

96th
AATSP
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
PANAMA CITY,
PANAMA, JULY 2014

Chicago Area AATSP

Winter 2014 Newsletter

chicagoaatsp.org



Participants of the Poetry Contest with teachers. Above: Students from Lincoln Elementary School in Oak Park and below, home-schooled high schoolers.



RECENT EVENTS — POSTER / POETRY CONTEST AT NILES NORTH H. S.

Chicago AATSP held the 34th annual Poster/Poetry Contest on November 16th. The Poster Contest was open to 6th – 12th grade Spanish students of our members. As always, the student creativity and artistic talents were outstanding. All entries were displayed at Niles North and *sobresaliente*, *excelente*, and *notable* ribbons were awarded before the ceremony.

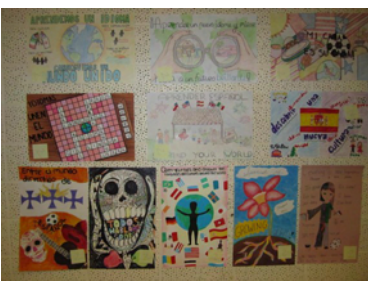
This year's Poetry Contest expanded to include elementary grades whose students memorized tongue twisters and "retahílas" - sorting rhymes similar to "eenie, meenie, miny, mo." Many of these students volunteered to enthusiastically share their selections during the award ceremony. Older students chose poems to memorize and interpret, or prepare a speech on a topic. Some students even elected to present both. Thanks to all who participated!

COMING UP — FEBRUARY 22ND WINTER WORKSHOP AT BARRINGTON H. S.

Chairpersons Marta Constenla and Beatriz Rodriguez are busy preparing a varied program for our Winter Workshop that will take place from 9 to noon on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. The sessions will include a variety of topics, in keeping with the theme— Something for Everyone. We look forward to the sharing of expertise in the areas of reading, writing, and technology.

Information and Registration materials will be following soon.

*ICTFL also presents their Winter Fest workshops in February.



Above, *Sobresaliente* Posters

ELECTIONS FOR OUR CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Congratulations to our new 2014 Executive Board:

President: Barb Pietroski **Vice-President:** Lori Willer **Treasurer:** Yolanda Rodriguez

Secretary: Susan Ranft **NSE Coordinator:** Beth Sanchez **Past President:** Tracy Turner-Ojeda

We are always looking for a few dedicated professionals to help us in our work, aiming to provide opportunities for our members and their students. If you're interested, please contact anyone on the council.

NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

The national AATSP has recently expanded their FLES poster contest so that students in grades K – 12 can participate. New this year for grades 9—12 is a digital poster category as well. Since national requirements are different from the Chicago chapter's, our students' poster entries are not eligible for this contest. However, we encourage our members to look into this opportunity for their students. The deadline is April 1, 2014. Please contact Crystal Vicente: cvicente@athensacademy.org

NATIONAL SPANISH EXAMS REGISTRATION THROUGH JANUARY

NSE REGISTRATION for the 2014 National Spanish Exam closes January 31, 2014. 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 352 monetary prizes totaling \$18,500 in prize money. Following the national guidelines, we also sponsored two \$1,000 senior scholarships for the third time from the Chicago Area Chapter; three additional Chicago Area students who applied for Senior Scholarships were awarded \$500 each. 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 co-coordinator Mary Jo Aronica at mjateacher@aol.com or Beth Sanchez at julidani@aol.com.

SHH

From our Chicago Area Secretary and Illinois State Director of the SHH, also recently appointed Region III Director of the SHH—Susan Ranft

Does your school have a Spanish Honor Society chapter?

There are so many benefits for students when they become members. Not only do they earn the recognition of having been inducted into a national honor society, they are also given opportunities to serve their communities and to grow as leaders. Students who are members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica are encouraged to submit their original Spanish poetry, prose or their artwork for publication in *¡Albricias!*, the national magazine of the SHH. There are also wonderful scholarships available to your students who are members. Each year your SHH chapter can select one of your junior students to apply for a travel scholarship and a senior to apply for a college scholarship. For more information, please visit the SHH website at www.aatsp.org/?SHH, or contact the Illinois State Director, Susan Ranft at susran@d219.org

SPRING AND SUMMER 2014 OPPORTUNITIES

RECOGNIZE and NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE 2014 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 conference; AATSP Chicago Area Poster/Poetry contest or National poster contest. Past winners have been honored at our June Luncheon and received a monetary award of \$100. Nomination forms are available at our website.

Kathryn Davis Fellowships for Peace: Investing in the Study of Critical Languages **DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2014**

Middlebury College has announced The Kathryn Davis Fellowships for Peace: Investing in the Study of Critical Languages. Thanks to a gift from Kathryn Davis, 100 fellowships will be awarded to cover 100% of tuition, room, and board for a summer language study that includes beginning to advanced levels. These fellowships are awarded through a competitive, merit-based process in any of the ten languages offered at Middlebury College Language Schools: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian. The Davis Fellowships are intended for exceptionally qualified individuals with demonstrated interest in one or more of the following areas: international, global, or area studies; international politics and economics; peace and security studies; and/or conflict resolution. Individuals in other fields, including working professionals, are encouraged to apply if their field of expertise requires them to study one of the critical languages listed above.

