

Chicago Area AATSP

Winter 2016 Newsletter

chicagoaatsp.org

RESULTS OF THE POSTER / POETRY CONTEST AT NILES NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Chicago AATSP held our 35th annual Poster/Poetry Contest last November 14th. The Poster Contest was open to 6th – 12th grade Spanish students. As always, the student creativity and artistic talents were outstanding. The entries were displayed at Niles North and *sobresaliente*, *excelente*, and *notable* ribbons were awarded before the ceremony. This year's Poetry Contest continued to grow, reaching over 100 students. We added a new category for upper level students who could write and recite their original works. From the elementary grades whose students memorized tongue twisters and “*retahilas*” to the challenging master and original works and speeches, the awards ceremony was a showcase of excellence and enthusiasm. Thank you to Elia López who has chaired this event for the last decade. She has poured her passion for poetry into the selection of every poem and organized and guided this event with outstanding leadership.

Celebrated posters and poetry contestants



Juliana Livieri, Niles North H. S.



Arianna Giannini, Hinsdale South



Alisa Scott, Josephinum Academy



St. Mary's School



Gems Academy



Baker Demonstration School



Walter Payton H. S.



Marist H. S.

ELECTIONS FOR OUR CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Congratulations to our new 2016 Executive Board. Elections were held for 2-year officer positions and 3-year term Executive Council members. Thanks to all who participated. The voting is one way to get to know some of the volunteers who help run the Chicago Area Chapter activities. These are the election results: Yolanda Rodríguez, Treasurer; Laure Aronica, Secretary; Beth Sánchez, NSE Coordinator; Andrea Contreras, Mayra Faddul, Laura Jacobson, Fran Mirro, and Susan Ranft are Executive Council members. They join the rest of the board who are fulfilling 2 and 3 year staggered terms.

Thank you, Laura Jacobson, for finishing a 3-year term to the national AATSP Board of Directors. Laura served as 1 of 3 high school representatives.

**NATIONAL
SPANISH
EXAMS
REGISTRATION
THROUGH
JANUARY**

NSE REGISTRATION for the 2016 National Spanish Exam closes January 31, 2016. You must be a current member in order to have the \$75 teacher fee waived. Please identify your chapter as 017 to be included in the Chicago Chapter awards. Our chapter has the largest number of student participants in the nation, and we are happy to honor them with our prize structure. Last year we awarded 329 monetary prizes totaling almost \$20,000. Following the national guidelines, we also sponsored five \$1,000 senior scholarships. Winners were from these high schools: New Trier, Lemont, Niles North, Highland Park and De La Salle.

The registration fee remains at \$6 per student. Please review general information online: www.nationalspanishexam.org. Also, if you are new to the Chicago Area Contest or have questions, please contact NSE coordinator Beth Sánchez at nsechicago017@gmail.com. All information about the Chicago Area Contest can be found at <http://www.chicagoaatsp.org/nse/index.html>.

**FEBRUARY 20TH WINTER WORKSHOP AT BARRINGTON H. S.
LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?**

This is a sure way to add a spark to your teaching. On FEBRUARY 20TH the Chicago Chapter AATSP will hold its annual winter workshop at Barrington High School. Our co-chairs, Bea Rodríguez and Marta Constenla, have planned a program to serve all levels from FLES to AP. The cost for members is \$10 and non members pay \$20. Registration will be sent mid-January. Mark your calendars!

**RECOGNIZE and NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE
2016 AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTION**

The **Chicago Area Chapter AATSP Award for Professional Distinction** is given yearly to an outstanding member or members of the Chapter who through his/her service, dedication and diligence to the profession of teaching Spanish or Portuguese has become a model for others in the field. The nominee must be a member of AATSP for at least 5 years and have regularly participated in at least 2 of the following: NSE (National Spanish Exam); AATSP Chicago Area Chapter workshop (attendee); Sponsor SHH or SHA (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica or de Amistades); Presenter at AATSP Chicago Area Chapter workshop or national conference or state, regional or national language conference; AATSP Chicago Area Poster/Poetry contest or National poster contest; board member on a language council. Past winners have been honored at our June Luncheon and received a monetary award of \$100. Nomination forms are available at our website.

National Poster Contest Opportunities for Grades K-12 Students

POSTER CONTEST Grades 6-12

Since our fall poster contest has requirements that don't match those of the National AATSP, our members are free to participate in this separate contest. Any member whose 6 – 12th grade students wish to enter may follow the requirements set by national and apply directly. Go to http://www.aatsp.org/?page=Posters_2016 and follow the instructions. Besides the traditional hand drawn contest, high schoolers (grades 9-12) have an additional opportunity to submit a digital poster.

**All grades 6-12 posters are submitted directly to national by April 1, 2016.*

POSTER CONTEST Grades K-5

Since our chapter has never offered its members an opportunity for grades K-5 poster contest participation, our chapter will act as the clearing house for participants in these grades. Students follow the same hand drawn requirements posted on the national site, but posters are to be sent to the following address by **February 27, 2016**: c/o Barbara Pietroski, 188 Timber Hill, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. Entries will be judged by a panel from the chapter and receive certificates of *sobresaliente*, *excelente*, and *notable*. The top posters will be sent on to be judged in the national contest and considered for national prizes.

