Bonjour mes amis!

It is again with great pleasure and some stress that we come to the end of another school year. Those who are retired are smiling because they are out enjoying the sunshine instead of laboring away these final days. This year has been a transition year for me, as I have taken over as President of our local chapter.

Our Board of Directors has been working hard to keep up with the times, so to speak. We are now CTLE Certified by the New York State Education Department. For any of the AATF of CNY workshops you attend, you will receive a certificate and hours toward your Professional Certification. We have now updated all of our email addresses to gmail including the title we hold. For instance, my e-mail is presidentaatfcny@gmail.com. These can be found on our website and in this issue of our newsletter. We hope that this makes it easier for people to contact us and for leadership transitions in the future.

With the help of Cindy Elliott and LECNY, we were able to expand our French movie night to the Mohawk Valley, showing La Famille Bélier this spring at the Rome Capitol Theater in addition to the Syracuse-area showing at the Onondaga Free Library. We look forward to combining efforts again in the near future.

We have also increased our efforts to keep our members informed through email communications, our website and our Facebook page. Please frequent our website and like us on Facebook to get the latest and greatest information.

The Board invites members and friends of AATF of CNY to email the president or any officer with ideas that you have regarding our chapter. Are there certain events you would like to see? Our Dieu merci c’est vendredi French teacher happy hour may be returning in the fall. Would you attend? What workshops are you interested in? Do you have any ideas to improve how we function as a chapter? We would like to meet your needs as the only area organization specifically for teachers of French.

We are a transitional Board as well. We have absorbed the knowledge of our predecessors and will build upon those foundations. We want to continue to fulfill the needs of our current members and attract new members into our chapter. In conclusion, I ask you to reflect on what the AATF of CNY chapter offers you and provide suggestions to sustain and develop the future of our membership. Enjoy your summer and, for many, a well-deserved vacation. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the fall.

Amitiés,

Jennifer Kostolecki
Présidente
AATF of CNY
By now, your students should be enjoying their prizes and basking in the glow of their success on le Grand Concours. Although the administration of this year’s National French Contest was beset by delays and bad luck, Central New York French students managed to achieve excellent results.

656 Central New York students participated in le Grand Concours at all levels, from FLES to level 5. Nearly 80,000 students participated across the United States!

In Central New York, students earned 74 bronze medals, 66 silver medals, 21 gold medals and three platinum medals! The platinum award goes to a student with a perfect score. There were three students in Central New York with this remarkable achievement on the level 2 exam. Bravo!

Besides the national medal winners, many students earned an Honorable Mention certificate. The AATF of CNY is committed to acknowledging all students who attempt the challenge of the National French Contest with a participation certificate.

The top scorer(s) in each level of le Grand Concours received a prize and an explanation of the named award.

Participating school districts this year included:

- Ithaca
- Fayetteville-Manlius
- Liverpool
- Lansing
- Jamesville-DeWitt
- Cazenovia
- Marcellus

If you haven’t participated recently, consider le Grand Concours for next year. We look forward to a successful 2018 National French Contest. Administration dates for 2018 will be February 11-24 (FLES) and February 24-March 25 (levels 01-5). Mark your calendars and check your e-mail and the AATF of CNY website for updates this winter.
Anna Canny is a senior at Marcellus High School and the president of French Honor Society. As president she led multiple activities including a parents' night out where French Honor Society members provided free child care in exchange for canned goods. As a result, FHS donated nearly 700 cans to a food pantry. Anna also organized a Haiti fundraiser which included a t-shirt and a basket raffle. The funds will contribute to teacher salaries in a Haitian School. In addition, Anna tutors struggling students in French I and II. Anna is a hard-working, generous, and humble person. She is a phenomenal writer who is passionate and curious about the Francophone world. Next year she will attend Cornell University and plans to study Environmental Science with a French minor. She hopes to study abroad in a French speaking country.
Kotzin named AATF Outstanding Senior in French

by Hayleigh Gowans - Eagle Bulletin, Schools

The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) has announced that Noah Kotzin, a senior at JD High School, has received a 2017 AATF Outstanding Senior in French Award. This award is made annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in the study of French as well as exceptional commitment to the French language and the many cultures where it is spoken. Recipients must have completed at least three years of French study at the time of graduation and be non-native speakers of French.

Kotzin has studied French for five years and is the student of Solace Amankwah. He is a member of the National French Honor Society and has volunteered to help out with French Club activities at Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School. He is so interested in French that he has a French pen pal with whom he communicates regularly. He also has read a number of novels in French — “The Chronicles of Narnia,” the Harry Potter series and has watched all the Star Wars movies in French.

