Mangerson showed how these activities are aligned with “Can-do” pedagogy, while still maintaining their gradeability.



Heidi Lechner of Libertyville High School addressed the paradox of teens tweeting and texting but being unwilling or unable to engage in extended live conversation in her session entitled “Talking to Teens: Improving Their Interpersonal Communication Skills”. Participants in this session learned how to use a mixture of icebreakers to lower students’ affective filters and oracy strategies to strengthen interpersonal speaking skills. Some of the topics discussed were creating community in the classroom, circumlocution warm-ups, ways to encourage use of interpersonal phrases, and speaking activities with timers.

Create  
Community  
Warm-up:  
Circumlocution  
Vocabulary  
Games  
EVERY DAY!  
(in pairs/groups)



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Workshop / Winterfest (continued)

A third option among the one-hour sessions was “Words in the Wild”, in which Kelly Karstrand and Karen Krueger, both of Alan B. Shepard High School, shared practical ways to actively teach vocabulary and recycle words in multiple contexts. In addition to learning ways to prepare vocabulary lists that encourage students to use words in both productive and receptive activities, participants left with ideas on how to transform their vocabulary exercises to make them more communicative.



In his session “Putting the FUN in Functions”, Ryan Rockaitis (Deerfield high School ) began by reviewing the ACTFL proficiency levels and their corresponding functions and then helped participants identify what that would look like in a classroom. Participants followed up by brainstorming a list of their favorite activities and discussing how to get the most “band for their buck” during those activities

Leslie Natzke and Elizabeth Hinsinger (Niles North and West High Schools) drew upon personal experiences in Niger and other Francophone African countries for their session “Backward Design: Girls’ Education in West Africa”. After demonstrating how they had used backward design to choose materials and activities to answer the essential question: “How can we make society more just and equitable”, the presenters shared several unique resources with the participants, including a simulation game “*La course pour aller à l’école*”, documents from girlrising.org. and numerous authentic videos in French. Finally, participants learned how they and their students could support the cause of girls’ education in West Africa through Expanding Lives, an NGO founded by Leslie Natzke.



In addition to the above sessions, participants also received a link to Kelly Houlihan’s presentation “Breakout of the Classroom and into the Francophone world: Using escape room games in increase language use and cultural immersion.” Kelly was unable to present due to illness.

The program concluded with announcements from Ryan Rokaitus, President of ICTFL and Tom Sapp, President of AATF Chicago / Northern Illinois. *Merci mille fois* to Tom and the program committee for organizing this unique professional development opportunity, as well as to ICTFL for their collaboration. A special thanks to Barrington High School for hosting this event.



**Cathy Kendrigan (Loyola Academy)**

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Workshop / Winterfest: Photo Gallery



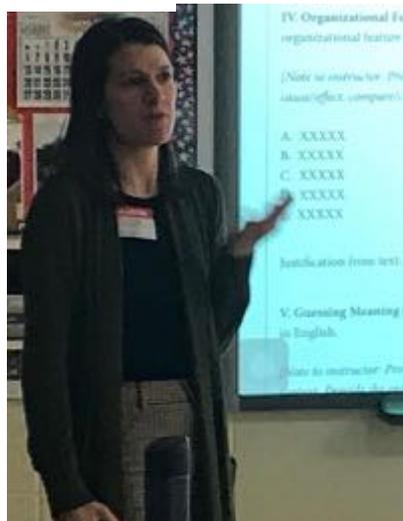
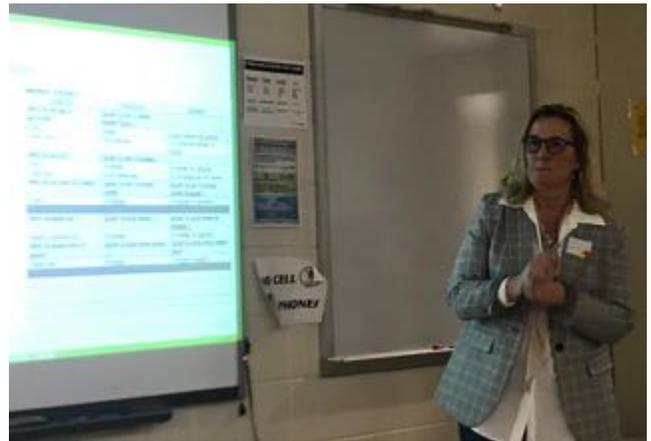
Dr. Polly Mangerson shares ideas for “Swapping tests for tasks in the introductory-level classroom”



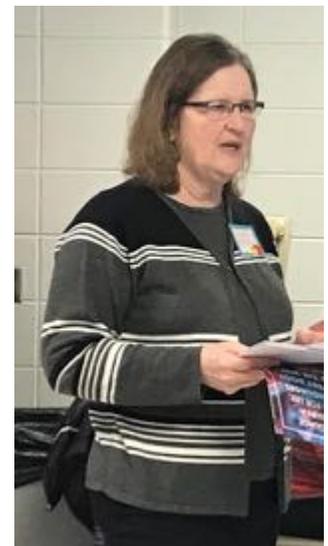
Pre-service university students Nico Mungolo and Christian Hernandez look over the program.



