



The *FLAGS* Pole

Volume 13, Issue 1
December, 2010

FLAGS Winter Workshop

Ruth Ward

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FLAGS constantly strives to serve the immediate needs and interests of our membership. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our October 2nd Fall Workshop on the Web 2.0 application, *Animoto*, due to insufficient signups.

Therefore, we will be polling you, our members, about your desires for the topic and date of our upcoming Winter workshop. Our webmaster Nicole Naditz will be contacting you via Survey Monkey on the topics and dates that would most encourage your participation. We would like to know if technology is what most interests you, and whether a weekday or a weekend would be most feasible. So check your email for a FLAGS Survey Monkey poll – coming your way soon!

What should you do if you know an incredible teacher, who is amazing in the classroom and inspires you as an educator...?	Nominate them for a FLAGS Award!
	Inga Templeton, FLAGS Awards Chair

Why not nominate a wonderful teacher colleague for the FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award 2011?

All you have to do is submit the nomination form, three letters of recommendation, a short professional résumé and a nomination letter to us by December 10, 2010. All forms and requirements for FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award can be

found on the FLAGS website (www.flagsteacher.com).

It is especially important to recognize these hard working teachers in these difficult times in the education profession. Don't hesitate to nominate this one special teacher and I think we all know at least one of these incredible educators.



The President's Perch Ruth Ward

Hello Everyone:

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you are off to a super start. For financial reasons, we are no longer using our website at <http://flagsteacher.ning.com>, so please go to <http://www.flagsteacher.com> to learn about this year's exciting FLAGS activities. Please reset your bookmarks, so that we can continue to send you email updates. Also, please send our Membership Chair, Christine Lanphere, a working personal email address at clanphere@comcast.net, since many of the local school districts block all outside mail.

Well, let's start at the beginning. On Sunday, July 18th, we hosted the third annual all-day FLAGS/CLTA International Interactive Games Exhibit created by Nicole Naditz for the State Fair. Once again, families, as well as students and teachers, visited our booth to play games, talk about language learning, take the "Are you smarter than a language teacher" quiz, and spin the wheel for Discover Languages prizes. Please consider joining us next summer for a volunteer shift. You'll be glad you got involved!

On Friday, August 27th, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, FLAGS held our Fall Festa at Buca di Beppo in Sacramento. World Language teachers gathered to enjoy the delicious Italian fare and to talk about teaching – of all things – World Languages. The event was free to FLAGS members, and Cindy Peiper was the lucky winner of a \$50 gift certificate to Teachers' Discovery.

Unfortunately our fall workshop was cancelled due to lack of interest, so we'll be looking to see what suits you better. Look for our winter workshop January 29, 2011.

Apart from these workshops, *Read Around the World* is back!. FLAGS has partnered with the various branches of the Sacramento Public Library since 2005 to enable teachers to offer their students an authentic opportunity to practice their reading and speaking skills in front of a real audience. This event also gives you as a teacher a forum to advocate for your program: participation gives you an opportunity to make your language program visible in the community. There is no financial cost to participate; time and enthusiasm are the only requirements. There will be a mandatory orientation for teachers new to this program, and in addition, FLAGS will be offering grants to participating FLAGS members to buy supplies and/or books.

But we're not done yet! The Sacramento County Fair will again be welcoming World Language Projects at the end of May, 2011. FLAGS will be providing mini-grants to participating current FLAGS members to pay the \$2.00 fee for up to ten student entries, for a total of \$20. We will be letting you know the deadline to submit forms and payment to enter student work, as well as the date to drop off and pick up student work as the date gets closer.

And let's not forget that we are looking forward to seeing old and new members at the 2011 California Language Teachers' Association Conference, to be held in Santa Clara from March 17th–20th. Consider presenting a one-hour interest session or

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The FLAGS Pole

Published by the

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ONE FRIDAY EACH MONTH

FLAGS Board meeting

All members are welcome

Contact: Ruth Ward

(530) 661-4117

FLAGS Winter Workshop

January 29, 2011

Bella Vista High School

CLTA Conference

March 17-20, 2011

Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



FLAGS Student Awards Break-fast

April 30, 2011

FLAGS Teacher Awards

Spring 2011

Discover Languages Event at the State Fair

Summer 2011

2010 State Fair Language Event a Big Success

By Nicole Naditz, Advocacy Chair

Once again, FLAGS members and their students showed up in force to man the "Discover Languages" booth at the California State Fair in July. Student volunteers from Bella Vista and Natomas High Schools played children's games from around the world with the fair guests. The games came from China, Germany, India, Mozambique, the Puma Indians, Iceland, and other countries. This provided interesting opportunities to highlight the diversity of world cultures in a very fun way.

