

WNYFLEC Newsletter

Spring Issue

March/April 2011



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WNYFLEC's S.T.A.R. (Student, Teacher and Recognition) AWARDS PROGRAM

STARRING: WNYFLEC Members and Their STUDENTS!

Join us on June 1, 2011 as we honor the following individuals:

- Outstanding Foreign Language Students (nominated by their teachers)
 - WNYFLEC Poster Contest Winners
- WNYFLEC Award Winners (teachers nominated by their peers)

PURPOSE: To honor outstanding foreign language students and their teachers. The awards program is intended for these students, their parents, and their teachers. Teaching members of WNYFLEC make the student award nominations, while any member of WNYFLEC may nominate a peer or associate for a WNYFLEC professional award.

NOMINATION: Any teacher who is a WNYFLEC member may nominate **up to 3 students** to participate in this awards program. **To do so the teacher must do the following by APRIL 15th:**

- 1) Complete & mail the enclosed nomination form.
- 2) Send a check payment with the form to cover the cost of the banquet if attending and the nomination fee for up to 3 students.

PROCESS:

- 1) Teacher nominates student(s) by completing enclosed form and sending it with payment.
- 2) WNYFLEC Board sends letter to parents inviting them to the Awards Program (RSVP must be returned to attend).

- 3) If student cannot attend, a certificate will be sent to the teacher to give to the student on WNYFLEC's behalf.
- 4) Nominating teachers should plan on attending and will be included in the banquet ceremony.
- 5) Nominated students will receive public recognition, a certificate and a full dinner. Students may invite family members or friends at an additional cost. **Family RSVPs due to WNYFLEC by May 13th.**
- 6) Teachers or professional associates nominated for WNYFLEC awards will be nominated by WNYFLEC members by **March 25th**. Applications available at www.wnyflec.org under **Awards & Contests**.

WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. AWARDS PROGRAM:

Wed., June 1, 2011
6:00 PM

Michael's Banquet Facility
4885 Southwestern Boulevard,
Hamburg, NY 14075
(See page 8 for driving directions)

CRITERIA:

A student should be selected for nomination based on **any or all** of the following criteria:

- 1) Outstanding achievement in the foreign language.
 - 2) Outstanding effort.
 - 3) Appreciation of the value of studying other languages and cultures.
 - 4) Interest in pursuing foreign language study further.
- (SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE INFO)**



A Letter From Our President. . .

Dear Colleagues,

Last weekend I participated in a very perplexing conversation with my grandmother. It felt more like an Abbott and Costello bit than a conversation, really, as it went on for several minutes but in a very circular fashion (“Who’s on First!” “That’s what I just asked!”), with both my grandmother and myself becoming more and more frustrated as time passed. The topic of this conversation? Nothing less than the annual blessing of the family Easter basket. My grandmother (or my Babcia, as it would be more accurate to call her, as my mother’s family is Polish and the grandmother to which I am referring is my mother’s mother; “Babcia” meaning “grandma” in Polish) holds fast to a long-standing family tradition of filling a basket with a representation of Easter foods intended to be consumed by the family at our Easter meal and sending it with a family member to be blessed by our parish priest. What’s in the basket? Items vary from family to family, but for us the basket holds homemade cheese, kielbasa, some boiled egg, slices of ham, a loaf of rye bread, pork, salt and pepper, and a homemade butter lamb (lovingly made by my grandfather and my younger brother back in the day; now, after my grandfather’s passing, just my brother). All of these items are carefully considered, painstakingly prepared, and strategically put together into one balanced parcel for the Big Day. The lucky family member who has the honor of ferrying the food-laden basket from Babcia’s house to church and back again? Yours truly.

