Chers collègues…

Is one a lot? Most of us would say "of course not!" One is the smallest number—just one more than zero—which is NOTHING! So, I have a proposition for our Cocorico readership for the coming school year. Please consider participating in (at least) one AATF of CNY activity… just one!

Consider the following activities in the works for 2015-16:

- Participate in our Fall workshop to be held Sat. Oct. 17 at the Onondaga Free Library. You can connect with other French teachers, learn some new strategies for your classroom, enjoy not one but two meals... all for one LOW PRICE!
- Attend our Fall Film Night to be held Nov. 5 at the Manlius Library. If you are in the classroom, also invite your students for the viewing of Les Vacances du Petit Nicolas!
- Join the fun for the 3rd Annual French Night at the Crunch (date TBD). Help us celebrate National Foreign Language Week by bringing students to the game! There is strength in numbers; let's beat last year's French group attendance of 320!
- Enroll your students in the 2016 Grand Concours (See Jennifer Kostolecki's article in this issue for exciting news about this year's contest)
- Nominate an outstanding student for the AATF of CNY scholarship
- April Showers bring... another AATF workshop. Details to follow!

Won't you consider joining us for at least ONE of these offerings developed and planned just for YOU? We'd also love to hear any ideas you have for future activities; remember, we are here for YOU!

All the best...
Robin Brown
President, AATF of CNY
Impressionist Art Nearby!

On Saturday June 6, 2015 a group of Fayetteville-Manlius High School students attended the *Monet to Matisse: The Age of French Impressionism* exhibit at the Munson-Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, NY. This excellent exhibit includes works from the Barbizon school, impressionist painters and post-impressionist painters, including Morisot, Cassatt, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir and Cezanne. Not only was it the perfect ending to the year for our French 3 students who study French Impressionism, but we hope to return in the fall with all our French students! The exhibit will be running until November 29 and the Institute offers docent led tours to school groups for $25 per class- What a steal! Visit [http://www.mwpai.org](http://www.mwpai.org) for more details and don’t miss out on this opportunity!

Check out this great opportunity!

If you...
1. - are an AATF of CNY member
2. - are interested in attending the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs Oct. 30-31
3. - have not attended a NYSAFLT annual conference in the past 5 years
... then this is for YOU!

This year, NYSAFLT would like to offer a $75 discount to one eligible member from each Member Organization to attend the Annual Conference this Fall.

PLEASE email Robin Brown ([rojobro58@gmail.com](mailto:rojobro58@gmail.com)) no later than Sept. 29 that you would like to participate in our raffle for this opportunity. A winner from AATF of CNY will be selected at random. We will notify NYSAFLT of our winner so that they can follow up with registration details.

IT'S SIMPLE! ENTER TODAY!!
CNY Chapter Represented at National Convention

Denise Mahns, Academic Projects Coordinator for the AATF of CNY, attended the National Convention of the AATF in Saguenay, Quebec from July 8th through the 11th, 2015. This year marked the 88th anniversary of the annual meeting of French teachers from throughout the United States. The event was held at the Hôtel Montagnais in Chicoutimi. Chicoutimi’s region, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, has the distinction of being the most francophone of regions in all North America: 98% of its inhabitants are French-speaking.

The Saguenéen welcome was warm and enthusiastic. In addition to sessions throughout the days of the Convention, several cultural activities rounded out the program. Participants had the chance to see a special preview performance of La Fabuleuse Histoire d’un Royaume, a massive theatrical review of the history of the region. They were also treated to a special dinner featuring local products (such as the succulent bleuets – a fruit, not a flower, in Quebec) and a showing of the movie Louis Cyr, about the life and times of the famous strongman from Quebec.

Cultural session topics included a closer look at Alsace; a taste of Liège, Belgium; music and traditions of l’Acadie; and the Printemps érable movement in Quebec. Methodology sessions covered such topics as mindfulness in the French classroom, immersion resources from Canadian sources, using short films in class; and memory and vocabulary acquisition. Look for more on the last two topics in upcoming AATF of CNY Workshops!

As a voting delegate for CNY, Denise joined in the unanimous adoption of the Convention’s resolutions and reports. One resolution in particular may interest some CNY chapter members: in 2018, the Convention may be held in either Martinique or Guadeloupe! Following the vote, delegates engaged in discussion groups by region to give feedback and chart a course for the future of the AATF.

Attending the National Convention is a marvelous experience, filled with networking and learning. In Saguenay, approximately 330 French teachers from the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels were in attendance. AATF of CNY member Abbé Guillet was also awarded the ISE Language Matters Award in absentia. Her win was previously reported in Le Cocorico.
AATF Scholarship Winner!

Elena Gupta of Lansing High School was honored at the LECNY May Celebration. She was the first ever recipient of the AATF of CNY Scholarship. As a senior, Elena scored a 5 on the French AP exam and was involved in the National Honor Society. She has also volunteered many hours at the Ithaca Science Center. She has also spent a summer as an intern at the French Immersion Program in Nova Scotia. Elena is currently attending Cornell University in the pre-med program and wants to become a doctor.