Left : Karen Krueger and Kelly Karstrand set up for their session “Words in the Wild” Right : Kelly shares strategies to teach vocabulary .



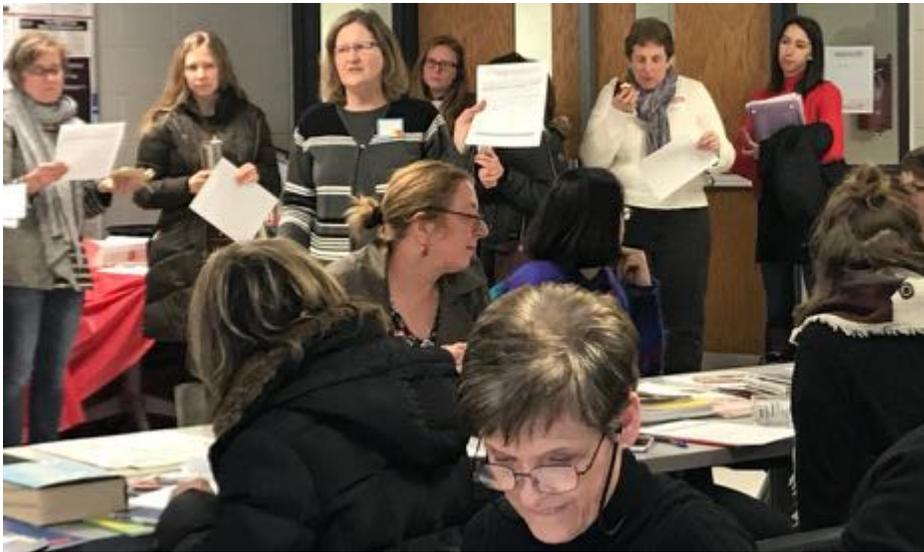
Leslie Natzke and Elizabeth Hinzinger explain how they used backward design to create their unit on girls’ education in West Africa.



Leann Wilcoxen, Executive Director of ICTFL, addresses the participants.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Workshop / Winterfest: Photo Gallery (continued)



Right : ICTFL President Ryan Rockaitis addresses participants



# CHAPTER NEWS

## La Journée Intensive en Français 2020

On Saturday, March 7, 2020 133 persons from 21 area schools participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Journée Intensive en Français*, an all-day French immersion program uniquely for high school students. The participants: 110 high school students, 4 French immersion teachers and 19 staff members. There was a honored guest: M. Martin Dionne, Public & Governmental Affairs Officer at Québec Office in Chicago. The staff included Thomas Sapp, President of the American Association of Teachers of French Chicago/Northern Illinois chapter, which sponsors the program and Martha Behlow, its former President and current Vice President of the national American Association of Teachers of French. Everyone pledged to speak only French for the entire day – from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm! Also, for the first time this year our organization was delighted to collaborate with the chapter Advocacy Committee for their *Taste of Teaching* event. It was organized by Martha Behlow, Eileen Walvoord and Samantha Youseph and took place from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. 27 high school students attended the event, approximately 20 of which participated in the immersion program.

Dr. Sylvie Goutas, Assistant Instructional Professor in French at the University of Chicago, directed the program and was assisted by Emily Fellmann, French teacher at Lyons Township High School, Andrea Isabelli, French teacher at Woodstock and Woodstock North High Schools, Lisa Shamrock, French teacher at Naperville North High School and Antonia Van Twisk, French teacher at Andrew Jackson Language Academy. Dr. Jennifer Morrissey, French Lecturer at Dominican University, was the coordinator between the immersion staff and Dominican University in River Forest which hosted the event.

The local and national American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) organizations and the Alliance Française du North Shore sponsored and supported this effort with monetary grants. The Quebec Government Office in Chicago and the Cultural Services of the French Consulate of Chicago and the AATF Chicago/Northern Illinois chapter are long-time supporters of our program as well.