Teacher volunteers ran the prize wheel (to give away Discover Languages merchandise) and talked about the importance of language proficiency to our society. This one-day event at the State Fair gives us a great

opportunity to talk to the public about the benefits of language study.

Next year, we will lengthen the volunteer shifts so that we need fewer student volunteers and FLAGS will provide fair admission tickets to student volunteers as well as adults. Students will still be responsible for parking, if they choose to park there (many park elsewhere and take a shuttle or walk). More information about opportunities to volunteer at the 2011 State Fair will come in May—keep checking your emails and the Web site for more information as spring approaches.



FLAGS dues will increase from \$17 to \$20 January 1, 2011

You can save money by paying two years of dues (2010 & 2011) through December 31, 2010!

So renew your membership early, stay informed, and save money!

STUDENT'S LANGUAGE PROJECT AWARDED "BEST IN SHOW" AT COUNTY FAIR

BY NICOLE NADITZ

Erin McKey, a 2010 graduate of Center High School, won the highest honor any language student has received for her world language submission to the Sacramento County Fair in May.

McKey, a student of Tanya Zaccone (Spanish Teacher, Center High School and FLAGS Board Member), created an original journal of a "trip" from Sacramento to Machu Picchu. Her journal included nine entries entirely in Spanish about the trip, "mementos" of the trip, a menu she created from a Peruvian restaurant, and a letter about the trip to her Spanish 1 teacher.



Tanya Zaccone and her award-winning student, Erin McKey

Once her entry was judged as "Best in Class" for the world language project category, it was automatically moved on for judging for "Best in Show" for youth exhibits. Although "Best in Class" is selected by our volunteer judges who are language teachers, "Best in Show" is selected by fair volunteers, none of whom are language teachers.

This year, for the first time, our category's submission for "Best in Class" also won "Best in Show," a testament to the outstanding level of proficiency this student possesses and also to Tanya's exemplary teaching practice.

Congratulations Erin and Tanya!!

Stay connected:

Remember, the FLAGS Ning website has been replaced by the www.flagsteacher.com website.

Please reset your bookmarks!

CLTA CORNER

CLTA Conference 2011

South Bay Language Cabaret
March 17-20, 2011
Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara



Where are the new 2009 California World Language Standards?

<http://www.clta.net/standards>

FLAGS Fall Festa

By Marie Robb

A small but congenial group of FLAGS members and potential FLAGS members got the weekend off to a good start at our FLAGS Fall Festa on Friday, August 27th. From 4:30-6:00 p.m. we gathered at Buca di Beppo's on Howe Avenue to share stories about the beginning of our school year and to enjoy delicious appetizers. We had an upstairs room all to ourselves, and we feasted on a stuffed mushrooms, fried mozzarella, bruschetta and a variety of pizzas. Who needed dinner after that?

Cindy Peiper was the delighted winner of a \$50 gift card to Teacher's Discovery, compliments of FLAGS. We hope you can join us at future FLAGS events; we'll have more gift cards to give away!



Evelyn Bejarano and Inga Templeton enjoy catching up at Fall Festa



Tanya Zaccone, Soledad Ramirez, and Ruth Ward at Buca di Beppo



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

It's amazing that the 2010-11 school year is nearly half over. We're all no doubt looking to some well deserved time off to renew our resources. Speaking of resources, FLAGS counts on you to renew your membership each year so that we can continue to provide you with professional development opportunities, chances to recognize your peers and students, and updated information about advocacy and topics of interest to the profession.

The new membership year starts on January 1, 2011, but as of today, only 5 members have renewed. In fact, during 2010, FLAGS saw an all time low membership renewal with only 38 members! Please check to see if you forgot to renew last year and make sure you renew this year. If you are not sure whether your membership is up to date, you can contact me and I'll let you know: membership@flagsteacher.com. The FLAGS Board is increasing membership dues to \$20.00 per year beginning January 1,

2011. We want to offer our current members (and anyone who joins FLAGS in 2010) the opportunity to save a bit by paying 2 years of dues (for 2010 and 2011) at the current rate of \$17.00 per year. Please see the membership form in this issue or online for rates for CLTA and FLAGS.

The FLAGS Board really counts on your membership to meet our plans for professional development programs, maintaining communication, and offering services for students and teachers in the area. Please help us to achieve our goals by renewing your membership.

