

KATE UPDATE

Winter Edition

Inside find:
Upcoming deadlines
and applications for
KATE publications
and contests!

February 2006

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

Volume 24, Issue 1

A conference outside the box and beyond

by Annie Heidersbach

2006 President

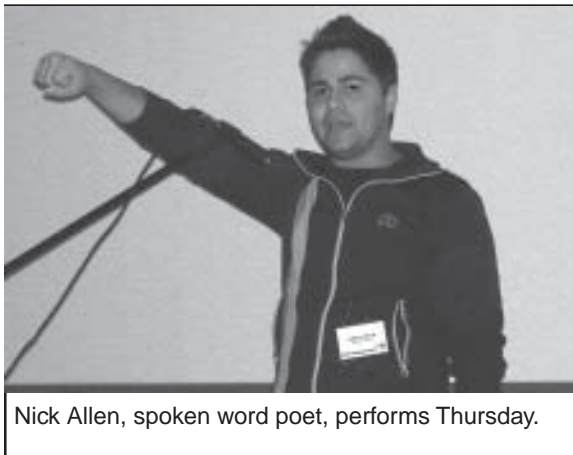
I have always detested the high expectations that certain holidays and events bring because they never seem to live up to them. New Year's Eve has been disastrous for me with its pressure to be the "best night of the year." My experiences with this date have included broken ankles, bleeding head wounds from misaligned champagne corks, and a broken heart at 12:01 a.m. after my boyfriend at the time kissed someone else.

Having attended the annual KATE Conference every year for the past eight years, I have consistently been impressed. I return home from the event re-energized, ready to leap over those piles of papers in a single bound and inspire every student under the sun. So when it came time for me to plan the 2005 KATE Conference, I was nervous. The high expectations had been set, and I was just hoping that the Conference would live up to them. Well, it not only lived up to them, it lived up, did a dance and shot to the moon- all due to the amazing speakers, presenters and KATE Board members who worked so hard to make those two days ones that I will never forget.

Dr. Bill McBride started it all off with his inspiring talk, "Pupils as Passionate Learners." His humor and energy were a wonderful way to start the day and I filled up several pages on new ways to reach learners in my classroom. His breakout session later in the morning was highly attended as well, and as I roamed the hallway a few minutes later, I

found Nick Allen (one of our spoken word poets) quietly reading Dr. McBride's novel "Entertaining an Elephant." This kind of direct influence was far beyond any expectations I could have had!

My perspective at this Conference was so different from other years because I became a "floater", flitting in and out of breakout sessions, just being able to enjoy the variety. I was entertained by Kristi Ackerson dressing up in a doctor's coat for her presentation and inspired to start a parent-students book club in Christy Kahn's



Nick Allen, spoken word poet, performs Thursday.

session. Continuing on I watched as Matt Copeland weaved technical writing into the standard curriculum and Dr. Jill Adams give us 15 ready-to-use lessons for Monday (5 of which I've tried on various days of the week). I picked up some creative lesson plans during the Idea Exchange and swapped a couple already-read books for some new ones at the Book Swap. Finally, I was able to float in and out of a room that hosted one of my favorite writers of all- Chris Crutcher, which was beyond all my expectations.

That's right...the rumors were true. Chris Crutcher flew from Las Vegas to arrive just before the luncheon, where he entertained us with stories and readings galore. This is a man so supportive of teachers that he made the long journey only to

Kansas Authors Club announces youth writing contest

by Karen Sells Brown

VP Kansas Authors Club

Kansas Authors Club will sponsor its third annual Youth Writing Contest in 2006. The contest will be open to students in grades 1-12 residing in Kansas and to youth members of Kansas Authors Club, regardless of their residence. The entry period will be from April to June 2006. Prizes will be awarded at a special youth presentation at the 2006 Kansas Authors Club Convention in Junction City, **Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2006**, or mailed to winners who are unable to attend.