The participants had a French breakfast of *croissants et un jus de fruit*, passed through customs, played board and linguistic games, and learned and sang French traditional and pop songs. They also attended two of the four formal classes which centered on the culture of the francophone world either Québec or Morocco. In addition, students played several linguistic games which furthered communication in French. A special event rounded out the day. Steven Langlois and his renowned Canadian rock and roll band, *Nous*, not only entertained but involved the students as well in their singing and dancing.

A highlight of the Journée Intensive en Français was a *Chasse aux Trésors* (Treasure Hunt) on the Dominican University Priory campus. Working with one's group, students had to understand and to follow French clues to find the various stations and then either answer cultural questions or carry out a variety of activities

# CHAPTER NEWS

## La Journée Intensive en Français 2020 (continued)

successfully before moving on to a new station. Prizes were awarded to the first two groups that completed the most stations in the time allowed.

All of the classes and activities helped the participants attain the program's and their personal goals of furthering their competence in the French language and of enhancing their knowledge of many of the facets of French and Francophone cultures.

The AATF applauds the efforts of these motivated young people and their teachers as they perfect their speaking competence, enhance their knowledge of history and culture of the francophone world, and promote the continued learning of the French language.

For information regarding attending or participating on the staff of future Immersion Days, please contact Dr. Sylvie Goutas, [jifchic@gmail.com](mailto:jifchic@gmail.com) 630-380-4278.

**Directrice**  
Sylvie Goutas

**Directrices adjointes**  
Emily Fellman  
Andi Isabelli  
Lisa Shamrock  
Antonia Van Twisk

**Liaison à Dominican U.**  
Jennifer Morrissey

**Professeurs**  
Gissele Drpich  
Kelly Houlihan  
Andi Isabelli  
Liz Martinez

**Assistants**  
Emily Arnold  
Martha Behlow  
Fanny Clonch  
Brenda Crosby  
Donna Czarnecki  
Cathy Kendrigan  
Kenya Madison-Gabler  
Lynn Robinson  
Tom Sapp  
Laura Schmuck  
Eileen Walvoord  
Samantha Youseph

**Assistants universitaires**  
Aisha Craig (Loyola U.)  
Arabia Patino (North Central College)

Participants in the "Taste of Teaching" pre-session listen to Samantha Youseph talk about her experience as a French teacher.



JIF Director Sylvie Goutas welcomes students.



Students pass through customs.



Students socialize in French while playing board games.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## La Journée Intensive en Français 2020: Photos



Left: Students get read to take the pledge to speak only French.



Right: Gisselle Drpich practices a traditional Québécois dance with Fanny Clonch. Below: Students in Gisselle's class learn about the traditional *cabane à sucre* and taste specialties from Québec.



Students in Liz Martinez' class learn about "Les Acadiens."



Andi Isabelli gets ready for her "Salle d'évasion francophone".

# CHAPTER NEWS

## La Journée Intensive en Français 2020: Photos



Kelly Houlihan (above) guides students in her session "Salle d'évasion du Maroc."



Left: Martin Dionne, Government and Public Affairs Officer of the Delegation du Québec, was the keynote speaker. Above: Martin Dionne with the directors of the Journée d'Immersion (left to right): Lisa Shamrock, Antonia Van Twisk, Andi Isabelli, Sylvie Goutas, Emily Fellman



# CHAPTER NEWS

## La Journée Intensive en Français 2020: Photos



As part of the Cameroun station in the *Chasse aux trésors*, a student attempts to complete the circuit while balancing fruit on her tray.



Étienne and his group "Nous" entertain the participants



Participants show off their certificates



# CHAPTER NEWS

## IN MEMORIAM

### **ESTELLA GAHALA LANGE: DISTINGUISHED WOMAN EDUCATOR *SANS EGALE* 1929-2019**

---



From her very humble beginnings in Hopeton, Oklahoma, where she attended a one-room school, to her prodigious career and national and international recognition in the field of French and Spanish language education, Estella Gahala truly was what her name symbolized: from the Latin *stella*, French *étoile*, Spanish *estrella* – a star.

Fortunately for us all, her star rose early. In elementary school she shined scholastically as she completed five grades in four years, receiving academic honors and acclaim for her scholarship. Diminutive in stature, Estella became captain of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' softball team and excelled in numerous extracurricular activities. Her family was proud of her, even as they struggled to hold themselves together financially during difficult times. The importance of her family and her determination to succeed were to become important parts of her life.