Also, as advocates for the language teaching profession, please take a moment to encourage your colleagues who are new to the profession (or new to your school) to become involved with professional organizations such as FLAGS & CLTA. Tell them to check out our website, www.flagsteacher.com, and let them know how important it is to network with other professionals and receive the support that membership brings. FLAGS and CLTA deserve to be at the top of your "To Do" list. Please take a moment to complete the form on the next page and send your check in today. We certainly appreciate your support. Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season,

Christine

(The President's Perch, continued from page 2)

even a half-day workshop. To fill out an online application to attend or to present, please go <http://www.clta.net/conference/>. This will be an event you won't want to miss!

Back in Sacramento, FLAGS will be hosting our annual Student Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Auburn Denny's. Each participating teacher may honor one student. FLAGS will provide breakfast, a certificate, and a small prize for each student. The breakfast is for the teacher, the student, and two guests of the student's choosing. There will be online registration and an invitation you can print as we get closer to the event. For more information, contact our Awards Chair, Inga Templeton, at ingatempleton@sbcglobal.net.

Oh, yes, another important topic related to awards: Teacher Award nominations. FLAGS members may nominate individuals in three categories of awards: Outstanding New Teacher, Outstanding Teacher, and President's Award. At the www.flagsteacher.com website, you can download all of the forms from the links provided at the bottom of the page. The **Outstanding New Teacher Award** honors a teacher new to the profession who has been a world language teacher for three years or less, **Outstanding Teacher Award** honors an accomplished teacher who has been a world language teacher for at least four years and who is an inspiration to everyone, and the **President's Award** recognizes a person who isn't a world language teacher, but whose support and efforts give us strength and keep our programs vibrant. This award is for administrators, district personnel and community members who share our commitment to language education. Please nominate someone at your school site! Let's help our colleagues and allies gain the recognition they deserve.

And in July of 2011, on a date yet to be announced, FLAGS will be hosting our fourth annual Discover Languages event at the State Fair. We will need student and adult volunteers to cover shifts starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 10:00 PM at our air-conditioned, indoor venue. Starting this year, FLAGS will ensure that all volunteers receive a complimentary entrance ticket to the fair. Volunteers play games from around the world with fair visitors. Only English is necessary, and students may get community service credit for their participation. To participate in this exciting event, contact Nicole Naditz at advocacy@flagsteacher.com.

To get more information about all these happenings, go to <http://www.flagsteacher.com>. There you will find the FLAGS activities calendar, as well as flyers, maps, directions, and registration forms. Moreover, you will see announcements on advocacy issues, links for specific languages, and super opportunities for you to tell us what you would like to see FLAGS do for you in our periodic "FLAGS Polls." There is even a link to the electronic version of the *FLAGS Pole* publication.

Well, that's all for now. Stay well and continue the wonderful work you do that makes us all proud of our profession!

Un abrazote,

Ruth

CLTA Celebrates 40 Years at March 2010 Conference

During the weekend of March 12-14, 2010, CLTA celebrated its 40th anniversary at the annual conference in San Diego. In addition to the regularly anticipated workshops and interest sessions, attendees had a chance to remember the many leaders who contributed to building the present-day professional association that serves language educators around the state today.

There were several changes in the conference format this year to respond to the challenge of finding funding to attend the conference. In an effort to provide more opportunities for local teachers to attend workshops even though they may not be able to get funding for a substitute, CLTA scheduled workshops late on Friday evening. Another way to reduce costs for participants was to eliminate the banquet on Friday evening and continental breakfast on Saturday morning. The government grant awards were announced during the lunch on Saturday and the Outstanding Teacher awards were presented during the Sunday brunch which rounded out the conference.

At the Plenary session on Saturday, conference attendees heard from Joe Nuñez, Director of Governmental Relations for the California Teachers Association. He gave us an update on the state of educational affairs in the state, confirming what many of us already know: we are facing difficult times ahead. He also encouraged us to be advocates for our students and classes.

On Saturday evening, CLTA hosted a 40th birthday bash to celebrate the 40 years of CLTA's existence. ACIS sponsored appetizers and attendees heard from the wife of Hal Wingard, CLTA's first Executive Director who passed away last year. There was a photo show of pictures from past CLTA conferences, and Treasurer Sue McKee had saved all of the past conference programs and had them on display, bringing back lots of memories. Attendees could also participate in a CLTA trivia quiz to test their knowledge of CLTA history. The winner of the competition was announced at the Sunday brunch, and as an extra surprise, the winner was Christine Lanphere from FLAGS!