Complete contest rules in a one-page printable format will be posted soon at <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kac/youthcontest.html>>. For more information, contact Youth Contest Manager Mary-Lane Kamberg, 2128 E 144th St, Olathe KS 66602, <MLKwriter@yahoo.com>.

Watch for details about a separate Kansas Authors Club Youth Poetry Prize to be offered in 2006, with a significant monetary award for the best poem by a young Kansas poet.

Kansas Authors Club also offers a Writers in the Schools Program, in which members make presentations about writing in classrooms and to youth organizations. We attempt to match requests with a local author. For more information contact Writers in the Schools Chair Christie Breault, 15225 E 77th St N, Benton KS 67017, <cbbro@pixius.net>.

Bleeker appointed ALAN State Representative

by Gary Bleeker

ALAN State Representative

I have recently been appointed to serve a one year term as the ALAN State Representative for the State of Kansas. ALAN (The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents) is one of NCTE's special-interest groups. Founded in 1973, ALAN is made up of teachers, authors, librarians, publishers, teachers, educators and their students, and others particularly interested in young adult literature.

According to the ALAN Web page, "the purposes of this assembly are to promote communication and cooperation among all individuals who have a special interest in adolescent literature; to present programs and conferences on this subject; to promote and increase the number of articles and publications devoted to it; and to integrate the efforts of all those with an interest in this literature. Members receive three issues annually of *The ALAN Review*, a journal emphasizing new books, research, and methods of teaching adolescent literature."

As the newly appointed state representative, I would like to encourage you or your institution to join ALAN. Visit the

ALAN Web page at <<http://www.alan-ya.org>> and download a membership form at <<http://www.alan-ya.org/membership.doc>>. Annual dues are \$20; student—\$10; and institutional—\$30. It is not necessary to join NCTE in order to become a member of ALAN.

If you have questions about ALAN, please email me at <bleekerg@emporia.edu>. And if you join, I would appreciate if you would let me know via email as well.

WHAT IS ALAN?

-- Assembly on Literature for Adolescents

WHAT DOES \$20 GET YOU?

-- One-year membership

-- One-year subscription to *ALAN Review*

UPDATE Staff: Elaine Gruenbacher, Editor.

KATE UPDATE is published four times a year as a benefit of membership. Its purpose is to inform the membership of activities of *KATE* and NCTE, announcements of clearly indicated policy and to provide a means for discussion of ideas and issues concerning the content and teaching of English and language arts. Published points of view do not imply endorsement by the officers or membership at large.

For information or communication concerning the *KATE UPDATE*, write to **Elaine Gruenbacher, 1010 N. Ridge Rd. #1113, Wichita, KS 67212; Phone (620) 584-2361, ext. 5213; email: egruebacher@usd264.org.**

KATE UPDATE is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange Agreement. Articles, ideas, and comments from *KATE* members are welcomed.

Holocaust museum offers FREE resources to teachers

Imagine a teacher who wants to incorporate "The Diary of Anne Frank", Elie Wiesel's "Night", Eve Bunting's "Terrible Things" or other Holocaust related literature into the classroom. S/he has not taught it before and feels overwhelmed by the subject and the perceived difficulty of teaching it. Typical of many s/he worries about it being too grim, worries that an event perceived as a Jewish experience may be somehow inappropriate for a public school setting. The teacher finds little material on the Holocaust in available textbooks even though the Holocaust is referenced in state standards, and s/he has no idea how to find classroom resources in a cost-sensitive environment.

Holocaust Museum Houston has a comprehensive answer for all these issues. Since 1998, it has offered Holocaust Curriculum Trunks. These 20x31x19 inch or 6.8 cubic foot trunks are full of books, posters, CD's, DVD's and other material for use in the classroom. Some of the items come in class sets of 25 or 30, others in sets of 5 or single copies. Broad reference items and teacher resources supplement the student resources.