**LANGUAGE.** "Words – spoken and written – were her business," stated her husband, Dr. Dale Lange, \* describing perfectly the essence of Estella's talents and pursuits. After high school, she was off to college in 1946 to Northwestern State Teachers College in Alva, OK, where she embarked upon a program of French and rigorous humanities courses. But poverty fatigued her and in 1949 she moved to Wichita, KS, to get a job and had to delay until 1953 to complete a BA at the University of Wichita with a double major in Spanish and English literature and a minor in French. Once again, although she thrived on academia, she was aware that she needed to find employment, and in 1958 she obtained a position teaching French and Spanish at Amarillo High school in Texas. Her teaching career had now officially begun.

**ALWAYS LEARNING.** Forever hungry for learning more about her field and looking for opportunities to advance her skills, Estella took advantage of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) scholarships being offered to teachers (her first was at the University of Texas) to improve teaching and linguistic skills in French. This was followed by her participation in another NDEA Institute in 1960 at Hollins College in Virginia. Learning was not work to Estella: it was nurturing her mind, as natural to her as getting up every morning. Attendance at this Institute had another advantage, for she met John Gahala, a high school German teacher, whom she married 4 years later, in 1964. (John died in 1989.)

**TEACHING, ADMINISTRATION, AND HER WORK ETHIC.** Estella realized that job opportunities abounded in the Midwest and a move there from the Southwest was in order. From 1960 to 1984, Estella's career was based in the Chicago area, although her influence was by no means

## CHAPTER NEWS

limited by geographical boundaries. She taught French at Glenbrook High School, Glenview/Northbrook, IL, and was Department Chair of Foreign Languages at Beardsley School, one of four schools within Evanston Township High School in Evanston, IL. When she moved into administration, she became Department Chair of Foreign Languages at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, IL, and later Curriculum Director there after earning a PhD from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, in Administration and Curriculum Development.

Estella's superior work ethic was obvious. Her husband, Dale, whom Estella had married in 1998, commented that it was a marvel to watch her work. She was detailed, mindful of getting the work done ahead of time, and very focused on the task at hand. As a case in point, Donna Czarnecki, a teacher at Lyons Township High School, tells of being interviewed when suddenly the fire alarms went off. Estella was so focused on the interview that it was not until Donna pointed out the firemen coming down the halls that the interview was terminated!

In all things that mattered, Estella was passionate. No matter her position, she was always a teacher where she found passion especially important. Teacher Anna Maria Kosteci, who never worked with Estella but met her professionally, said that Estella once told her that passion was an indispensable characteristic of a good teacher and that "what distinguishes an exceptional teacher from others is the élan she expresses for her subject, for her students, and for her belief in the immense benefit that inspired teaching brings to our society." It was perhaps that very quality in Estella that drew people to her, students and professionals alike.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MENTORSHIP: Estella was elected to important roles in the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). She was not only an officer in the Chicago Chapter, but from 1986 until 1991 she was also an AATF National Regional Representative. She was a charter member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and played an active role therein. In fact, I met her when she taught at Evanston Township High School and later worked with her on French-language projects related to AATF and ACTFL. She had a special knack for identifying topics in foreign language instruction that we as teachers ought to be considering, for example, introducing computers into the French classroom, as early as the 1980's! At that time, she asked me to make a presentation on the topic at the ACTFL Convention in Baltimore. We arrived totally prepared. Little did I know that late the evening before the presentation, Estella would ask me to come to her room, stand on the bed as if it were a podium, and practice my presentation three times to be sure I was, in fact, totally prepared. A keeper of high standards, she was, indeed. Thanks to her timely idea, good writing, and rigorous training, the presentation to 150 educators was a stellar success.

During her tenure as an officer in AATF, she created one program in particular that stands out in my memory: *Le Stage Pédagogique*, attended by more than 100 teachers in a two-day workshop in which a team of writers and poets led by Québécois Gilles Vigneault presented their work. Many teachers still remember the first line of Gilles Vigneault's song which they used to teach poetry writing: "Mon pays, ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver." It was one of the most successful workshops ever for teachers in Chicagoland.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Along with her official roles, Estella served as mentor to many. She supported adult colleagues in their work, in ways no one else knew, offering them professional guidance and a kind word when they were needed. Her support was twofold: at the same time that she held high expectations for performance, she was gentle and kind in letting you know you had missed the mark. Terry Meyers, one of her student teachers, tells of once making a mistake in teaching grammar, while Estella, watching, simply smiled and gently shook her head so that no one else knew, leaving Terry her dignity and the knowledge the mistake would be discussed privately. In addition, seeking Estella out for counsel always left you feeling stronger and wiser, never foolish for having asked. It is not surprising then that through her leadership in AATF and ACTFL Estella came into contact with literally hundreds of high school and college educators and that her influence in the field of language education and as a person with many skills and admirable personal qualities was felt by many.