FLAGS was well represented at the conference with presentations by Ruth Ward, Nicole Naditz, Christine Lanphere, and Cindy Peiper. Next year's conference will be held March 17-20, 2011, in Santa Clara which makes it really accessible to us in Sacramento. Be on the lookout for conference registration information soon on the CLTA website at www.clta.net.

FLAGS to Offer Small Grants to Teachers

by Nicole Naditz

In our ongoing effort to increase benefit to our members, the FLAGS Board has approved the creation of two small grants to help FLAGS members (and their students) participate in community-based language activities.

The first grant is designed to help teachers participate in *Read Around the World*, a program in which language students (and those who speak a language other than English at home) select a children's story to read during a special story hour at their local public library. Teachers help the students select a story that will be engaging, develop a fun pre-reading activity to get the young audience excited and prepared for the story, use props such as puppets or felt board while telling the story, and create a fun "take-away" item, such as a coloring page related to the story. In essence, the students use the same strategies that we use as teachers to make the story fun and accessible to their young audience.



The small grant for *Read Around the World* is designed to provide some financial assistance to teachers who need to purchase some more children's books or to purchase supplies for use during the event, such as poster paper, felt board, etc. The grant amount is \$50 and will be paid as a reimbursement to teachers after they do all of the following:

1. Complete the online application (available at the FLAGS Web site: <http://www.flagsteacher.com>)
2. Attend a training event about *Read Around the World* with the program organizer, Nicole Naditz (teachers who participated in *Read Around the World* in a previous year are exempt from this requirement)
3. Provide Nicole with the date, time, and

library branch location during which the *Read Around the World* session will take place

4. Keep and submit receipts for purchases being submitted for reimbursement up to the maximum amount of \$50
5. Submit photographic or video proof that the Read Around the World event took place as scheduled at the public library branch the teacher selected. Please note that we may use the photos and/or video in future publicity about this program. The information packet you will receive includes a photo/video release form that must be completed by all participating students and signed by their parents.

The second small grant will defray the costs of entering student work in the **Sacramento County Fair** by reimbursing teachers for the per-student entry fee for up to 10 students (currently \$2 per student). Please note the following:

1. Teachers must complete the online grant application for this grant in order to be eligible.
2. We will only reimburse for entries submitted by the deadline established by the Sacramento County Fair. This deadline will also be publicized on the FLAGS Web site once it is known. We will not reimburse late entries!
3. Teachers will be reimbursed **after** FLAGS receives confirmation from the county fair that their forms and payments have been received.
4. Teachers will still be responsible for dropping off projects the weekend before the fair and for attending the fair in order to pick up the projects on the last day of the fair at closing time (Memorial Day at 7:00 p.m.).

We hope that these two grant opportunities will encourage you to involve your students in these community-based activities. They are wonderful advocacy for your language programs. If you are interested in pursuing one or both of these grants, please complete the online applications available at our Web site: <http://www.flagsteacher.com>.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

(A regional affiliate of the California Language Teachers Association)

Membership Application or Renewal

January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

Circle One

Name (please print).....

New Renewal

Title (circle one) Miss Ms. Mrs. Sister Dr. Mr. Rev. Brother

Home Address.....CA.....

number street city zip

Home Phone (.....)..... School Phone (.....).....

School..... Language(s).....

School Address.....CA.....

number street city zip

E-mail..... Fax.....

(New members) I was encouraged to join by

Save by paying 2010 and 2011 dues at 2010 rates! (2011 FLAGS dues will be \$20.00)

FLAGS dues (\$17 Regular; \$10 Student; \$5 Retiree) \$_____ (A)
(2 years = \$34.00 regular)

CLTA dues (\$50 Regular; \$40 Student or Retiree) \$_____ (B)
(2 years = \$100.00 regular)

TOTAL (A + B) \$_____

If paying FLAGS & CLTA dues, please make check payable to **CLTA** and send it with this form to:

MARGE SOTOMAYOR, CLTA Membership
PO Box 123
Ferndale, CA 95536

If paying FLAGS dues only, please make check payable to **FLAGS** and send it with this form to:

CHRISTINE LANPHERE, FLAGS Membership
9400 Trenholm Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95758



**FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER SACRAMENTO**

c/o Christine Lanphere
9400 Trenholm Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95758

**Check out the FLAGS
website!**
www.flagsteacher.com/



**What's your
membership status?**

Have you been wondering if you'd renewed your FLAGS & CLTA membership? If you're not sure, email Christine at membership@flagsteacher.com to find out.

Please renew today!

Stay connected:

Remember, the FLAGS Ning website has been replaced by the www.flagsteacher.com website.

Please reset your
bookmarks!