Looking for a new site? Try visiting the **Spanish Institute of Puebla's** Spanish Conjugator. It allows you to search any verb alphabetically and see all tenses, moods and forms, especially helpful for upper level students. www.spanishconjugator.com

This site also lists the 100 most used verbs, and has links to Spanish dictionaries and Spanish for fun, language schools, music, classes on line and forums.

MATERIALS YOU CAN USE:

Are you looking for a **great picture dictionary**? Our council member and colleague, Elia Lopez, highly recommends *Spanish English Bilingual Visual Dictionary*. www.dk.com

Paperback \$14.95



¡FELICIDADES!

Linda Egnatz

Teacher of the Year Awards

**Central States Conference and
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
(CSCTFL) and (ACTFL)**

Reseña de: El Cuaderno de Maya de Isabel Allende

(Vintage Español, 2011).

La cita de Mary Oliver *The Summer Day* que introduce la novela de Isabel Allende, avanza el tema general de la narrativa, el pasado turbulento de la protagonista, Maya, que la persigue y del cual trata de escabullirse y el futuro que le queda por vivir:

Dime, ¿qué más debería haber hecho?

¿No acaba muriendo todo al final, y tan pronto?

Dime, ¿qué planeas hacer

con tu vida preciosa, salvaje, única?

Siguiendo esta fórmula, la novela / diario de Maya Vidal empieza cuando ella tiene 19 años y está huyendo de sus enemigos: el FBI, la mafia de criminales de Las Vegas, y la Interpol. El periplo se cierra cuando ella cumple 20 años y su pasado queda resuelto y sellado. Sólo le queda el futuro para vivir, descubrir y construir. El libro está dividido en cuatro partes, siguiendo la estructura y metáfora de las estaciones: verano (efervescente, candente), otoño, invierno y terminando en la primavera (estación del renacimiento).

Estructuralmente hablando, la narrativa se inicia en el presente con la voz de Maya, en primera persona (subjativa) en su fuga de Berkeley / San Francisco a Chiloé, Chile, hacia un islote de 300 personas en el archipiélago. Dando saltos temporales (en el tiempo) y espaciales (o geográficos), el diario de Maya se desplaza a lo largo de su vida principiando con su nacimiento una madre danesa con figura de obelisca de Laponia (que ella heredó) y su padre Andrés Vidal, el hijo de Nidia (Nini, abuela de Maya) de su primer esposo el cual murió durante el golpe militar de Pinochet. El segundo esposo de Nini, es Paul Ditson II, un afroamericano bien plantado y gigante, profesor, astrónomo de la Universidad de Berkeley que fue el único Popo (abuelo) que Maya conoció y con quien se crió. La trama se espesa...y avanza a través de oposiciones binarias; por ejemplo, Nini es baja y blanca, Popo es alto y afroamericano; la aventura empieza en el norte (San Francisco, Berkeley) y termina en el punto más sur de Chile (Chiloé).

Con los saltos espaciales y temporales y los vasos comunicantes entre Chiloé (tiempo presente) y Berkeley, San Francisco (clínica de drogadictos), la ciudad del pecado: Las Vegas, Oregón (la academia para adolescentes incorregibles) y más aprendemos mayormente sobre Maya de los 16-19 años (tiempo pasado) y sus truculentas y turbulentas aventuras. Todo esto anda salpicado con episodios de realismo mágico, es decir, hipérboles (exageraciones) o hechos insólitos presentados camufladamente y aceptados sin el mínimo cuestionamiento como si fueran hechos normales, cotidianos o comunes y corrientes.

Este estilo, combinado con el melodrama (novela rosa, la técnica de la telenovela, unas aventuras amorosas y otras horrorosas) y el de las oposiciones binarias alternan temas amenos, como el de las costumbres típicas, las supersticiones y la vida simple de Chiloé, con temas sumamente serios como el incesto, la violación, la eutanasia, las drogas, el alcoholismo, el crimen, secuestro de mascotas, pedofilia en el Internet, racismo, etc. que de otro modo hubieran resultado espeluznantes y difíciles. Sin embargo, Isabel Allende tiene el coraje y el arte de enfrentarlos exitosamente. Con el suspenso de la novela de detectives, el romance y el realismo mágico todo se camufla y se digiere.

El Cuaderno de Maya es una novela del descubrimiento, la concientización y la búsqueda de la identidad de la adolescente protagonista, Maya. Vale la pena leerla para apreciar su impacto y valorar la reivindicación de Isabel Allende de la novela rosa o melodrama cuando dice “la telenovela se quedó corta” porque LA VIDA es más telenovelesca que la telenovela misma por cursi que ésta sea, como ella misma lo plasma con su uso del metalenguaje (autocomentario de lo que ella escribe en la novela en la cita de arriba de este párrafo).