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**DOCENT RUBEN POLO-SHERK AND HIS MOTHER AT THE JULY
FAREWELL PARTY (SEE PAGE 7)**

ANNUAL DINNER RECAP

On Sunday, June 26, 2011, the National Museum of Language completed a successful year with its annual dinner. The annual dinners are great opportunities to apprise members and guests of Museum happenings in a formal environment. This year's event, held at the Clarion Inn in College Park, drew almost 60 people.

As has been the case in the past, and undoubtedly so in the future, Museum officers and trustees took to the microphone to discuss events and to introduce guests. President Gary McCone introduced officers and recapped the year discussing Museum initiatives, collaborations, funding, etc. Of particular interest was Gary's presentation of biographies of the Museum's new National Advisory Council members—only one of whom was in attendance, banquet speaker Charles Stansfield.

Others sharing the podium were Vice President Pat Barr-Harrison, Secretary Alan Turnbull, Trustee Joe Page, President Emeritus Amelia Murdoch and Trustee Jill Robbins. Pat provided certificates of appreciation for many departing docents.

Alan, who heads the Museum Development Committee, apprised visitors of efforts made by the State of Maryland to help museums such as ours. Joe recognized the Museum Associates and Amelia introduced the trustees. Jill introduced our dinner speaker Dr. Charles Stansfield. His talk, entitled “Languages in the U.S: Where We Have Been, Where We Are, and What We Should Do” was most informative.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the winners of the Silent Auction (another successful fundraiser for the year), and the drawing of raffle tickets. President McCone added books and taffy to the giveaways. Lastly, a very touching tribute to two NML leaders who passed away this year was offered—Fran Reed presented photo montages of Whitney Reed and of Burton Scheiner.

The event, as always, was great fun. Photos from the event, as seen on pages 8 and 10 in this issue, testify to this. See you next year!

NML ROAD TRIPS

On occasion, NML members and display objects go on the road to showcase the Museum and its work. Here are some past, present, and future activities of note:

- Earlier this year, the NML’s International Flag of Language appeared on the front page of the Italian language magazine *Europa Vicina*. Below is the translation of the caption (courtesy of Dr. Theresa Wyckoff):

The Language Flag

On display in the National Language Museum in College Park, Maryland, U.S.A. (www.languageuseum.org), this flag was created as a first of its kind. The three shades of green coloring the leaves represent the past, the present and the future of languages; the trunk and the branches represent the connections between and among language families; and the green ripple effect represents the propagation of knowledge by means of language.

- President Gary McCone, as NML president, accepted an invitation to the 3 August awards ceremony of the Crypto-Linguistic Association (CLA) at Ft. Meade. It was a fitting invitation since NML founder Amelia Murdoch is a former president of the Association as are two current trustees, Greg Nedved and Sandy Allen.
- Newsletter Editor Greg Nedved showcased the International Flag of Language at the Dakota Territorial Museum in Yankton, SD, on 8 September. This was part of a larger program in which he also demonstrated the use of a Luftwaffe Enigma encryption/decryption machine from World War II.
- Trustee Jill Robbins and other NML representatives visited the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade Army Reserve Unit in Hyattsville on 10 September to provide requested training on Middle Eastern culture, Ethiopian culture and language, and the writing systems of the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Members of the unit have been visiting the Museum ever since!
- Museum representatives will participate in College Park Day on 22 October at the College Park Community Center. This is almost an annual event for NML.
- President McCone will represent NML at the Lakota-Dakota-Nakota (Sioux) Language Summit in Rapid City, SD, in November. Gary was invited because he has been active for many years both professionally and avocationally in providing books to Native American colleges (his efforts were acknowledged in a recent United Tribes Technical College newsletter). Gary also will attend the Pow-Wow at the University of Maryland’s Riggs Alumni Center on 3 December. The Museum will also have a table there.

Founder/President Emerita
Amelia C. Murdoch, Ph.D.

National Advisory Council

David Crystal
Dr. Joan Houston Hall
Dr. K. David Harrison
Sen. James Rosapepe
Dr. Charles Stansfield

Officers

Gary McCone, *President*
Pat Barr-Harrison, Ph.D. *Vice President*
Alan J. Turnbull, *Secretary*
James E. McFadden, *Treasurer*

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Richard Biffi
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Gregory J. Nedved
Joseph E. Page
Jill Robbins, Ph.D.

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Barbara Bennett
Janet Chernela, Ph.D.
Donna Christian, Ph.D.
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P. Manuel Guevara
Marion E. Hines, Ph.D.
Stephen Huffman, Ph.D.
Jack D. Jones
Debra Kieft
M. J. "Mike" Levin
La Donna Mann
Leah Mason
Olga J. Page
Earl M. Rickerson, Ph.D.
R. David Zorc, Ph.D.