The basket has been my responsibility for almost 30 years: as a younger child it was my responsibility to simply carry it from the parking lot into the church; then, as I got a little older, to walk it from Babcia’s house the few blocks to the church; and finally, to drive my own car over to pick up the basket for the blessing. This year will mark the first time in almost three decades that I will not be able to take the basket to be blessed—I will be out of town and therefore unable to complete my task. I told my Babcia about my conflict last weekend, feeling helpful as I informed her, “I can’t be here to take the basket but Diana (my sister) says she’ll do it.” I had found another family member to make sure that the basket gets blessed on the appointed day at the appointed time in my absence. No big deal, right? Wrong! My Babcia worked herself into a lather, repeatedly questioning, “But how are you going to take the basket?” and “Who will take the basket?” At first I thought she was kidding, so I laughed. Then I realized that she was serious—she had come to rely on my taking care of the basket for so long that the thought of me not being involved was truly a shock for her, and even though I was able to secure a perfectly good substitute in my sister, she was unable to see beyond the immediate absence of myself in this equation. She was perplexed by the unexpected change in routine, and I was truly perplexed by how shattered she was by the change in question. Which got me thinking. . .

As I write this, we are just weeks away from when the NYS Proficiency Exams would normally be given: exams that, like my Babcia’s basket, would contain items that had been carefully considered, painstakingly prepared, and strategically put together into one balanced parcel for the Big Day. In reality, the world would not stop turning if the basket were, for some reason, unable to be blessed, nor would my family refrain from eating those same Easter foods that we have eaten for as long as I can remember. Similarly, while the elimination of these examinations *cannot* and *should not* be overlooked, the reality is that even without them my job is still the same: to educate, inform, and prepare students to successfully communicate in a LOTE, enabling them to better make both short- and long-term contributions to the community. I’m not happy about the sneakiness taking place in Albany regarding these and other cuts, or that so many questions still remain unanswered, nor am I happy with the few answers that *are* being given. But while I make my phone calls, and send my faxes, and write my letters of protest, I still have a job to do, one which now, unfortunately, involves creating a final assessment to compensate for the lack of one formerly created by the state. None of our students can afford inaction on our part, regardless of how shattering the exam eliminations are. Our students need us to think outside of the box (or basket, if you will), and to devise a satisfactory substitute that will get the job done and work for all parties involved.

As you prepare for that Big Day, may your items be carefully considered, painstakingly prepared, and strategically put together into one balanced parcel.

Ellen Connell, President

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR : 2011

| EVENT | DATE | SITE / INFORMATION |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| WNYFLEC Awards—Nominations (MaryAlice Seagrave Award, Anthony Papalia Award, Teacher Incentive Grant, WNYFLEC Service Award, Friend of Foreign Language Award) | March 25, 2011 | Due to Amanda Repasky: 108 C Windsorshire Drive Rochester, NY 14624 arepasky@wnyflec.org |
| WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. (Student, Teacher and Recognition) Award Nominations Select up to 3 of your students to receive recognition for their efforts in LOTE | April 15, 2011 | Due to Julie Aguglia 61 Pamela Court West Seneca, NY 14224 jaguglia@wnyflec.org |
| Maryalice Seagrave Award—Nomination Nominations for this award have been extended due to the award's (and it's namesake's) importance to WNYFLEC. Please consider nominating a colleague for this award today! | April 18, 2011 | Due to Amanda Repasky: 108 C Windsorshire Drive Rochester, NY 14624 arepasky@wnyflec.org |
| NYSAFLT Colloquium "Best Practices in Assessment" | April 29-30, 2011 | Best Western Albany Airport Inn 200 Wolf Road Albany, NY See nysaflt.org for details! |
| WNYFLEC S.T.A.R Award RSVPs Reservation responses due from nominated students and their families/guests | May 13, 2011 | Due to Julie Aguglia 61 Pamela Court West Seneca, NY 14224 jaguglia@wnyflec.org |
| WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. Awards Ceremony Join us as we honor Western New York's outstanding LOTE students! | June 1, 2011 6:00pm check-in | Michael's Banquet Facility 4885 Southwestern Blvd. Hamburg, NY 14075 |
| NYSAFLT Summer Institute, Co-sponsored by NNELL and NYSED "21st Century Skills: Building Global Literacy" | August 2-5 | The Morris Conference Center Oneonta, NY See nysaflt.org for details! |