There are five different types of trunks, one for elementary grades, one for middle school and three at the high school level including one for social studies, one for language arts and one for advanced placement language arts. For the teacher who would like a head start in lessons plans, each trunk comes with a curriculum rich with lesson plan ideas. Whether the Holocaust module is to last a couple of days or a couple of weeks or even longer, the curriculum trunk provides all the resources necessary dealing with the Jewish genocide and the other victims of the Holocaust. The trunk provides

class sets of some of books, an easy and quick way to access additional literature resources. Critical thinking and writing skills are honed by studying Holocaust perpetrators, rescuers and bystanders and the issues of individual responsibility and moral courage that bedevil every student of this watershed time in human history.

Perhaps most important of all, there is no charge for use of the trunks. Holocaust Museum Houston loans its 100 plus trunks for periods of three to five weeks. There is no fee for the loan, and the Museum pays the cost to ship the trunk anywhere in North America for delivery to the school and pickup from the school. The Museum asks only that the school issue a letter committing to fund the replacement of any of the trunk contents that are lost during the loan. There is never a charge for wear and tear.

Finally this fall the Museum added 20 Spanish language trunks for use in the United States as well as Latin America.

Contents of the trunks can be found at the Museum's website, **www.hmh.org** where reservations can also be initiated. Click on the Education button to get to the curriculum trunk material. Should you have questions not answered online, contact **trunks@hnh.org** or call **Colleen LaBorde at 713 942-8000, extension 118**. The Museum will also provide onsite teacher training workshops upon request.

This curriculum trunk program is the largest of its kind in the world, and the Museum diligently seeks underwriting support to keep the program free to the classroom teacher and school. Take advantage of it.

IMAGINATION

(PERFORMED AT KATE CONFERENCE 2005)

by Edge Wise (Luke Denney)

Imagination lives through me,
vicariously,
the epitome of creativity I linguistically maintain equanimity of
the trinity,
mind, body, and soul I fold like origami into this poetical
anomaly commonly known as
me in the 3rd degree and 4th dimension,
artfully articulating the ascension of a mind once confined by
the cliché –

“think outside the
box!”
think outside the . . .
. box.
now,
if I were not a poet I would
swallow that cliché and have
nothing more to say,
but, I am,
I do,
and I will,
after all – I’m thinking outside
the box,
or am I?

the irony of this creative
contradiction had me
wrongfully imprisoned,
but now language has set me free,
free like Mandela to tell ya I serve my sentence from a cell
made of cinderblocks,
chalkboards, and poor lighting,
fighting to educate the future of our existence like spawning
salmon swimming upstream
trying to fertilize a dream,
dodging figurative fly rods and gluttonous grizzlies with eyes
wide shut,
driven only by the hunger in my gut to defy the odds,
evens,
demons,
even angels trying to finagle my appetite for progress into a
desire for higher learning,
burning with the flame-like light that turned Moses’ hair white
I write and rewrite trying
to ignite that flame in the souls of salmon who share
my struggle,
we huddle together like the Steelers awaiting the “immaculate
reception,”

like disciples at Golgotha awaiting the resurrection . . . kissing
the ass to be the last of

the 144 thousand to make it home,
simple fish in a sea of uncertainty swimming simply to stay
alive while being deprived of
the education we deserve,
so my word,
my dream,

has become less like Martin Luther and
more like that of Malcolm and Huey P.,
inciting imagination in individuals by
ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

replacing the “system” in public
education with an X to stress the
separation of the
governing state with the mental state
because I refuse to have the fate of my
students determined by multiple
choice,
their true voice, goals, and expectations
are so much more important than
political

obligations that I’m willing to take on
nations united or not to stop the spread
of

this educational epidemic,
academic success at its best is only half of the equation when
our real destination is

knowledge, wisdom, and overstanding,
I say overstanding because I’m under the impression that this
government of the people,