Staff, Contributors, Photographers

Sandra L. Allen
Renee Domogauer
Gary McCone
Gregory J. Nedved, *Editor*
Jill Robbins, Ph.D.

NML MEMBERSHIP FORM
Memberships are in effect for the calendar year

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Patron \$5,000 and up
- Corporate Member \$2,500
- Benefactor \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Sustainer \$500 - \$999

- Institutional/Organizational Member \$300

- Supporting Member \$250 - \$499
- Contributing Member \$100 - \$249

- Dual/Family Member \$70
- Individual Member \$50
- Student/Senior Member \$20

To join the NML, check the appropriate membership level, fill in the information below, and mail this form along with your check to the Museum. Make checks payable to The National Museum of Language. To pay with a credit card, access our PayPal link on www.languagemuseum.org

Note: Members outside of the U.S. should add an additional fee of \$6 to cover mailing costs.

Title: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: (_____) _____
Email: _____

- I would like to volunteer to help with museum activities
- I am interested in making a bequest of assets or property to NML

NML is officially recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership contributions are therefore tax deductible to the full extent authorized under the law.

How to contact us:

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www.languagemuseum.org



THE BLACK AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE PRESENTATION AT THE MUSEUM (SEE PAGE 8)

NEW NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

NML is delighted to announce that Dr. K. David Harrison has agreed to join our newly created National Advisory Council. A recent initiative, the National Advisory Council is intended to tap the knowledge and experience of highly successful individuals in Museum-related fields. Dr. Harrison joins four others--David Crystal, Dr. Joan Houston Hall, Sen. James Rosapepe and Dr. Charles Stansfield—on the Council. Their biographies can be found on our website at <http://languageuseum.org/council.html>. Dr. Harrison's is as follows:

K. David Harrison is an associate professor of linguistics at Swarthmore College. He co-leads the Enduring Voices project at National Geographic and is a Fellow in that organization. He received his doctorate from Yale University.

As a linguist and specialist in Siberian Turkic languages, he has spent extended periods of time in Siberia and Mongolia working with nomadic herders, studying their languages and cultural traditions. He has also worked in India, the Philippines, Lithuania, Paraguay and the United States with speakers of endangered languages. Dr. Harrison's work includes not only scientific descriptions of languages, but also storybooks, translations and digital archives for the use of the native speaker communities.

Dr. Harrison is widely recognized and consulted as a leading spokesman for endangered languages. He makes frequent appearances before colleges, high schools and other public audiences. He has appeared on radio and television on National Public Radio, British Broadcasting Corporation, Good Morning America and the Colbert Report.

He co-starred in the Sundance documentary film, “The Linguists” (www.thelinguists.com), which followed him and fellow linguist Greg Anderson as they traveled around the world to track down and interview last speakers of nearly extinct tongues. His latest book, “The Last Speakers: The Quest to Save the World’s Most Endangered Languages,” was published in Fall 2010 by National Geographic Books.

Welcome aboard, Dr. Harrison!

GRANTS

- For the first time, NML was included in the Combined Federal Campaign (for the National Capital Area). Our contribution number is 32298.
- NML has received the balance of its MARPAT Foundation grant.
- NML has received its final distribution of funds (\$3,000) from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) for its “Emerging American Language in 1812” exhibit.

As always, the Development Committee headed by Secretary Alan Turnbull has been busy doing the paperwork and meeting deadlines for grant applications. Thank you Development Committee.

NEW BROCHURE

People familiar with our Museum have undoubtedly seen our brochure—you know, the one with the future home of the Museum on it. It also includes things such as the themes and vision of the Museum, the Rosetta Stone, and “thank you” written in several languages.

Since the brochure is several years old and the Museum is eyeing other locations for its new home, a new brochure obviously became necessary. Recently, Museum trustees and others were asked to provide feedback on the new brochure design provided by Trustee Dr. Jill Robbins. The new one, among other things, includes the International Flag of Language. According to Dr. Robbins, the brochure will be out very soon. We can’t wait!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, let me apologize because this newsletter is late. There are a number of reasons for this—to include some home difficulties (flooding)—but I am proud to say that is finally out and up to standard. Please also note that I have received some welcome editing help in this issue from Renee Domogauer (a return to the newsletter for her) and Trustee Sandy Allen. Thank you—I need you both.

When we created our International Flag of Language (IFL) back in 2008, one of our assumptions was that languages were not normally represented by flags—I only knew of one at the time, Esperanto. In August, I attended the 24th Annual Congress of Vexillology in Alexandria, VA, where one of the presentations (ironically conducted in French) was about the numerous flags that were created for constructed languages (Folkspraak, Lojbanto and Occidental to name just three). So we now have some new information out there. Does this change anything about the IFL? No, we were correct in saying that there was no flag in existence to represent languages in general—we, of course, have since corrected that.