AATF of CNY Annual Scholarship

The annual scholarship will be awarded again in 2016!

Applications will be due April 1st.

Course Available through Open SUNY

The Québec Culture and Society course, created by David Graham, is now being offered online. Teachers and students anywhere can take the course for college credit, beginning this fall through Open SUNY. Québec Culture and Society, is automatically available online for students from other SUNY campuses as well as other private colleges.

The course can be viewed on the OpenSUNY website, here. When a student clicks on "Learn More & Sign Up" at the bottom of the course description they will be brought here for instructions on how to register for the course as a non-matriculated student or a degree seeking student.
Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jennifer Kostolecki and I am the Contest Administrator of the Central New York Chapter of the AATF. It is early, but there are a lot of changes for the upcoming year and I wanted to get the word out.

Our 2015 results were excellent! We had 2 Platinum Medal winners, 18 Gold Medal winners, 67 Silver medal winners, and 56 Bronze Medal winners, not to mention all of the honorable mention winners. Congratulations to all of the students and their teachers!! The AATF awarded a certificate to every student who participated in the contest and medals to the top ten nationally as well as certificates to our top ten scores in CNY at each level. Students who ranked at the top of each level locally were sent a prize from AATF of Central New York in honor of their achievement.

This year, National has taken a different approach with the medals. Medals will be awarded based on percentile, not rank. National will provide all certificates and medals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Winner</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest Score in each level/division</td>
<td>Platinum medal, plaque, and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95th Percentile</td>
<td>Gold medal and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85th -90th Percentile</td>
<td>Silver medal and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th - 80th Percentile</td>
<td>Bronze medal and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th - 70th Percentile</td>
<td>Mention d’honneur certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because National has moved to awards based on percentile, not rank, our chapter will not be awarding certificates and prizes for the top 10 in Central New York. We will continue to award a certificate and prize to the top score at each level for Central New York and we ensure that all participants will receive a certificate for their participation in the contest. Whatever the scores, we encourage you to celebrate student achievement. Individual teachers and schools are urged to give prizes, to incorporate awards into assembly programs, to publish names and photos of participants and to continue to use Le Grand Concours to promote excitement for the study of French.
Besides the awards, the other big changes are the exam itself and how you will be ordering the exam. *Teachers will order their Contest materials directly from National.* There is a standard National price for the exam and each Chapter adds an additional cost to cover local awards and prizes. For the current year, our chapter will use the standard National price, but this price may increase in the future. The estimated cost per student for members is $3.50, and for non-members $7.00 - the cost is the same for paper and pencil testing and on-line testing. Your AATF membership must be confirmed at time of order to receive member pricing.

Since 2016 is a transition year, there will be 2 types of exams available: paper and pencil testing and on-line testing. *The orders for the paper and pencil exams must be placed by December 15, 2015. There will be no exceptions to this deadline for the paper and pencil testing.* After December 15, 2015, only on-line testing will be available for enrollment. Teachers who opt for online testing will receive two years of past Contests on-line per student for practice purposes. Teachers who chose paper and pencil testing must purchase paper copies of the review materials. *Also, for those choosing the paper and pencil testing, the CDs will need to be purchased @ $7.00 and shipping will be charged at 10% with a $10 minimum for all materials and these prices include national awards.*

As for the on-line testing, any device that can access the internet can be used for testing: computers, tablets, and even phones. Students will be required to have headphones or earbuds for the listening comprehension portion of the Contest.

Advantages of on-line testing:
- Lower cost (since CDs are not required and shipping and handling changes are eliminated).
- Teachers may proctor their own students (since students will be using earbuds or headphones).
- Multiple levels may test at the same time, in the same room.
- Answers to questions are randomized, so it will not be necessary to test all students in a level at the same time.
- Immediate access to scores - as soon as students are finished testing, they will know how many points they earned. Teachers will be able to access this information (and could even use the Contest as a quiz or test grade in February or March!).

Guidelines for the paper and pencil testing remain the same:
1. All students (except FLES) must take the exam **Monday, March 7, - Friday, March 11, 2016.**
2. The contest must be administered by someone other than the teacher of the students involved.
3. **CORRECT TEACHER name** (not PROCTOR) MUST be on the student answer sheet.
4. The administered time of 60 consecutive minutes must be adhered to.
5. All students **AT THE SAME LEVEL** must take the exam **AT THE SAME TIME.**
6. Teachers need to **VERIFY STUDENT LEVEL & DIVISION** on all answer sheets.
7. **NO** test materials may leave the site until **after Friday, March 11,** except to mail the required forms. **THE ANSWER SHEETS WILL BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE SCORING CENTER FROM THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL.**
8. The school will purchase the required CD for each level.
The National French Contest will be during a date range because of the on-line testing:
Monday, March 7, - Friday, March 11, 2016.

The FLES contest dates will be **February 14 – 28, 2016**.

All teachers, whether members of AATF or not, are encouraged to enter their students in *Le Grand Concours*. This one-hour exam challenges students’ listening comprehension ability, knowledge of sentence structure, and vocabulary. It provides a valuable opportunity for our young francophones to demonstrate their language acquisition and to obtain well-deserved recognition for their efforts. The exam is now based more on what is being taught in schools and awards are more easily attainable by students.