WNYFLEC POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Each year WNYFLEC sponsors a poster contest during National Foreign Language Week in which it recognizes a Grand Prize Winner and Winners of the following Divisions—Grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Only students of WNYFLEC members are eligible to enter. The winners for this year's contest are as follows:

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: (receives \$50 and a certificate of participation, and also has the original poster duplicated and framed)

Darianna Borowiec, an 8th grader from Orchard Park Middle. Lendra Kress is her teacher.

DIVISION WINNERS: (All Division Winners receive \$25 and a certificate of participation)

6-8: Emily Hahn, an 8th grader at Orchard Park Middle School. Lendra Kress is her teacher.

9-12: Hannah Gullo, a 10th grader at Depew High School. Mary Ellen Gianturco is her teacher.

Congratulations to this year's winners for an excellent job!!

Encourage your own students to participate in this yearly event—they could be next year's winners!!!



Are you a member of the WNYFLEC Listserv?

If you updated or confirmed your email information during our Going Green transition you should be receiving electronic updates from WNYFLEC, including newsletter notifications.

If you, or someone you know, are not receiving these updates, please contact Membership Chair Mark Critelli at membership@wnyflec.org to make sure that WNYFLEC has correct contact information for you.

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Date pd. | _____ |
| Check # | _____ |
| Amount | _____ |
| Entered | _____ |

WESTERN NEW YORK FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATOR'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Note: YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

(Membership runs on the calendar year: January - December)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Language(s) Taught: _____

School District: _____

or College/University _____

*E-Mail: _____

(*An email address must be provided, and kept current, to ensure receipt of electronic newsletter delivery)

Please check this box if any of your information is new.

| | NEW | RENEWAL |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| College Student (provide proof of <u>full time</u> schedule) \$ | 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regular Member | \$ 22.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Retired Member | \$ 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lifetime Member | \$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please consider making a donation to WNYFLEC to help support one or more of the following scholarship funds:

Anthony Papalia Award (tuition assistance) \$ _____

Teacher Incentive Grant (project-based funding) \$ _____

Humanitarian Award (to fund philanthropic efforts) \$ _____

General Scholarship (divided equally among awards) \$ _____

ENTER TOTAL PAYMENT HERE: \$ _____
(Total payment should reflect member fee plus any donations, if applicable)

WNYFLEC is an organization made up of volunteer members who care. Please visit us online at www.wnyflec.org and register to volunteer on a committee (or on an "as-needed" basis). Your talents are needed to help LOTE flourish in our area!

Check the newsletter or website for information on upcoming events to see where help is needed - ANY time you can give would go a long way in promoting Foreign Language in Western New York.

For U.S. Mail: Send checks, payable to **WNYFLEC**, along with this form to:
 Mark Critelli ♦ 4089 Knoll Drive #2 ♦ Hamburg ♦ NY ♦ 14075

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR REGIONAL CONFERENCE &
FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK KICKOFF
RAFFLE WINNERS!!!!**

| PRIZE /BASKET | WINNER |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wine Basket | Kelly Williams |
| Spanish Countries Sampler Basket | Ellen Connell |
| Tasty Snacks and Beverages | Maria Work |
| Carriage House Café Gift Card | Julie Aguglia |
| Lotions and Potions | Lori Swiatkawski |
| Silpada Gift Card | John Nusial |
| World Languages Flashcards | William Heller |
| French Countries Sampler Basket | Nicole Roche |
| Vivid Hair Salon Gift Card | Claudine Izydorczak |
| Lladró | Peggy Ivancic |
| 50/50 Raffle | Kelly Williams |
| Travelogs Gift Basket | Damian Tremblay |
| Bath and Body—Women's | Allison Smerka |
| Bath and Body—Men's | Jennifer Springer |
| Spanish Four Years | Megan Paluch |
| Dos Cuentos Biculturales Trio | Jessica Lundquist |
| French is Fun | Marie Ruth Dubisson |
| Le Français Essential 1, 2 and 3 | Sandy Rosa |

*WNYFLEC apologizes for any mistakes made in the spelling of names.

