

AATG NorCal Fall Meeting 2013, Goethe-Institute, San Francisco, October 12, 2013

Minutes

Present: Michaela Grobbel (President), Zehra Otus (Vice-President), Christiane Frederickson (Membership Chair), Marion Gerlind (FLANC liaison), Jutta Kerlin (Secretary), Julia Koch (Goethe-Institut), Pamela Scholz, (GASANC), Paul Nissler (Stanford University) Renate Albrecht (US Air Force, GISSV), Nikolaus Euba (UC Berkeley), Sabine Eisenhauer (GASPA), Susanne Hoelscher (USF), Alexander Wildgans (ZfA), Aaron Woeste (Gerlind Institute)

1.

President Michaela Grobbel called the meeting to order at 5:15pm and welcomed everyone. She thanked the Goethe Institut for once again hosting the meeting and giving all present the opportunity to attend writer Eugen Ruge's reading of his novel afterwards. She congratulated Pamela Scholz for being appointed the new president of GASANC.

2.

Michaela announced her planned resignation from her post as president of AATG NorCal, due to time restraint. According to chapter laws, Zehra Otus will be her successor. Paul Nissler (Stanford University) has already agreed to be nominated as vice-president, but we are looking for more nominations. The chapter is still looking for a successor for Jutta Kerlin as secretary.

Nominations for candidates have to be submitted by October 15, 2013. Votes will be taken online via Monkey Survey.

The next ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo will take place in Orlando, Florida, November 22 – 24, 2013.

Michaela pointed out the modified format of the new National German Exam: From now on, the exam can only be taken in electronic form. Sabine Eisenhauer remarked that students of the Saturday schools will be disadvantaged, since the schools do not have enough computers. She emphasized the fact that Saturday schools' funding in part depended on their offering these tests and suggested that the AATG support them financially throughout the introductory phase. Michaela said that Keith Cothrun, the Executive Director of AATG, while insisting on the new format, promised to help any schools in need. Paul Nissler (German Department at Stanford) offered the use of the university's facilities for the exam taking.

To remind teachers of the numerous opportunities to promote German in their classes, Michaela pointed to AATG's national homepage, not only for the various certificates that students can acquire, but also for the numerous courses and scholarships offered. To promote German, she also proposed founding German Honor Societies, in the vein of other language honor societies.

Michaela encouraged all present to nominate worthy candidates for the next chapter awards. The deadline is May 31, 2014. She also requested that any information that members wished to see included in the 2013 Chapter report be emailed to her by December 15th. She pointed to one of the very successful projects highlighted in the last issue of the national AATG newsletter: "Ticket to Berlin." Students of German had been invited to Berlin and filmed their impressions. The results can be seen on *Deutsche Welle*.

3. Financial Standing

Michaela, in lieu of Crystal Ockenfuss, handed out the Treasurer's Report and informed the meeting about the financial situation of the AATG Northern California chapter. The chapter has an account balance of \$841.19. While the treasurer's report recommended raising the balance above \$1000, Zehra Otus instead proposed spending all the money, e. g. on bonuses for Saturday School teachers. Christiane Frederickson remarked that a reserve of \$500 is advisable for unexpected expenses. Thinking of ways to generate more income, the attendees discussed the existing policy that only new projects are financially supported, while those proven successful do not receive any money. Sabine stressed how important following the deadlines was to ensure funding.

To save the maintenance fees on the checking account, a switch to a credit union was suggested. Christiane also proposed raising the fee to \$150 for publishing agencies to present their products at future AATG meetings.

5.

- The next FLANC conference is at Chabot College, Hayward, October 25-26, 2013.
- The third Round Table will be held at GISSV, Mountain View, Sunday, November 11, 2013, from 3.30 to 5.30pm.
- The German Immersion Day will take place Sunday, March 23, 2014.
- The Awards Ceremony will be at UC Berkeley, Sunday, April 27, 2014.

- The next AATG spring meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2014, at the Goethe-Institute.

6.

Marion Gerlind, NorCal's FLANC Liaison, mentioned that Rachel Sowa, Katharina Paszkolovits' student, was awarded the second prize (\$300) in the Alexandra Wallace essay competition of FLANC.

Marion emphasized the strong presence of AATG members, with five different presentations, at the fall 2013 FLANC conference. She herself chairs a subgroup of FLANC: Teachers United for the Future (TUFF) which aims at recruiting FLANC members. The 2014 FLANC fall conference will be at Berkeley City College, October 24 & 25, 2014.

7. Alexander Wildgans, (ZfA Fachberater), announced the third Round Table meeting. (at GISSV, Mountain View, Sunday, November 11, 3.30 – 5.30pm.) He and Thomas Leitheiser of GISSV will head the meeting, whose goal is to further develop ideas from the 2nd Round Table and advance concrete projects.

8. German Immersion Day

Sabine Eisenhauer asked for suggestions for workshops.

9. Other

Michaela announced that Nikolaus Euba, Director of the German language program at UC Berkeley, received the AATG Postsecondary Outstanding German Educator Award. She congratulated him on this extraordinary and well-deserved national award and read a sample of the laudatory comments about Niko's performance by colleagues from UC Berkeley and some of his students who praised his competence and modesty. Chapter members also congratulated Niko, and toasted to his success with a glass of champagne.

Julia Koch brought everyone's attention to the next Berlin and Beyond Festival, which will take place January 15-20, 2014 in San Francisco. This festival will offer an exciting opportunity to high school students who are currently enrolled or have taken German and are interested in German-language films. They can apply to become members of a film jury and, together with experts, may be able to evaluate the films presented at the festival.

Julia also pointed out the kickoff of the successful “German for Hire” program of the Goethe Institut. Fourteen young Germans, ranging from students at Berkeley or Stanford University to interns in diverse fields, are looking forward to being “hired” by German teachers and their classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm and followed by a culinary treat of German “Schmankerln,” prepared by Christiane Frederickson.

Respectfully submitted,
Jutta Kerlin