Speaking of the IFL, it is no longer on display in the Museum as we are trying to promote it by lending it to other museums. Although the details are still being worked out, the flag will be loaned to the Alphabet Museum in Waxhaw, NC, in November in exchange

for some reprints of the Gutenberg Bible and other very old documents. If the Alphabet Museum sounds familiar, it is because it is the very museum that provided a lot of assistance to NML upon our opening our doors in 2008. Some of the wall exhibits at NML were in fact borrowed and later purchased from the Alphabet Museum. Debra Kieft, the lady who created the original IFL, was a docent at the Alphabet Museum at the time. So, as you can see, it is no surprise that we were able to work out a trade with them. Another trade may be in the offing with the Flag House and Star Spangled Banner Museum in Baltimore to commemorate the War of 1812. Keep the trades coming.

--Greg Nedved

NML MADE THE PAPERS (See page 9 for story)

The Gazette 19



Culture club

Linda Thompson of the National Museum of Language helped Alexandra Mitchell, 10, of Upper Marlboro and Zaekariya Muhammad, 11, of Beltsville don their Chinese dragon costumes last week while intern Andrea Joule, right, made adjustments during Chinese Day at the museum's "Around the Language World" program in College Park. The four-day event also focused on the cultures and languages of Japan, Spain and Egypt.



DOCENT NEWS

ARRIVALS: ALEX MAUNG; LEI TSENG

DEPARTURES: ANDREA JOULE (SUMMER INTERN);
RUBEN POLO-SHERK; CELIA ZAMORA

AS PART OF ANDREA'S SUMMER INTERNSHIP, SHE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WORKING ON OUR HOMEPAGE. SHE ESTABLISHED A TWITTER ACCOUNT FOR US, WHICH HAD OVER 70 TWEETERS WITHIN A FEW HOURS!

VICE PRESIDENT PAT BARR-HARRISON GAVE A FAREWELL PARTY FOR RUBEN AND CELIA ON 24 JULY— AN EVENT ATTENDED BY MANY MUSEUM OFFICERS. PAT USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECAP A SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN'S WEEK AT THE MUSEUM AND HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE THAT OUR DOCENTS AND INTERNS (CELIA AND ANDREA) PLAYED IN IT (SEE PAGE 9)

TO THOSE LEAVING, THANK YOU
TO THOSE JOINING, WELCOME—WE NEED YOU

PLANNED FUNDRAISER

- **What:** A 1930's themed Garden Party
- **When:** 12/13 or 19/20 May 2012
- **Where:** 4800 Calvert Road, College Park, MD 20740 (home of Treasurer Jim McFadden)
- **Description:** A garden party with light food, drink, music, dancing, NML displays, etc.
- **Fund Raising Goal:** \$30,000

FILLERS FROM THE EDITOR

We've been adding books galore to the Museum's Allen Walker Read Library this month (35 in one month alone). Check out our Library webpage at <http://nml.scoolaid.net/bin/home> for the complete list.

Hurricane Irene slightly damaged the Museum (water leaks/fallen ceiling tiles) but everything has been fixed up—to include retiling wet spots on the ceiling.

The second edition of the popular language book *Five-Minute Linguist* will soon be out. Written by Museum Associate Rick Rickerson and Barry Hilton and reviewed in part by Trustee Jill Robbins, it references NML and will include our logo. Proceeds from the sales of the first edition go to NML as will sales of this second one. Thank you gentlemen and good luck with your book.

--Greg Nedved



PAT BARR- HARRISON PRESENTS THE DOCENTS AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