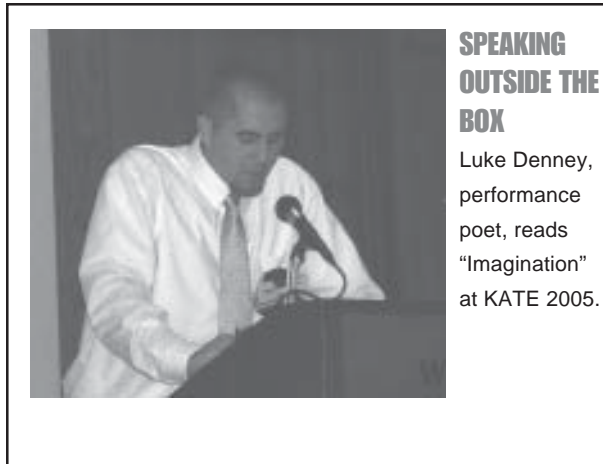
for the people, by the people,
doesn’t really give a shit about educating its people,
because if it did every kid would be taught to “think outside
the box” – not to fill in the

bubble,
so this is my rebuttal!
my one chance to make a difference of significance and ruffle
some feathers along the
way,

so whether or not you believe this situation to be the case you
better face the music, face

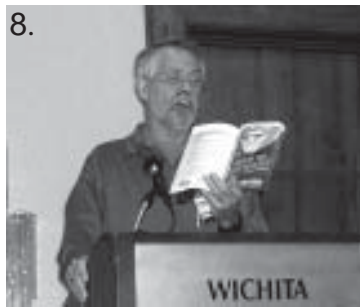
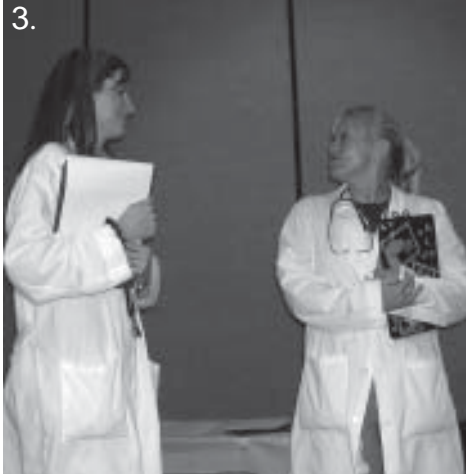
the facts, face the truth,
because the root . . . of all evil is not money!

it’s IGNORANCE!



SPEAKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Luke Denney,
performance
poet, reads
“Imagination”
at KATE 2005.



CONFERENCE FUN

1. Whitney Terrell
2. Ann Heidersbach and Ruthann Harris, new and past KATE presidents.
3. Kelynn Heardt and Kristi Ackerson
4. Martin Wehrenberg and Chris Goering.
5. President Ruthann Harris and new KATE Board members.
6. Karen Stous and Karen Ford.
7. KATE Board members
8. Chris Crutcher

Barron prize for young heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, founded by young adult author T.A. Barron, seeks nominations for its 2006 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is **April 30**. For more information and to nominate visit <http://www.barronprize.org/>

CONFERENCE

From pg. 1

get on a plane five hours later headed to Oregon. I looked around the ballroom at that luncheon and saw teachers just like myself, looking up at the podium as if a rock star had arrived. And he was one to us.

The rest of the Conference continued to exceed my expectations with its creativity cards and T-Shirts, its live music and cocktails, and the wrap up luncheon on Friday featuring Whitney Terrell- a fellow Kansas City native who has claimed his place as an award winning novelist. While his popular book *The Huntsman* gives me memories of goose bumps while reading it, we were all entertained with excerpts from his new novel, *The Kind of Kings County*.

And so, this Conference had crushed all my negative thoughts of overly-hyped, hyperbolically-publicized events. Take my name out of the cynic's handbook because my faith has been restored. Sometimes all the talk and all the expectations can not only be met, but can exceed. Now, if only I could get through a New Year's Eve without disaster... here's hoping!

