

## The NCLRC Language Resource

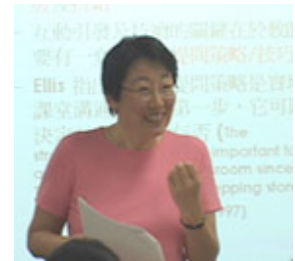


**VOL. 11, NO. 2**

**February, 2007**

Visit our website at <http://www.nclrc.org>

This month's theme is **Reaching Out through Culture**. We're very happy to present an exciting project in our **feature story, on the voices of women around the world**. We draw on the rich resources of our fellow Language Resource Centers for an extensive review in **Website for Teachers** of materials on their websites for teaching culture. It's cold here in DC, but thoughts of summer keep us going; for a sneak preview of **New Concepts in Teaching Chinese**, see our podcast of Dr. Hong Gan Jin (right) presenting **Teaching Techniques for Effective Classroom Interaction**



If you'd like to expand your professional knowledge on teaching culture, check out our summer institute by Marcel Lavigne **Culture - More than Food, Piñatas and Travel Pictures**. This session is on the two days prior to our Spanish and French Immersion Institutes for teachers, so you can spend a week furthering your professional with us.

### ★ Announcements:

- **February is ACTFL's Discover Languages Month!** See resources for teachers **on the website**
- US Department of Education announces **International Research and Studies Program (IRS) grants** to conduct research and studies to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and other international fields.
- **NCLRC's Summer Institutes** are open for registration. Register now and reserve your space.
- **American Association of Teachers of French** summer scholarships for teachers application deadline is March 1, 2007.
- **Language Resource Centers around the US** offer a wide range of summer institutes for foreign language teachers of various languages and levels
- The Asia Society has a new monthly electronic newsletter to promote high-quality Chinese language education in the **US** **Read the newsletter online**
- The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to provide an opportunity **for school principals to visit Brazil**
- **US Department of State Critical Language scholarships** have been announced for students of Arabic, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu.
- Watch for announcements of **US Government-funded Arabic and Chinese summer institutes** that will include both teacher training institutes and summer language programs for high school and college students. To be posted on our website homepage within the next week. Click on the **CALENDAR** to review conferences, calls for papers, and grant, proposal and scholarship deadlines.
- **Modern Language Association** considering dramatic change in approach to foreign language education
- NCLRC collaborates with ACTFL and National Museum of Language on a Forum **Global Career Opportunities & Languages**

### Troubleshooting:

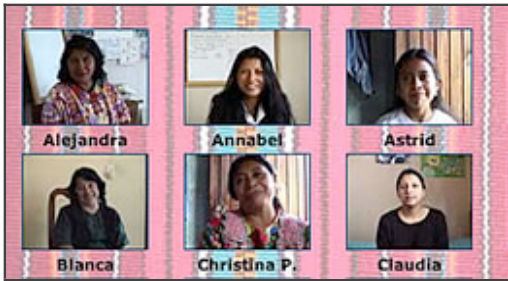
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★ Feature article

★ Culture Club

## Las Voces de las Mujeres: An Ethnographic Approach to Listening

Tess Lane Assistant Professor of Spanish and TESL Hawaii  
Pacific University



Las Voces de las Mujeres is an ongoing project to bring the voices of women of Latin America and Iberia to students of Spanish through streaming video on the Internet. Videotaped interviews were conducted in 2003 with 20 women in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, in 2005 with 20 women in Morelia, Michoacán, México, and most recently in Donostia, País Vasco, and Tarapoto, Peru (available in 2007). This growing video archive presents the views, values, and choices of women of many ages (10 to 78), backgrounds, and professions by asking each woman the same set of seven open-ended questions in Spanish. The goals of this project are to:

1. Help students explore the female views of cultures with an inductive approach.
2. Provide students with repetitive, structured, and student-controlled listening practice.
3. Provide a model for an ethnographic approach to learning language and culture.

[Read more...](#)

## ★ Teacher's Diary

*Sofia is a second-year Spanish teacher at a charter school in the Baltimore area. Each month she shares her journal of reflections on teaching.*

### Dear Diary,

Yesterday I had my contract meeting with the head of school. Although I was pleased to hear that he is happy with my progress this year and that he would like for me to come back in the fall, I informed him that I am looking to move on after this year. ... I have begun working on articulating my personal teaching philosophy, which I will [explain along with this anecdote](#).