Kotzin and Principal Paul Gasperini
Over 50 students, teachers and community members from around the area came out to watch the French film, *La famille Bélier*, at the Rome Capitol Cinema on April 27th. The film, about a teenage girl who lives with her deaf parents and discovers that she has the gift of singing, was well-received when released in France in 2014. French Club advisors Cindy Elliott and Kathy Olney earned a Teacher Classroom Grant which funded the venue and allowed Rome Free Academy’s French Club to host the event at no cost to attendees. The film was shown in French with English subtitles so that all could enjoy. Students of all ages came from Rome, Whitesboro, Clinton, Notre Dame, Poland, Rome Catholic, and Hamilton College. Thanks to the support of Language Educators of Central New York (LECNY) and The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), the RFA French Club intends to hold more movie nights in the future.
Vocabulaire et Memoire

Église-mendiant-tapis-arme-chapeau-théière-dragon-canon-pomme… Study this list of terms for a few seconds. Next, close your eyes and recite the alphabet from A to Z! Now, without looking at the list of words above, write as many of them as you can… word order is unimportant! So, how many did you recall? Which were easy to recall? Which took more time to recall? How did you feel during this task? Confident? Uncertain? Maybe a bit like some of your students feel when they are asked to learn new vocabulary?

This was one of the memorization activities enjoyed by the participants of the Spring workshop held at the Onondaga Free Library on April 29th. Dr. Denise Mahns - Vice President of AATF of CNY and Fayetteville-Manlius High School teacher - shared a presentation on Vocabulary and Memory with the group. Dr. Yuya Matsukawa of University of Laval, Quebec, Canada gave this presentation at the 2015 AATF Convention, attended by Denise and many AATF members from throughout the US and Canada.

Other workshop activities included the use of word association, lexical differentiation and spider web as strategies for vocabulary recall and memorization.

Some ideas for teaching vocabulary include: Increase learners’ vocabulary size- Do not count on guessing strategies to replace vocabulary knowledge - Recycle words that have been introduced earlier in the course- Give frequent vocabulary tests- Create your own lexical syllabus.

Following the presentation, Denise led a roundtable discussion of participants’ favorite activities used in their own classrooms. Mnemonics, songs, games, books and videos are but some of the ways we share vocabulary. All agreed that vocabulary and memory are intricately connected; the key to success is exposure!
Des Announces

Full-time French position available at Bishop Grimes Jr./Sr. High School in East Syracuse, NY. Levels being taught include French I-V. Knowledge of Spanish, while not necessary, is a plus.

Interested applicants may send their cover letter, resume, and sample lessons plans to the attention of Brian Nolan, Principal, Bishop Grimes Jr./Sr. High School 6653 Kirkville Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057. Inquiries may also be made via e-mail, bnolan@syrdiocese.org, or phone, 315-437-0356.

Host Family Needed!!!

In search of a host family for students for the upcoming school year, preferably in the JD or FM area. The boys are 16 year old twins from China. They are honor students at CBA and return home over the summer. The boys are polite, quiet, and mature homebodies that like basketball and music.

The host family would provide room, board, and some transportation. Compensation is approximately $1,500/month for both. If you are interested, please contact Hongli Fan at Cortland honli.Fan@cortland.edu.
Engage your students and keep them interested in every class with contemporary French songs, music videos and exciting exercises. The musical legacy of American singer, Carole Fredericks and the French trio, Fredericks Goldman Jones, provide a wealth of pedagogical possibilities. Originally intended to entertain, their songs and music videos were transformed into powerful classroom teaching tools by veteran teachers. Select the Teacher’s Book that is right for your class: Elementary to Middle School or High School (including AP and Honors) to University. Each Teacher’s Book contains: reproducible activities, 1 CD or DVD, easy to understand instructions, classroom tested exercises for each song and video, vocabulary, grammar, assessment strategies, lyrics, and answer key. Great music! Jean-Jacques Goldman’s original lyrics! Culturally rich music videos and the legacy of an American in Paris.
"What I most enjoyed about the workshop is that I spent 2 weeks speaking only French and learning new things. It is almost irrelevant whether I use a few specific things in class, because I feel recharged and up-to-date on many aspects of la France actuelle." Betsy Nickerson, French teacher at the Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., spent last summer with us in France at our annual immersion program in Toulouse, and will be joining us again this summer in Aix-en-Provence. Each summer our workshop is held in a different region of France. We are full this summer in Provence, but think about joining us in 2018 in Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France, home to the Beaujolais, Paul Bocuse, and les Guignols. Your total involvement in French culture and language is bound to have an impact on your lesson plans and in the way students and parents perceive you as a teacher. Principals will be impressed with your efforts; you'll feel more confident about representing France today. Venez nous rejoindre en 2018! Rendezvous à Lyon!

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