Outstanding Teaching Practices Award due May 1

Award Description

The purpose of this award is to recognize, promote, and reward outstanding teaching practices across all grade levels in the state of Kansas. Four awards will be given: one each for elementary (k-6), middle school (7-8), high school (9-12), and college teaching. Awards will be \$200, a plaque recognizing the recipient to be awarded at the annual state conference, and public recognition.

To be considered, the

applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a KATE Member (KATE Executive Board Members are not eligible).
- Submit a complete application form.
- Give KATE permission to publish the Outstanding Teaching Practice and supporting handouts in KATE publications.

Please note the following:

- Applications will be blind reviewed so they must be written without identifying specific

teachers, schools or school districts.

- The KATE Executive Board Selection Committee will determine winners.
- **Application deadline: May 1** postmark — applicants postmarked after May 1 will be considered with the next year's applications.
- Winners will be notified by the end of June.

Application and details can be found at <http://web.jccc.net/kate/>

Coming Soon: Deadlines

- **Submission Guidelines for Young and Younger Kansas Writers below**
- **Find entry forms included as inserts in the Update**

Young Kansas Writers

1. If a student has not followed the required format (stated on the entry form), we will not consider the submission for inclusion in the publication. Each entry MUST include an entry form signed by the student author and his/her classroom teacher. Please type or print NEATLY the information on the entry form since we use this information to send the publications.

2. Young Kansas Writers publishes works of the students of teachers who are KATE members. Please do not submit works of students who are not in a class that you teach during the given school year.

3. We are looking for unique entries. One favorite poem that was in a past *Young Kansas Writers* issue was about mustard. Please don't send "he loved me and left me" poems or any other sappy love poems. Poems that deal with love in a unique way are welcome, however.

4. No more than two entries per student!! We don't want everything the students have ever written. Encourage your students to select their two best works to submit.

5. Do not send entire classroom sets from a poetry or short story unit. Choose the best!

6. PLEASE pre-edit before submitting to us. We will publish them EXACTLY as written, so if they have errors, the errors will be printed!

7. We cannot accept e-mailed entries because we must have the signatures of both the student and teacher verifying that this is original work. Please staple the entry form to the entry itself.

8. Entries must be also submitted on a disk or CD in WORD format. Please send just one from each teacher, not one from each student. Please check that the disk you send works. Send both the disk and the hard copies to Carlene Stueve or Barbara Livengood by March 1st. We will not be consider any entries postmarked after that date.

Carlene Stueve
Salina High School South
730 E. Magnolia
Salina KS 67401
carlene.stueve@usd305.com

Barbara Livengood
Salina HS Central
650 E. Crawford
Salina KS 67401
barbara.livengood@usd305.com

Younger Kansas Writers

1. Please read all guidelines carefully before submitting an entry.

2. Each entry form should be completed totally and accurately. Each entry form must include written signatures. Please write or type neatly.

3. Only **two** submissions per student, please. **Illustrations may accompany a written piece of work, but should not be submitted as entries in and of themselves.**

4. Please do not include classroom sets of a story or poem. Include only the best of that written by your students. Strive for the unique.

5. Please pre-edit before submitting entries. If there is an unusual spelling desired, please indicate. An example would be "Harey's Homerun" (the usual spelling is Harry).

6. Please submit one copy of the original work in printed form. The completed entry form should be stapled to this copy. Duplicate it as necessary.

Entries MUST ALSO be submitted in Word format on a disk. Please label the disk with your name, school, and the titles of the works you are submitting. Separate disks for individual entries is not required or desired. Entries will not be returned.

7. Prose entries must be typed, double-spaced. Poetry must be typed as you wish it to appear. Illustrations must be done in black ink. Entries in languages other than English must be accompanied by a translation. Each entry should contain the following heading:

Student's Name
Grade
Teacher's Name
School
City

8. Notification of receipt of entries can be made only by e-mail or if a self-addressed, stamped postcard is provided. Please indicate if you wish to be notified.