Greetings from NYSAFLT! We hope your school year has been a good one thus far, and wish you a happy Spring! June is just around the corner!!

Welcome to our 2011 NYSAFLT President, Nancy Ketz. Nancy has been very busy since she took over the presidency, working for all of us to figure out just what it is that is happening in Albany. Unfortunately, there are still not many answers for LOTE. The theme of Nancy's presidency is "Synergy = Strength". According to Webster's Dictionary, synergy is "a mutually advantageous conjunction of distinct participants or elements". We at NYSAFLT are a large organization of members with varied skills, talents, and resources, and also varied contacts. We all know BOE members, administrators, parents and even students, who are supportive of foreign language. Now is the time to tap into those resources to share their perspectives with our representatives in Albany. Obviously we as foreign language teachers appreciate the value of what we do; maybe it's time that it be known that others value it, too.

At the January Board of Directors meeting it was decided to make public archived (all but the most recent issue) *NYSAFLT Journals*. So if you are looking for a valuable resource and are not a NYSAFLT member (or if you just can never remember that username and password!), you now have access to these articles. Speaking of the *NYSAFLT Journal*, kudos to WNYFLEC member Bill Heller, co-author of the outstanding article "Cultural Perspectives in the Language Classroom: Providing a Meaningful Context for Communication", available in the latest *Journal*.

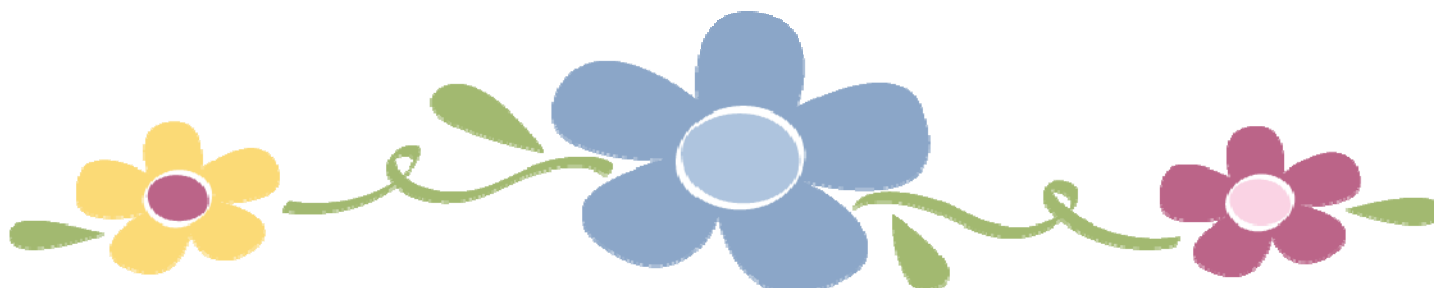
Congratulations, also, to WNYFLEC member (and treasurer!) Kristina Strauss, whose students won the Middle School division of the inaugural NYSAFLT Videocast Contest. Visit www.nysaflt.org to see all of the video entries.

Don't forget about our upcoming NYSAFLT events. Plan now to attend the following: NYSAFLT Colloquium, April 29-30 in Albany (*Best Practices in Assessment*); Summer Institute, August 5-8 at SUNY Oneonta (*21st Century Skills: Building Global Literacy*); and the Annual Conference, October 14-16 in Rochester (*Best of Language Learning: People, Programs and Practices that Inspire*). NYSAFLT also continues to offer Professional Webinars for Educators for your convenience. Past webinars are available "on demand" from the NYSAFLT website. Of particular interest may be the March 14th webinar, "Exam and Item Writing for LOTE – A Do-it-Yourself Guide".