**PUBLISHING.** Estella's curiosity never rested. Always one to be looking ahead to the next need in foreign language instruction and her next challenge to help meet it, in 1976 Estella became a language consultant and co-author of a leading series of French textbooks for Scott Foresman Educational Publishers (*Son et Sens, Scènes et Séjours, Promenades et Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). She added to her repertoire the role of curriculum consultant for a 3-book series in Spanish (*Churros y Chocolate*) and co-author of another French series (*Dis-moi, Viens donc*), all with Scott Foresman. Not only did her textbooks sell well, but teachers clamored for her consultant time to work with them on teaching approaches and to make maximum use of the ancillary materials that made the teaching-learning experience so effective. Her star shined ever more brightly.

By 1994 Dr. Gahala had retired from Lyons Township High School, La Grange, IL, moved to Albuquerque, NM, and retired from Scott Foresman. She continued her textbook publishing by co-authoring *En Espanol* for McDougal Littell Houghton Mifflin in 2000 and a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of that textbook in 2004, and then co-authoring *Avancemos*, McDougal Littell Houghton Mifflin in 2007. This was to be her final published textbook, much to the disappointment of many foreign language teachers in America. No amount of cajoling or begging would change her mind.

**SWITCHING GEARS.** In 2007, without a major project such as writing a textbook to occupy her mind, Estella would be eager to find new intellectual stimulation. She found it soon in the search for her ancestry, triggered by an unexpected contact earlier, in 1997, from her mother's sister that piqued her interest in gaining a deeper understanding of her family. During this period, she reconnected with Dale Lange, a colleague she had met at the 1959 NDEA Institute. Ultimately, he moved to Albuquerque, and they married and traveled extensively together, in the US and beyond. They shared a rich and happy life until her death in 2019.

It should be no surprise that Estella's research into her family's genealogy was akin to the substance of several doctoral dissertations. She both authored and published two works on her parents' families, going back several centuries. For this research she and Dale traveled in their motor home to libraries, town halls, and homes of various family members around the country seeking records of Estella's family. What was perhaps most rewarding for Estella was that she

## CHAPTER NEWS

met literally dozens of her relatives in the process and developed special personal relationships with them through the course of her rigorous genealogy research. Such study was not just academic; it was about relationships that she cared to create and nurture. So very Estella.

ACCOLADES. Among Estella's many interests, receiving praise was not one she pursued. Estella's work was done from the heart because she believed in what she was doing – for the good of the profession, for the good of other people, for the good of the human mind. That is not to say that she was ungrateful for the abundant recognition she received. She was proud and graciously accepting of such recognition but acknowledged it simply because it meant something worthwhile had been accomplished. Quintessential Estella.

One award in particular stands out in its relevance to her work in French and the AATF. In 1975 she was named *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* by the French Ministry of Education, for contributions to the propagation of the French language and culture. Estella brought fresh ideas and creative energy to the study of the French people and their language and richly deserved this award.

HUMOR. One might think that with all her serious study and accomplishments, there was little time for humor. Au contraire. No conversation with Estella, be it personal or work-related, was without a good portion of humor. It was what made talking with her so entirely enjoyable, even if the topic was quite serious. Her wit was always at the ready to see the irony in situations, the illogic of a line of thought, the cleverness in a retort. Sometimes her responses were laced with down-home Oklahoma expressions, such as, "Well, geez, that's true, if the creek don't rise!", which added local color to the conversation.

IN ESSENCE....The Estella Gahala we knew possessed a quick, deep intelligence that could take your breath away, a sense of humor that was destined often to catch you off guard but keep you laughing, and a compassion and a kindness that left you always a better person for having been the beneficiary of it. Estella knew what she was good at. She knew what she loved. And she remained true to practicing it throughout all of her career. Thank you, Estella, for all that you were and all that you gave us.