9. Sponsoring teachers or their respective schools must be members of KATE. A membership form can be obtained from the KATE website: <http://staff.jccc.net/aanders/kate/index.html>

10. Send entries to:

Linda Jones
Colby High School
1890 S. Franklin Ave.
Colby, KS 67701
ljones@colbyeagles.org

Minutes of the October 20, 2005 Board Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by president Ruthann Harris.

Announcements

Andy Anderson welcomed KATE/RATE partnership visitors from Timisoara, Romania, teachers Dana Valeanu and Georgeta Surianu.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker reported that KATE made money the last fiscal year. Kate's income was \$21,327; expenses were \$14,388, with a net balance of \$6,938.30. To date this year he has recorded \$12,838 income with projected expenses at \$13,000.

Membership: Karen Ford, membership chair, explained how she records membership and sends membership names to Moxley Publishing. She asked that anyone who had paid membership and not received membership cards notify her. Ruthann reminded us that at the June meeting the board had voted to discontinue two-year memberships. Andy Anderson reported that because NCTE's membership program database was not feasible for us to use, he would be keeping KATE's membership lists on an Excel spreadsheet. This will give us the capacity to record multiple addresses and print labels for mailing. Andy Anderson moved KATE take control of our database and discontinue using Moxley Publishing. The motion was seconded and passed. Karen Ford will notify Moxley Publishing and ask them to send their final bill. Andy reviewed the information on the membership form. He will update the form on the website. Karen asked that forms be printed legibly and completely.

KATE UpDate: Elaine Gruenbacher reported that she will publish *KATE Update* in the next month, and announced a deadline of November 12 for copy submissions. She asked that any

photos be accompanied with names.

Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers: Carlene Stueve reported that she had had problems with *Young Kansas Writers* and was less satisfied with the final product. She had over 200 submissions and published 82 quality works. Those submissions came from only 10 teachers. She encouraged more teachers to submit student work. The deadline for submissions will be March 1. The editors will not consider submissions after that date.

Linda Jones reported that she had received about 200 submissions for *Younger Kansas Writers*; she had published 160 submissions. She asked that teachers not submit copyrighted clip art. She will work with the *Young Kansas Writers* editors to make a more uniform publication.

Carlene asked that KATE invest in a CD burner. She is researching products and will have a proposal at the February meeting. Gerri Hilger moved that Carlene be given discretion to purchase what she needs for effective publication of the CDs. The motion was seconded. After discussion, Carlene asked that members send any information about products to her. The motion was tabled until the February meeting.

Linda Jones will notify teachers submitting students' work for *Younger Kansas Writers* that they must submit electronically.

Kansas English: Editors Kami Day and Michele Eodice. They will return to the smaller format and the publication will be in black and white. Johnson County Community College will be printing the publication at a cost of around \$455 for 200 copies. The first issue should be published before winter break. The editors have accepted 8 articles, an interview with Edward White, and several poems. *Kansas English* will be published in the fall and spring. The spring issue will be published before the end of school. *Kansas English* will be volumes 1 and 2, *Young*

Kansas Writers will be volume 3, and *Younger Kansas Writers* will be volume 4.

William Allen White Awards: Ginny Beesley had not received information from the William Allen White organization yet.

SLATE: Matt Copeland, SLATE representative, will lend support to teachers facing censorship issues and put them in contact with NCTE. He had made NCTE Censorship packets available at the conference. Matt said the most recent books challenged in Kansas have been Chris Crutcher's books.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson, NCTE Liaison, will provide permission forms for use of NCTE material in our publications. He reminded KATE Board members that their NCTE memberships must be current. Teralyn Kohn, a second year Wichita Southeast teacher, will be KATE's nominee for the NCTE Leadership Development Award, sponsored by Prentice Hall. Andy said it is important to keep track of KATE's former nominees. Andy Anderson moved that we pay transportation and lodging to cover Teralyn's expenses for attending the NCTE Convention in Pittsburg in November, not to exceed \$400. Dave Smit seconded. Jeff Roper said the Writing Project may supplement Teralyn's expenses. The Board discussed setting a precedent for an appropriate amount, and the most effective time to advance the funds. The motion was passed.

