

## Presidents' Message

Winter 2013

*Chers Collègues,*

As we come to the end of our mandate, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect back on these four years of service. As with any organization, the strength of the whole depends on the commitment of each member to follow through on any given task. There is no way that we could have realized our year-to-year operations without the dedicated support of our Executive Council, indeed a superb team! We also recognize the vital role the participants had in making our events meaningful. When teachers come together, they validate each other. There is no doubt that the exchange of information and experiences that we shared enriched us both professionally and personally. Our objective has always been to be responsive to the needs of our members and to encourage their growth. Since collaboration has also been an essential part of our focus as leaders, we are grateful for all your input and the ongoing dedication you have shown in your development as teachers. And lastly, if not most importantly, we come away with a sense of deepened friendships, the gift we receive as we live our profession.

*Etre enseignant, ce n'est pas un choix de carrière, c'est un choix de vie. (François Mitterrand)*

### Recent Programs and Events

Our winter workshop on February 6 focused on French author and sociologist Azouz Begag. Professor Koffi Anyinefa of Haverford College began his presentation by providing an important overview of Post-colonial France, emphasizing the impact of ethnic and racial minorities on social, political and cultural aspects of current French society. Professor Anyinefa shared with us a valuable site to help us guide our students with the study of *Le Gone du Chaâba*:

<http://france.clg.ac-amiens.fr/quadriphonie/spip.php?article222>

Below is a cartoon by French cartoonist Jean Plantureux, who goes by the professional name Plantu. The sentiment of many Magrébins living in France is reflected in the political satire expressed in this clever cartoon.



As French teachers in the Philadelphia area, we are fortunate to be well-served by the resources and information made available locally by numerous world language associations, including the AATF. A recent example comes to mind: the Oral Proficiency Contest (February 26, 2013) sponsored by the MCATFL, which was a huge success. Everyone was touched by the enthusiasm and the competency of the participating students who went the extra mile to compete with their oral skills. Please consider seriously future participation in this worthy event. Perhaps other districts would even consider sponsoring a similar competition. Below is a photograph of the judges and the winners for each of the levels:



Please consult the new tab on our website menu bar called “Member Presentations.” Posting condensed versions of presentations is an efficient way to collaborate on our professional endeavors. In addition, when you are presenting at a conference, potential attendees that can consult the AATF website for a basic outline and/or pertinent contact information. Please send any relevant material to the co-presidents.

2013 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> year that our chapter administers the *Grand Concours* in our area, thanks to the dedicated commitment of Sister Mary Helen Kashuba. By now your students have had the chance to compete in the contest and we await the results culminating in the *Distribution des Prix* on May 16 at Chestnut Hill College.

Please watch for *Le Canard Déchaîné*- a Canadian publication that we make available to you via our listserv.

### **The AATF Listserv**

Our listserv is exclusively for members of both National and Philadelphia Chapter AATF, so be sure to include the \$8.00 Chapter dues when you renew National membership in the fall. (If you paid \$55.00, this did not include local membership.) We send reminders of meetings and other French-related events, as well as news to supplement the most recent newsletter.

The complete Listserv Policy is on our site, [www.aatfphila.org](http://www.aatfphila.org). Open French positions are posted upon request. If you are not on the listserv and would like to be included, please send a message to [BEACHLLOYD@erols.com](mailto:BEACHLLOYD@erols.com) And of course, if you would like to have your e-mail removed or changed, please let Joanne know:

Joanne S. Silver, Mgr.  
Beach Lloyd Publishers, LLC  
[www.BEACHLLOYD.com](http://www.BEACHLLOYD.com)

This past Saturday, some of us had lunch with Dr. Marilyn Conwell- a long time member of the EC and retired professor of French at Rosemont College. Dr. Conwell is the person who launched the center for the *DELF* exams and we are indeed fortunate to have had her at the helm of this endeavor. Dr. Conwell was a leading educator in our field who pointed out the myriad of applications that language teachers could use to awaken curiosity and learning inquiry by embracing the Internet.



Joanne Silver, Susie Ledieu, Rochelle Ostroff-Weinberg, Marilyn Conwell, Rita Davis, Andrée Tafoya, Pat Kendall

In conclusion, we want to convey our sincere thanks to all of you. We are assured that the organization is being left in good hands with the new officers and we wish them well as they begin their mandate. The new slate of officers will be announced at the April 20 Spring Conference.

Rita Davis [rdavis@agnesirwin.org](mailto:rdavis@agnesirwin.org)

Susie Ledieu [susanledieu@gmail.com](mailto:susanledieu@gmail.com)

### Calendar of Events

3/1–8/2013 AATF *Le Grand Concours* (Levels 01–5) [kashubam@chc.edu](mailto:kashubam@chc.edu)

3/7–10/2013 NECTFL (Baltimore, MD) <http://www.nectfl.org>

4/20/2013 8:30-1:00 MLAPV Spring Conference with AATs; see website for details:  
<http://www.mlapv.org/Conference-Info.html>

9:00-10:15: breakout session: AATF: *Musical Expression during the Nazi Occupation* presented by Joanne Silver

11:00- 12:30: Myriam Met speaker. Myriam Met is currently an independent consultant, former Acting Director, Deputy Director, and a Senior Research Associate at the National Foreign Language Center. Dr. Met's current work focuses on strategic support for K-12 programs for foreign language learners and for students learning English.

Please look over the Information regarding the computer-generated poster contest and encourage your students to participate! *Poster theme: Oh the places you'll go.....learning languages! Please go to:*  
[https://www.dropbox.com/invite\\_register?email=rdavis%40agnesirwin.org&k=NfGML3bqbkifi7usiCZd0zzHcGwz8al2&cont=/invite%3Fk%3DnfGML3bqbkifi7usiCZd0zzHcGwz8al2&eh=](https://www.dropbox.com/invite_register?email=rdavis%40agnesirwin.org&k=NfGML3bqbkifi7usiCZd0zzHcGwz8al2&cont=/invite%3Fk%3DnfGML3bqbkifi7usiCZd0zzHcGwz8al2&eh=)  
in order to access the MLAPV digital drop box.

- 4/20/2013      International Spring Festival (Lansdale, PA, North Penn High School)  
<http://internationalspringfestival.com/>
- 4/26/2013      IUP Spring Methodology Conference [www.chss.iup.edu/spanish/methodsconf](http://www.chss.iup.edu/spanish/methodsconf)
- April 2013      MCATFL Spring Conference [www.mcatfl.org](http://www.mcatfl.org)
- 5/16/2103      AATF Distribution Des Prix (Chestnut Hill College) [kashubam@chc.edu](mailto:kashubam@chc.edu)
- 7/11–14/2013      AATF National Conference (Providence, RI) [www.frenchteachers.org](http://www.frenchteachers.org)