In an effort to keep costs down, I will be doing as much correspondence as I can via email. Please make sure I have an updated email address for you and your colleagues. Also, please feel free to forward this information to other French teachers who have not been contacted regarding the National French Contest and have them contact me: mllereed@hotmail.com.

If you have any questions concerning the Contest such as eligibility, categories, etc., please contact me at your convenience.

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**AATF of CNY Fall Workshop: Vocabulaire et Mémoire**

Have you ever been frustrated trying to teach vocabulary or trying to help students remember what you've already taught? Then this workshop is for you! AATF of CNY is excited to welcome Jennifer Rich-Walters to present on improving memory and retention. She will offer specific teaching methodologies that will/can increase memory and retention and provide improved understanding of how memory works and how to increase storage and retrieval of information.

Registration forms will be sent out soon!
Visages

As many of you know, we like to feature members in this newsletter to introduce them and to highlight their accomplishments to our members. In this issue, I have been asked to highlight myself, to introduce myself to the readership. So here it goes…

My name is Paul Zimmerman and this is my 2nd issue as Editor of Le Cocorico. I am just kicking off my 10th year as a French teacher. I have been fortunate enough to have taught all 10 of my years at Chittenango Middle School. I feel so lucky to work with Jolene Bennett and Sarah Schiralli. They are such incredible teachers and have taught me SO much. In my humble opinion, they are two of the best French teachers in CNY!

I graduated from Westhill HS, knowing that I wanted to study French. It is because of Betty O’Hara, that I found my love of all things French. I received my BA from Niagara University and returned home to Syracuse to complete my studies at LeMoyne College. I completed my MST at LeMoyne in the spring of 2006 and began working in Chittenango in the fall of that same year. My wife, Leslie, and I have two sons. My oldest son, Noah, is five years old and our youngest son, Sam, is two years old.

What do I love about teaching French? Where do I start? One thing that I find to be rewarding is not the teaching of the language, but the acceptance and understanding of other cultures. I want my students to leave my classroom knowing the vocabulary and grammar, but more importantly, I want them to embrace the French culture.

My favorite day throughout the school year is our Mardi Gras celebration! We spend a few days leading up to Mardi Gras talking about the history and reasons behind the holiday. On Mardi Gras, we have a celebration of French foods. I bring in crêpes for the classes and they supply the rest. In recent years, it has really taken off and students have brought in so many dishes, ranging from; French onion soup, crème brûlée, quiche, croque monsieur, and macarons. To see these students trying new things and celebrating the French culture is just incredible!

I also love being able to travel with our students. Jolene and Sarah have organized trips to Québec and France and I have been fortunate enough to chaperone with them. I love having the opportunity to travel with former students to see how far their knowledge and love of French have come since I had them in 8th grade.

If you have someone that you think that we should feature in the upcoming issues of Le Cocorico, please let us know! E-mail me at pzimmerman@chittenangoschools.org.
Calendar of Events

October 17, 2015
AATF of CNY Fall Workshop
Onondaga Free Library
Syracuse, NY

“Vocabulaire et Memoire”

October 30 - 31, 2015
98th Annual NYSAFLT Conference
Saratoga Springs, NY

"Providing the Keys to College and Career Readiness"

November 5, 2015
Fall Film Night
6:15 PM
Manlius Library
Manlius, NY

Les Vacances du Petit Nicolas

March 2016
French Night at the Crunch
OnCenter War Memorial
Syracuse, NY

Scan this QR code to check out our website!
Looking to improve your French next summer? To renew your lesson plans? To better inform your students about France today? Join The French Traveler’s 12-day immersion program in fascinating southwestern France. Each summer we hold our workshop in a different city. Based in Toulouse in 2016, our morning seminars and afternoon excursions will give you a renewed understanding of France and greater pleasure in teaching French; seminar subjects reflect the themes taught in the advanced levels of French.

Leisure time and optional excursions increase your fluency & comprehension.

www.frenchtraveler.com  
trips@frenchtraveler.com  

Contact Valerie Sutter at:  
The French Traveler, Inc.  
1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd #346  
Coral Gables FL 33134  
Tel: 941 544 6777  
E: trips@frenchtraveler.com  
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À NOS ACTES MANQUÉS
UN, DEUX, TROIS
NÉ EN 17 À LEIDENSTADT
PEURS / RESPIRE
QU’EST-CE QUI T’AMÈNE
PERSONNE NE SAURAIT
LE PRIX À PAYER

DOWNLOAD a single song and lesson including introduction, Carole Fredericks’ biography, original French lyrics, related activities and answers bundled in a zip file for $5.95!

QU’EST-CE QUI T’AMÈNE
J’AI LE SANG BLUES
KAÏ DJALEMA / RESPIRE
LE PRIX À PAYER / MIGHTY LOVE
AU BOUT DE MES RÊVES
PERSONNE NE SAURAIT
ÉCOUE / VAIN’VEILLE
LE PRIX À PAYER / TU ES LÀ