Share-a-thon: Tara Azwell reported that the Share-a-thon will be held in Emporia the day before the June executive board meeting.

Marketing Committee: Dave Smit, Marketing chair, contacted the universities who had not received marketing information from KATE for distribution to English graduates. Dave asked for a volunteer to take over chairmanship of the Marketing committee.

Promising Young Writers: Barbara Bleeker reported that information on winners of NCTE's Promising Young Writers awards will be coming out soon. Submissions have dropped in

Kansas as well as on the national level. Barbara asked that we encourage teachers of eighth graders to submit their students' work. She will continue to solicit submissions.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: Gerritt Bleeker received 26 submissions this year. He has given the list of winners to *KATE UpDate* editor Elaine Gurenbacher, but those winners' names cannot be published until NCTE first announces the winners' names. Information for the competition is in *English Journal* and will be published in *KATE UpDate* as well.

KATE Conference 2005: Annie Heidersbach reported that the conference is going well. She thanked members for all their work. Annie thanked Dr. Jill Adams who is in charge of English Education at KU for notifying people about the conference. Board members applauded Annie for her planning of the conference.

New Business

KATE Conference 2006: Matt Copeland, 2006 conference chair, passed out proposal forms for next year's conference, The Courage to Teach. He announced that the dates would be October 19-20. Some speakers Matt is considering are Lila Cushenbury, addressing SAT and ACT tests; Dr. Tom Foster, addressing generational differences; and Jeff Hanley, addressing learning disabilities.

Andy Anderson reported on the Open Mic session. As a result of the suggestions, Andy recommended we return to the pre-conference mass mailing. Karen Stous suggested that we do the mailing before school is out in the spring. Members discussed a suggestion Shelia Buchanan had received that people sign up for breakout sessions and advance.

RATE visitor Dana Valeanu thanked KATE for their hospitality and invited members to visit Romania any time.

The February board meeting will be at the Eisenhower Center on February 11th at 9:00.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:47.



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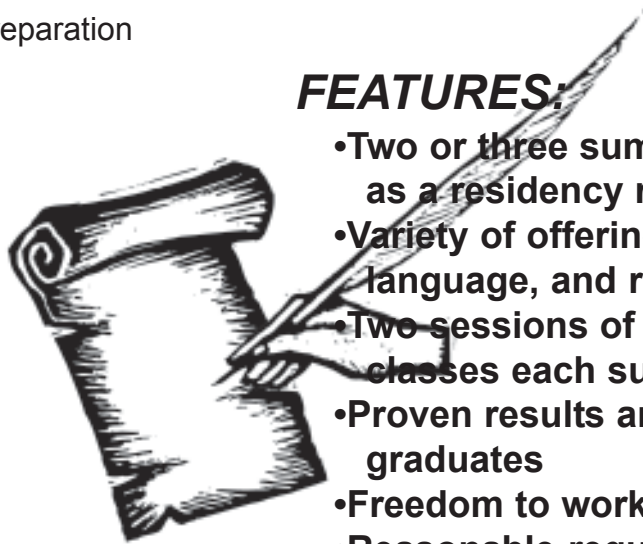
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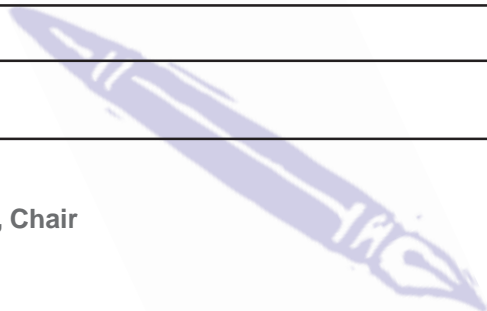
Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Mail request to:

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