

# The NCLRC Language Resource



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**LTE 2009 Conference**

**December 2008**

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

We have a full issue for your holiday reading pleasure this month. Each month this year we are looking at a theme from the [Language Teacher Education Conference](#). This month's theme is the **Political, Social, and Cultural Contexts of Language Teacher Education**. Find out **what happens when students take over language classes** at major universities in our **Feature Story**. **Root Words: Facing Our Changing Demographics** addresses how teachers can come to terms with the social context of increased numbers of Hispanic students. **Language Policy** looks at the political context and answers the question, **What is the JNCL and what they are doing for the average language teacher?!** New programs for the study of **Critical Languages** both in the US and abroad are being announced. Our **Tech for Teachers** looks at **FlashCard Exchange** and Sheila Cockey considers the cultural context as she reflects on the **joys of poetry in the language class**. **Dora and friends answer a question** on successful early language learning programs.

**Culture Club** is updated with two new podcasts of the **Teen Hangout** interviews, in German, a new photo contest, and an article on the Paris Métro. So sit back and put on a lap robe to stay warm, and enjoy reading while digesting your holiday goodies!



## ★ **Announcements:**

- Registration is now open for NCLRC's exciting [summer institutes](#).
- NCLRC & CARLA announce [Preparing Teachers for the 21st Century: the Sixth International Language Teacher Educators](#) conference in Washington **May 28 - 30, 2009**. See the [Call for Papers](#) (deadline December 31)
- [Applications are available for NSLforYouth](#), a government-funded language initiative that provides scholarships to American high school students and recent graduates to study critical languages in overseas immersion programs.

## **Troubleshooting:**

If your email client does not recognize the links in this webzine, or the links do not work, you can go straight to the NCLRC newsletter online page by clicking this link [www.nclrc.org/newsletter.html](http://www.nclrc.org/newsletter.html) or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

## ★ **Feature article**

**When Students Run the Classroom: Global**

## ★ **Culture Club**

## Language Network

By Tom Braslavsky

To become a language teacher at Andrew Brown's Global Language Network, there are three requirements: to be a native speaker, to be willing to volunteer and to commit to a weekly schedule.

"We prefer people without teaching background because we like to give them the skills and open them up to the joy of teaching, so to speak," said Brown, who founded the GLN as a student at The George Washington University in 2005. [Read more...](#)

## ★ Heritage Learners

### "Root Words: Facing Our Changing Demographics"

By Belinda Sauret

I have a running argument with a colleague about whether it's better to teach native speakers or heritage language learners. To be sure, there are advantages to teaching a language to a novice learner: the instant gratification of going from zero knowledge to something learned on the very first day of the school year, [Read more...](#)

## ★ Readers' Corner

*Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK!*

What effective collaborations have you experienced as a language teacher? [Click here to answer our Poll](#)

Describe a successful collaboration you have taken part in as a language teacher or supervisor. [Click here to answer the Question](#)

## ★ Language Policy

What is JNCL? What are they doing for the average FL teacher?

By Leah Wilner

The Joint National Committee on Languages (JNCL) is a non profit, member-based organization with the goal of educating the public about foreign and international language education. One the main missions of the JNCL is to gather information about foreign language education and then send out this information and make it easily accessible to their sixty-five member organizations. This organization acts as a liaison between the international and foreign language community and Congress... [Read more...](#)

## ★Critical Languages

NCOLCTL is seeking nominations for the **2009 Walton Award Recipient**. New grants are also becoming available, such as **NSLI for Youth**. [Read more...](#)

*Edited by Christine Meloni*

Check out the updates in the Culture Club! New photos have been posted to the [Photo Gallery](#). We invite you to participate in the November/December [Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest](#). The winner of the September/October contest is announced. A video interview with two German teenagers has been added to the [Hangout](#). The text is available in German and English. Check out the [Speaker's Corner](#) for an article about the Métro in Paris by Beckie Bray. It is the first in a series of four articles on the French capital.

## ★ Classroom Solutions: 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 question:**

- Poetry is a challenge for me to teach and for my students to enjoy. Do you have any wonderful ideas on how to help students feel comfortable reading poetry in a language that's not their own? I love to read poetry for my own enjoyment, but simply cannot find ways to share that joy with my students. [Read YANA's answer...](#)



## ★ Tech for Teachers

### The Flashcard Exchange

By Tom Braslavsky

The Flashcard Exchange is self-proclaimed



as "The world's largest flashcard library." This online collection holds more than 16 million flashcards on subjects ranging from science to foreign languages, all uploaded by its users. Sets of flashcards are organized by tags, and there is a search bar for finding card sets by tag or title. [More details...](#)

## ★ Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the [Teachers' Calendar](#) where you can find out what conferences are coming your way in 2009.

## ★ Ask Dora

*Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages.*

**This month question:**



Babies, babies, and more babies were the highlight of the NCLRC staff Christmas party this month. [See the slideshow here.](#)

We wish you a very peaceful holiday season and a joyous

and rewarding New Year!

[-The NCLRC Staff](#)

- I'm a relatively new Specialist for LOTE in our district. I have years of experience teaching at high school but know almost nothing about the early years of language instruction. Where could I find examples of successful programs, curriculum, teacher requirements, and other pertinent facts and figures relating to teaching a second language in grades K-5? Any sources or information would be appreciated. [Read Dora's answer...](#)

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.

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### Also available on our website

[Culture Club](#)

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

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

A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators

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

[Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide](#)

[The Essentials of Language Teaching](#)

[Developing Autonomy in Language Learners:](#)

Learning Strategies Instruction in Higher Education

[Russian for Russians](#)

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