Finally, our condolences to the family and friends of Bob Ludwig, first Executive Director of NYSAFLT, who passed away recently. He will be missed by the NYSAFLT community, and by language teachers throughout New York State.

Wishing you a successful end to the school year. Please know that NYSAFLT continues to advocate for you and for LOTE. Visit www.nysaflt.org for any updates and messages regarding the state of LOTE.

JoAnn Thomasson and Eileen Angelini, NYSAFLT Reps



S.T.A.R. AWARDS CEREMONY, *continued*

For the fourth consecutive year the **S.T.A.R. Awards** ceremony has been restructured to place more of a focus on our outstanding colleagues and the outstanding foreign language students out there—not necessarily the students with sky-high averages or who have the available resources to take the national language exams on that one Saturday morning, but the ones who show up every day, who are interested in LOTE and who try their best, even if they're not Honor Roll students.

It is for this reason, combined with the large undertaking of revamping the awards ceremony, that WNYFLEC will once again not be providing a venue for the national language exam organizations to announce their exam winners this year. While WNYFLEC applauds and fully supports the students and teachers involved in the national language contests, the intense restructuring and combining of the Outstanding Student Awards and WNYFLEC Professional Awards into the S.T.A.R. Awards Ceremony does not enable us to add the foreign language exam winners *at this time*.

This year's ceremony will follow the same format : 1) A full buffet dinner (6:00 check-in, 6:30 pm dinner with awards immediately to follow); 2) Teachers may nominate up to 3 outstanding students, paying a nomination fee of \$7

each (**NOTE**: this does not include the banquet dinner cost: if a student attends the banquet, parents are required to pay additional fee) 3) As usual, nominating teachers will be included in the awards ceremony, but will be asked to pay a banquet fee of \$15 for themselves (which is only a portion of WNYFLEC's actual cost); 4) Family members of nominated students will be invited to attend the dinner, at additional cost; 5) WNYFLEC Professional Awards will be included; 6) Teachers or associates who are nominated for a WNYFLEC Professional Award (Maryalice Seagrave Award, Friend of Foreign Language, etc.) will dine free of charge, courtesy of WNYFLEC (RSVP still required—please note on your form or in your RSVP that you are a WNYFLEC Award nominee).

Please take the time to nominate a colleague for the Maryalice Seagrave Award—application is due by **April 18th**, and is available on www.wnyflec.org under **Awards & Contests**.

Please also be sure to take advantage of the newer student award nomination regulations and **nominate up to 3 of your outstanding students on the Student Nomination Form found on the next page, by April 15th.**

We hope to see you at Michael's on June 1st!

Directions to Michael's Banquet Facility for the S.T.A.R. AWARDS PROGRAM—June 1st at 6:00 p.m.

From the Northtowns:

Take the 90 West, get off at Exit 57 Hamburg **Pay Toll and immediately veer right and head North onto Rt 75 (Camp Rd).

At your first intersection, Rt 75 and Rt 20 (Southwestern) Turn Right (there is a Mobil Gas Station and a Ford Dealership on the right corner).

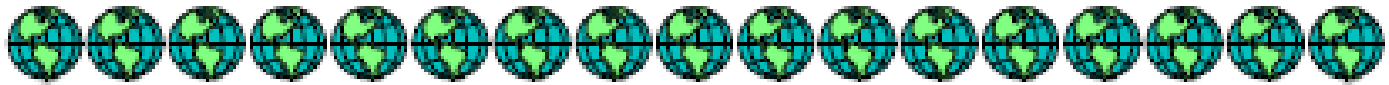
Michael's is just one mile down, on the right.

From the Southtowns:

Take the 90 East, get off at Exit 57 Hamburg. ** Pay Toll and immediately veer right and head North onto Rt 75 (Camp Rd).