Submitted by Jane Gard, Ed.D (April 28, 2020)

With contributions by Estella Gahala in her writings, Donna Czarnecki, Editor, Dr. Dale Lange\*, Terry Meyers, and Anna Maria KostECKi

\*Note. Professor Emeritus, Second Language Education, and former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

---

\*Note. Professor Emeritus, Second Language Education, and former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## CHAPTER NEWS

About the author: Dr. Jane Gard was Director of Instruction for Foreign Language and Mathematics at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Department Chair of Foreign Languages and Social Studies at Highland Park High School, and Principal of Highland Park High School, all in Illinois. She served as an officer in the Chicago Northern-Illinois Chapter of AATF and was a member of the IFLTA, the ICTFL and the ACTFL. After retirement from public education in 2000, she chaired the Illinois Teacher Education Partnership project at National-Louis university for five years and then directed the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program for the Consortium for Educational Change for six years, until she retired 'permanently' in 2011. Jane Gard first met Estella Gahala when Estella was part of a team who came to Jane's high school to evaluate the foreign language department's programs. Subsequently Estella called upon Jane to work with her to develop presentations for professional conferences, thus becoming a mentor for Jane. Their work and friendship spanned almost 50 years. Jane writes this in honor of her, on behalf of all those who knew her. And they are many, for her sphere of influence was great.

---

*Felicitations!*



**LE GRAND  
CONCOURS**  
THE NATIONAL FRENCH CONTEST

Congratulations to 8th grader Yanning (Maria) Jiao from Hinsdale Middle School, student of Clarisse Patris (Jeanne Engelkemeier, sub), who won the Chapter's t-shirt design contest for the National French Contest. Yanning received a check for \$25 and a t-shirt for each member of her family.



# COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

Editor's Note : Martha Behlow, Chapter Past President and Chair of the AATF Commission on Cultural Competence, has offered to share some of her linguistic fun facts with the readers of *Francofeuilles*. This will be a recurring feature in the next few issues.

## Linguistic Fun Fact : La Négritude

Inspired by recent events, I'd like to share an important linguistic fun fact, in honor of **Black Lives Matter**. The **Négritude movement** was founded by three accomplished Francophone men in the 1930s. Poet **Aimé Césaire** (*Martinique*), **Léopold Sédar Senghor** (the first President of *Sénégal*) and poet and politician **Léon Damas** (*la Guyane Française*) emphasized the importance of Black consciousness. They denounced colonialism, and promoted the connection among all people throughout the world who are of African descent. (**The African diaspora**) Celebrating the traditions, culture and value of Africa combined with emphasizing pride in being Black. Their unhappiness with the black experience in France at that time, the philosophy of African culture as savage versus the refined cultures of Europe, and their need to assert the value of African culture and traditions permeated the movement. The French word *nègre* had a negative sense, so they 'claimed' the word by inserting into the name of their movement. The **Harlem Renaissance** (1920s & 1930s New York) served as an important influence for the Négritude movement, including writers Langston Hughes and Richard Wright. **Aimé Césaire & Léon Damas** first met and became friends at the **Lycée Victor Schoelcher** in Fort-de-France, Martinique. Incidentally, Victor Schoelcher was a noted French abolitionist, now interred in the Pantheon in Paris.



Léopold Senghor

Aimé Césaire

Léon

For further information, see this excellent and detailed article in English <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/negritude/>- EXCELLENT and detailed article in English

**Martha Behlow** (Geneva H.S.)



## Négritude

Négritude is a consciousness of and pride in the cultural and physical aspects of the African heritage. Négritude is the state or condition of being black.



# COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

## Linguistic Fun Fact : La banlieue

I'd like to continue with the Black Lives Matter theme and tackle a word that is somewhat 'loaded'. This **Linguistic Fun Fact** is also a cultural fun fact as well. The French word **banlieue**, as you know, means 'suburb' although it tends to be used as more of a collective noun, as in '**dans la banlieue**' or **en banlieue**... Where did the word come from, and what does it imply in modern France and beyond? Medieval Latin 'bannileuga' evolved into banleuca, and eventually into the French word **banlieue** = ban (jurisdiction) + lieue (league – a distance of about 3 miles). This was because a distance surrounding a town's walls was within its jurisdiction, even without the protection of the walls. In modern France, however, la banlieue encompasses much that assuredly does not qualify as 'fun' ... and please understand that this entry barely scratches the surface of la banlieue.

Whereas in many American cities, living in the suburbs equates with a calmer, more peaceful life than in the city proper, **la banlieue** in French can imply several things. For the higher income suburbs, you might hear them referred to as la banlieue aisée, such as Versailles and Neuilly-sur-Seine, versus la banlieue implying what in the USA we might refer to as 'the projects' – lower income, educationally and economically disadvantaged areas, victims of societal and police racism. (Of course, there are middle income banlieues as well.)