Whether participating directly with national (grades 6-12) or with the Chicago Chapter (grades K-5) a teacher may submit a maximum of THREE (3) posters per category depending on grades taught. The categories are as follows: K-3rd and 4th-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th.

The 2016 theme to appear on all posters is

Abre puertas con el español or

Abra portas com o português

As the national site states, "The posters are a demonstration of student understanding of the importance and uses of learning new languages and an excellent project for Hispanic Heritage Month and Foreign Language Celebrations!"

The AATSP Poster Contest:

- Fosters collaboration within the school
- Promotes language study
- Provides an outlet for creativity and the visual learner
- Encourages creative thinking

**IL Council on
the Teaching
of Foreign
Languages
(ICTFL) -
another link
to
Professional
Development**

ICTFL Winter Fest is yet another professional development opportunity that aims to provide information and hands-on experience to help create an Integrated Performance Assessment. The product is based on real-life situations that are motivational to students. Come for a basic review of an integrated assessment, work with samples of the essential components---the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational assessments, and receive rubrics that you can use to evaluate your students in each area. The fest is at 2 sites:

Saturday, February 20th at Mahomet– Seymour High School, with presenters Ellen Ericson, Kimberly Yee and Jane Swisher.

Saturday, February 27th at Glenbrook North High School with presenters Leslie Rathunde, Michelle Parada and Talia Block.



Looking for a different language experience this summer? Join the ICTFL trip to Italy. For an itinerary and all information, go to the ICTFL site:

www.ictfl.org



Sadly, the Chicago Area Chapter shares the news of the passing of one of our leaders and past presidents, Sonia de Lama. Sonia immigrated to the United States from Cuba when she was 18. While she raised two small children in Chicago, she went to night school, eventually earning three degrees — including a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. This led to her teaching at the City Colleges of Chicago.

Sonia was very involved in AATSP. She was a regular instructor at the Spanish Immersion Weekend Programs for George Williams College. In addition, she taught at Benedictine College.

Sonia had a passion for teaching Spanish and helping other teachers. The council hopes to establish a scholarship in her honor. If you are interested in contributing, please contact us at chicagoaatsp@gmail.com.

FREE RESOURCES TO CONNECT TO CULTURE AND ART

Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute offers free admission to current Illinois educators, including pre-K-12 teachers. Educators can apply on-line to receive a voucher for a complimentary ticket to the museum. This voucher must be presented with a valid educator ID at one of the museum's admission counters.

The Crown Resource Center within the Art Institute

*taken from their site: <http://www.artic.edu/>

According to the website, "the Crown Resource Center is a reference library with art history and art-making resources, exhibition catalogues, gallery activities, interdisciplinary lesson plans, research files, teacher manuals, and videos/DVDs; many relate directly to the Art Institute's collection and a selection of items in the library is available for loan. Patrons may use the library and computer stations to conduct research or consult with museum staff to plan lessons." Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 1-5 Thursday, 1-7 Saturday, 10:30-4:30

The National Museum of Mexican Art

*taken from their site: <http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/>

This museum is also free. Its permanent collection highlights the stories of Mexican identity. The focus of the collection is "to present cultural identity as something that continually evolves across time, regions, and communities, rather than as a static unchanging entity, and features Ancient Mesoamerican and colonial artifacts, modern Mexican art, folk art, and contemporary works from both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border. The vast diversity of Mexican identities demonstrated in these works defies the notion of one linear history and a singular identity."



If you have a teaching or resource tip to share, please send it to chicagoaatsp@gmail.com



From our colleague and executive council member, Elia López, comes a recommendation especially in line with ICTFL's travel Italy theme: Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* and the rest of the *Neapolitan Tetralogy*!

From the Editor: Sponsor a Flamenco Workshop at Your School

I had the pleasure of hosting a flamenco show and workshop at my school. The performing ensemble was able to entertain 3-yr. olds to adults. Most of the artists have an education background that really made an impact on the show. There was a wonderful mix of art education, audience participation, and entertainment. The group's flexibility was also a positive. They arranged the day so that a series of 4 shows were in the morning and several workshops in the afternoon. I was able to get an arts grant to pay for this. This was one of the best programs I have been involved in and the students loved it.

Martin Metzger (guitar)

Martin has been playing guitar for the last 32 years. He has a jazz performance degree from DePaul University, and a Masters in Teaching from National-Louis University. He owns and teaches at his guitar studio, Metzger Music Studio. His love of guitar and traveling brought him to Spain on over 10 trips. He currently studies Flamenco guitar in Granada, Spain, which he considers the most inspiring flamenco city. He taught music for two years K-5, until his love of flamenco urged him to pursue the art full time.

Marisela Tapia (dance)

Mari is a very serious dancer, spending hours a day in intensive study with the Clinard Dance Studio. She has spent much time in Peru and performs all around Chicago. In addition to flamenco, Mari studies belly dancing.

Patricia Ortega (voice)

Patty has a degree in music education, and teaches an after school flamenco program to youths in high risk. In addition, she performs in various groups, from flamenco to latin and pop. Patty has studied flamenco for 15 years and has been to Spain several times to study.

Diego Alonso (guitar)

Diego is one of the most knowledgeable flamenco guitarists in Chicago due to his intensive 3 year study in Sevilla, Spain. He has been playing guitar for 20 years and understands the forms extensively. Diego currently performs around Chicago, often with visiting artists from Spain.

Contact: www.metzgermusicstudio.com or metzgermartin@hotmail.com

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