At your first intersection, Rt 75 and Rt 20 (Southwestern) Turn Right (there is a Mobil Gas Station and a Ford Dealership on the right corner).

Michael's is just one mile down, on the right.



WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. Nomination Form

Please print all information and return this form by April 15th to the following address:

Julie Aguglia
61 Pamela Court
West Seneca, NY 14224

Teacher Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Email Address: _____

Phone #: (day) _____ (evening) _____

****You may nominate up to 3 students for the S.T.A.R. awards banquet****

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian (s): _____

Home Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian (s): _____

Home Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian (s): _____

Home Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Number of Nominated Students: _____ @ \$7/student \$ _____

(NOTE: this fee does not cover student's meal: parent is responsible for remainder of cost if attending)

Teacher cost if attending awards ceremony: \$15 \$ _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: WNYFLEC (maximum of \$36)





WNYFLEC Regional Conference 2011

“This is the BEST WNYFLEC Conference I’ve attended in years! In fact, I was disappointed to have to choose among several new presentations.”

“It’s nice to have new presenters!”

“*Literacy Routines and Reading in the Target Language* were the best two sessions I have ever been to at WNYFLEC or NYSAFLT.”

“The atmosphere was very welcoming and the presenters were informative.”

These are just a few of the comments after the 2011 WNYFLEC Regional Conference, held on March 5th at West Seneca West Middle School. While it was a dreary day outside, inside the smiles and camaraderie made for a perfect day. With 18 different workshops from seasoned as well as new presenters, extended exhibitor viewing time, and some delicious food to boot, there was something for everyone.

Thank you to Nancy Ketz, 2011 President of NYSAFLT, who started the morning with an update on what NYSAFLT has accomplished in the past year, and how NYSAFLT continues to advocate for LOTE in NY State. Thank you to Castle Learning, who provided refreshments for a “pick-me-up” coffee break mid-morning. While it was a long day, most attendees found it very worthwhile.

Thank you to McGraw-Hill for their donation of two door prizes – the free raffle ticket was a special treat for all the day’s attendees.

I would personally like to thank the WNYFLEC Board for all the work they put into the conference. As a co-chair, it is my name that you see attached to everything conference related, but the entire Board is involved in conference planning, set-up, raffle donations, etc.

And finally, I would like to thank all of you who came out to the conference this year. Without you, there would be no Regional Conference. I also encourage you to invite your colleagues to join you next year. WNYFLEC does provide service hour verification sheets for each session of the conference, as well as networking time. The annual Regional Conference always provides a plethora of LOTE-specific Professional Development. Remember that we are always looking for more presenters – it’s never too early to submit a workshop idea.

For more information about the conference, contact JoAnn Thomasson at jthomasson@wnyflec.org.

Thanks, and see you next year!!

JoAnn Thomasson
WNYFLEC 1st Vice-President
Regional Conference Co-Chair



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Send newsletter corrections to
Amanda Repasky at
arepasky@wnyflec.org .

How did your school or district
celebrate **National Foreign Language
Week** this year?

Submit an article for the newsletter!
Send submissions to are-
pasky@wnyflec.org.

****We'd love to hear from you!****

Québec City Montréal

*La Joie de
Vivre !*

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travelogsinternational.com

The Deadline for
Nominating
Outstanding
Students is:
April 15th



Don't forget
to tell a colleague
about WNYFLEC
today!

- Don't forget to:
- Nominate a colleague for the Maryalice Seagrave Award by April 18th
 - Nominate your Outstanding Students by April 15th
 - Attend the S.T.A.R. Awards Ceremony on June 1st

WNYFLEC
c/o Mark Critelli, Membership Chair
4089 Knoll Drive #2
Hamburg, NY 14075

WNYFLEC NEWS

A publication of the WESTERN NEW
YORK FOREIGN LANGUAGE
EDUCATORS' COUNCIL