## ★ Readers' Corner

*Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about teaching culture.*

**Which things have you had your students do in your community?** Answer our [Poll](#)

**How have you** Click here to answer the [Question](#)

Last month we asked **What do you think is the most effective way to teach your target language culture?** [See the results here...](#)

*Edited by Christine Meloni*

**Visit the Culture Club!** Three rooms have been renovated for February. [The Banquet Hall](#) features a deliciously-illustrated article about Mayan cuisine in Guatemala by Sheila Cockey. [The Music Room](#) offers reviews of music from Germany, Iceland, Italy, and Russia. [The Photo Gallery](#) launches **two new photo contests**: the "Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest," and the "What in the World? Photo Contest". Enter a contest or two and you could be a winner! The **Screening Room** will be completely renovated in March but Film Review Editor Sheila Cockey has recently added reviews of two Spanish-language films that have received **Oscar nominations: Volver and Pan's Labyrinth**.

## ★ Dear YANA

*Edited by Sheila Cockey. YANA stands for "You are Not Alone." Your questions on challenges in your classrooms are answered by an expert on languages and culture teaching.* This month's questions:

- I am a 5-year teacher and now feel comfortable with considering a travel experience with my students. There are so many options from which to choose! What do you recommend for my first time out?
- How do I use authentic materials in my classroom? Where can I find them? What constitutes "authentic"?

[Read YANA's answers...](#)

## ★ Websites for Teachers

*by Laura Blythe Liu*

*How are your tax dollars being spent to provide the resources teachers need to improve foreign language teaching?* This month we look at what you can get online from the 15 National Language Resource Centers. Teaching culture, the Less Commonly Taught Languages, and free digital dictionaries for Pashto, and a Chinese version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" are among the topics you'll find in this [review of the vast offerings of the LRCs...](#)

## ★ Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

*We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the Teachers' Calendar.* Find out what conferences are coming your way this year [here...](#)

Many teacher exchanges, grants and fellowships are being announced - [see them all here](#)

## ★ Ask Dora

*Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages. This month's very timely question:*

- We are examining the addition of a critical language in my district. Would you have any information on how other school districts have implemented Arabic programs, how the curriculum has been developed, how the teachers have

## ★ For your Classroom

### Planning and Presenting a Culture Fair in Your School

*By Sheila Cockey*

A culture fair is a fabulous opportunity to bring your students, the school, and the community together in a fun-filled environment where everybody learns about other cultures. The planning, preparation, and presentation of such an event provides you and your students with multiple opportunities to fulfill the 5 C's of language learning (Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, Communities) in diverse and new ways. [Read more...](#)

## ★ Critical Languages

### Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and more

News for interpreters of Korean, Russian and Vietnamese; NMELRC Arabic Teacher Training Seminar in Austin, and launching of a new e-journal, South Asia Language Pedagogy and Technology. [Read it all here...](#)

## ★ Language at Work

*Give your students real-life examples of "what you can do with foreign language."* This month we talk to a Research Analyst who uses Spanish in her analysis. [Read more...](#)

been prepared in terms of pedagogy, and what impact the addition of Arabic has had on the existing languages taught at a school? [Read Dora's answer](#)

## ★ NCLRC Staff



We're benefitting from the work on our staff these days of two GWU graduate students (in the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program), Laura and Kristen. Here they are with their advisor, Anna Uhl Chamot, NCLRC Co-Director. Thanks

for your contributions to the Language Resource! - Jill Robbins, editor

The Language Resource is a monthly publication of the National Capital Language Resource Center (<http://www.nclrc.org>) to provide practical teaching strategies, share insights from research, and announce professional development opportunities for all foreign language educators.

Funded by the US Department of Education through Title VI, we are a consortium of Georgetown University, The George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics.

## Also available on our website

### [Culture Club](#)

### [Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide](#)

### [Arabic K-12 Teachers' newsletter](#)

### [The Essentials of Language Teaching](#)

### [Sailing the 5 Cs with Learning Strategies](#)

A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators

### [Developing Autonomy in Language Learners](#) Learning Strategies Instruction in Higher Education

### [Portfolio Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom](#) [Russian for Russians](#)

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