The architect **Le Corbusier** was involved in the original concept of *la nouvelle ville* – separating residential areas from economic centers, leading to the construction of high-rise buildings, which initially, during both the Fourth and the Fifth Republics, were intended for the middle-class. Gradually, they devolved into housing for immigrants from former French colonies, so the residents were typically black or Arab, from either West Africa or le Maghreb. Un HLM – habitation à loyer modéré – low income housing, has become almost synonymous for la cité. An applicant's address on his/her CV can be enough to lessen employment opportunities, sadly. Police and judicial abuses have been well-documented against people of color, and residents of the Banlieue. The organization **SOS Racism** has worked tirelessly to tackle issues of both institutional and 'casual' racism, racial profiling, lack of economic opportunities, and public transit availability. Far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen had targeted the immigrant groups and people of color in la banlieue as being suitable to be 'sent back' to the countries they came from as well as to be stripped of their French citizenship. Another harmful vestige of France's colonial past lives on in 2020.

**Martha Behlow** (Geneva H.S.)



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019-2020

## President

Tom Sapp (1-2)  
Loyola Academy  
Email: [tsapp@loy.org](mailto:tsapp@loy.org)

## 1st Vice President - Programs

Andrea Isabelli (1-1)  
Woodstock High School  
Email : [andreaisabelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreaisabelli@sbcglobal.net)

## 2nd Vice President - *Francofeuilles* Editor

Cathy Kendrigan (appointed)  
Loyola Academy  
Email : [cathykendrigan@gmail.com](mailto:cathykendrigan@gmail.com)

## Secretary

Erin Gibbons (1-2)  
Barrington High School  
Email : [erinkathryngibbons@gmail.com](mailto:erinkathryngibbons@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

Nitya Viswanath (1-2)  
Amos Alonzo Stagg High School  
Email: [nviswan@yahoo.com](mailto:nviswan@yahoo.com)

## Immediate Past President

Martha Behlow  
Geneva Community High School  
Email: [mbehlow@geneva304.org](mailto:mbehlow@geneva304.org)

## Past Presidents (*Ex-Officio*)

Jane Castle  
Email: [castleaj@aol.com](mailto:castleaj@aol.com)

Rosalee Gentile

Email: [rosaleegentile@juno.com](mailto:rosaleegentile@juno.com)

### Did you know...?

Executive Council members are elected for one two-year term, after which they may be re-elected for a second two-year term. The numbers after the name of each Council member indicate the term and year of service, i.e.. (1-2) = Term 1, Year 2.

## Past Presidents (*Ex-Officio*) (continued)

Robin Jacobi  
Email : [rjacobi2016@gmail.com](mailto:rjacobi2016@gmail.com)

John Miles  
Email: [jmiles303@wi.rr.com](mailto:jmiles303@wi.rr.com)

Margot M. Steinhart  
Email: [m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net)

Eileen Walvoord  
Email : [eileenwalvoord@gmail.com](mailto:eileenwalvoord@gmail.com)

## Council Members

Daniel Brandt (1-1)  
Marist H.S.

Trina Burek (2-2)  
School of Saints Faith, Hope, and Charity  
Email: [trina.marie.burek@gmail.com](mailto:trina.marie.burek@gmail.com)

Pam Cabeen (2-1)  
Email: [thecabeens@aol.com](mailto:thecabeens@aol.com)

Fanny Clonch (1-1)  
Marie Curie H.S.

Brenda Crosby (1-2)  
Benet Academy  
[muguet303@comcast.net](mailto:muguet303@comcast.net)

Gina Del Fiacco (1-2)  
Lake Park High School  
[ddelfiacco@lphs.org](mailto:ddelfiacco@lphs.org)

Jeanne Engelkemeir (2-2)  
Email: [jeanneme@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneme@comcast.net)

Yvonne Fawell (2-2)  
Email: [yfawell@gmail.com](mailto:yfawell@gmail.com)

Sylvie Goutas (2-1)  
University of Chicago  
Email: [sgoutas@uchicago.edu](mailto:sgoutas@uchicago.edu)

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019-2020

## Council Members (continued)

Margarita Levasseur (2-2)  
Proviso Math and Science Academy  
Email : [margaritalevasseur@gmail.com](mailto:margaritalevasseur@gmail.com)

Maureen Madden (1-2)  
[mcmadden@aol.com](mailto:mcmadden@aol.com)

Kenya Madison-Gabler (1-2)  
De La Salle Institute  
[Madison.kenya@gmail.com](mailto:Madison.kenya@gmail.com)