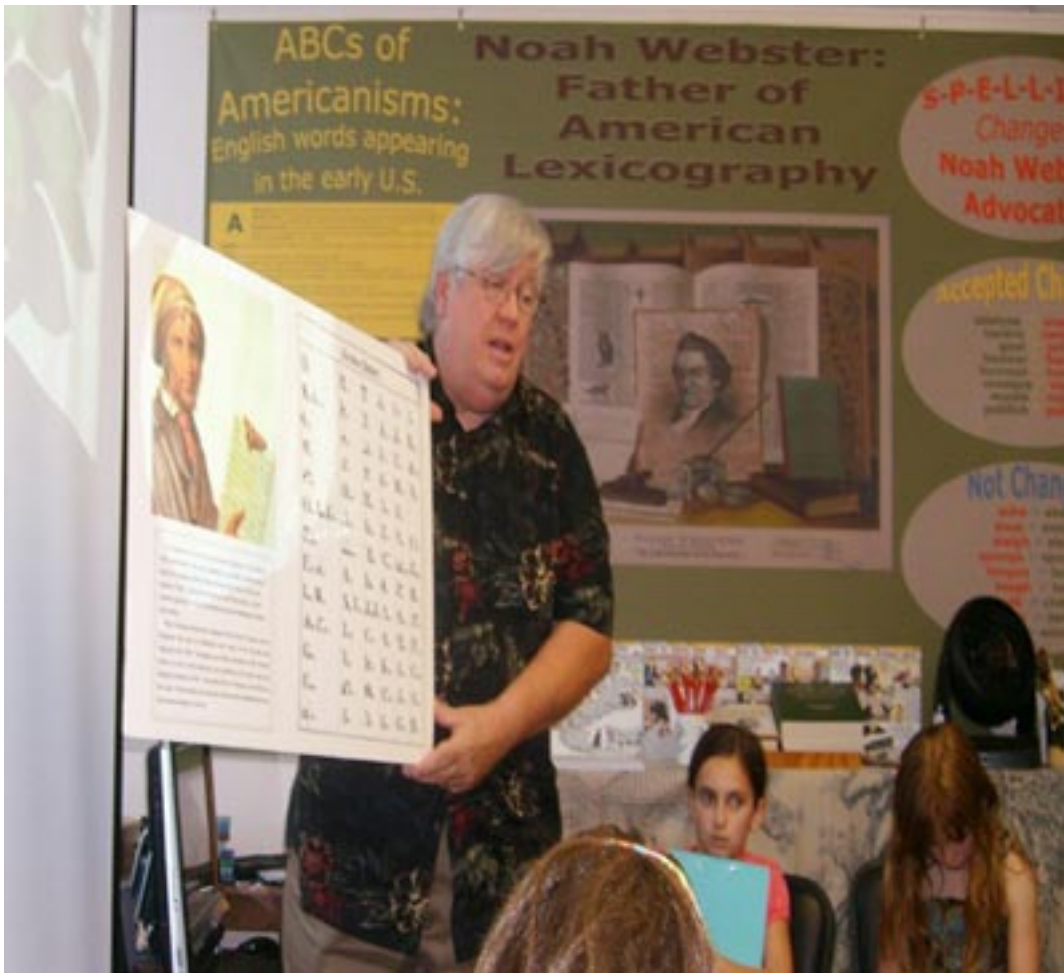
NML VISITORS AND PROGRAMS

It was quite a past few months as NML had distinguished visitors, conducted a successful Children's Week and had interesting programs—with more to come. Here is a brief recap:

--On 15 May, the Museum hosted a program entitled "Black American Sign Language: The Sociohistorical Foundation" given by Gallaudet University Professors, Drs. Ceil Lucas and Carolyn McCaskill. The presenters introduced to a packed house a sign language version not commonly known, proffering convincing evidence that Black American Sign Language has its own distinct characteristics. As usual, the event brought many to the Museum for the first time.

--On 11 June Nick Rolle from Toronto University visited the Museum, hoping to learn more about us. Canadian linguists have formed a committee to explore the possibility of establishing a Canadian Language Museum, and Mr. Rolle, a graduate student in linguistics who presented a paper at a conference at the University of Maryland, took advantage of the opportunity to talk with NML staffers. President Emerita Amelia Murdoch led the discussion with Secretary Alan Turnbull and Treasurer Jim McFadden attending as well.

(Continued on next page)



GARY SHOWING THE CHEROKEE SYLLABARY TO CHILDREN (SEE BELOW)

NML VISITORS AND PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

--In late July NML hosted a very successful "Children's Week" event for area school children, with programs on the languages and culture of Spain, Japan, Egypt and China. *The Washington Post and The Star* published a photo of NML's Linda Thompson helping two children don a Chinese dragon costume for the China Day event (See Page 6). Kudos to Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, NML Vice President, for organizing the event.

--In early August children from a Maryland Native American summer camp spent a Wednesday at the Museum where they learned about Native American languages from NML President Gary McCone. Gary showed them the Cherokee syllabary and pointed out that many American words, e.g., hickory, raccoon, succotash, are actually Native American-born. "I think what they most enjoyed was the cake we served them," said Gary.

PHOTOS THIS ISSUE COURTESY OF GARY MCCONE, GREG NEDVED AND JILL ROBBINS



GARY AND HIS WIFE AT THE DINNER (SEE PAGE 1)



EMERGING AMERICAN LANGUAGE IN 1812



The National Museum of Language

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COMING TO THE MUSEUM

**Boogeymen, Spirits, and Specters:
Stories of Fear, Wonder, and
Haunting from Brazil, 23 October
2011; 2 P.M. – 4 P.M., Deborah
Schindler**

**Peoples and Languages of the
Middle East, 20 November 2011; 2
P.M. – 4 P.M., Michael Chyet**

**HOLIDAY PARTY
DECEMBER 4, 2011
(TENTATIVE)**



The International Flag of Language