Gloria Maliszewski (1-2)  
Deer Path Middle School  
Email: [gmaliszewski@lfschools.net](mailto:gmaliszewski@lfschools.net)

Joe Marshall (1-1)  
Illinois Math and Science Academy  
Email: [jmarshall@imsa.edu](mailto:jmarshall@imsa.edu)

Heather Meindl (2-2)  
St. Josephat  
Email : [hmeindl@stjosaphat.net](mailto:hmeindl@stjosaphat.net)

Phyllis Perkins (2-1)  
Email : [perkinspd1@comcast.net](mailto:perkinspd1@comcast.net)

Amanda Vogg (2-1)  
Glenbrook North High School  
Email : [avogg@glenbrook225.org](mailto:avogg@glenbrook225.org)

## AATF National Headquarters

### AATF Executive Director

Jayne Abrate  
Executive Director  
302 N. Granite Street  
Marion, IL 62959  
Ph: 815-310-0490;  
Fax: 815-310-5754  
Email: [abrate@frenchteachers.org](mailto:abrate@frenchteachers.org)

### AATF President

Anne Jensen, Présidente  
San José State University  
San José California  
Email: [annejensen@att.net](mailto:annejensen@att.net)

### Regional Representative (Region VI)

Sheila Conrad  
Email: [sconrad@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:sconrad@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

---

Guillaume Lacroix  
Consul Général de France à Chicago  
205 N. Michigan Ave.  
Suite 3710  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel : 312-327-5200

**CHAPTER WEBSITE**  
[www.aatfchicagonorthernillinois.com](http://www.aatfchicagonorthernillinois.com)

**AATF WEBSITE**  
[www.frenchteachers.org](http://www.frenchteachers.org)

---

## **WANTED: Articles for *Francofeuilles!***

If you have a successful classroom activity or idea for promotion or advocacy, or if you have had an interesting professional enrichment opportunity, please share with your colleagues. Deadline for the Rentrée issue is Aug. 20. Submit all articles to [cathykendrigan@gmail.com](mailto:cathykendrigan@gmail.com).

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL-Committees

<p><b>Programs</b>            Andrea Isabelli, Chair            Martha Behlow            Brenda Crosby            Yvonne Fawell, Professional Development Hours            Margarita Levasseur            Joe Marshall            Phyllis Perkins            Nitya Viswanath</p> <p><b>National French Week</b>            Heather Meindl, Chair            Pam Cabeen            Gina Del Fiacco            Jeanne Engelkemeir            Maureen Madden            Kenya Madison-Gabler</p> <p><b>High School Immersion Day</b>            Sylvie Goutas, Chair            Daniel Brant            Fanny Clonch            Andrea Isabelli (also Programs)            Cathy Kendrigan</p> <p><b>Concours Oral</b>            Erin Gibbons, Chair            Trina Burek            Gloria Maliszewski            Amanda Vogg</p>	<p><b>Francofeuilles</b>            Cathy Kendrigan, Chair            Daniel Brant            Trina Burek            Pam Cabeen            Gloria Maliszewski</p> <p><b>Grants and Awards</b>            Tom Sapp, Chair            Martha Behlow            Jane Castle            Rosalee Gentile            Robin Jacobi            John Miles            Margot Steinhart            Eileen Walvoord</p> <p><b>Grand Concours (National French Contest)</b>            Maureen Madden, Chair            Jeanne Engelkemeier            Kenya Madison-Gabler            Joe Marshall            Amanda Vogg</p> <p><b>College Immersion Night:</b>            Rebecca Léal (Elmhurst College),            Chair</p> <p><b>ICTFL</b>            Tom Sapp, Chair</p>	<p><b>Membership</b>            Nitya Viswanath, Chair            Fanny Clonch            Andrea Isabelli            Heather Meindl</p> <p><b>Elections</b>            Phyllis Perkins, Chair            Brenda Crosby            Rosalee Gentile            Robin Jacobi            Eileen Walvoord</p> <p><b>Advocacy</b>            Eileen Walvoord, Chair            Martha Behlow            Yvonne Fawell            Sylvie Goutas            Margot Steinhart</p> <p><b>Social Media</b>            Erin Gibbons, Chair            Gina Del Fiacco            Margarita Levasseur</p> <p><b>Website:</b>            Rebecca Léal            Tom Sapp            Erin Gibbons</p>
--	---	---

# FRANCOFEUILLES

Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter  
 American Association of Teachers of French

Cathy Kendrigan  
 1525 N. Beverly Lane  
 Arlington Heights, IL 60004

