

## FRENCH HAS AN IMPACT AT ACTFL!

### French Immersion and AP Workshops

AATF member Charlotte Gifford, chair of the world language program, Greenfield Community College (MA), presented the three-hour French Immersion Workshop on Thursday afternoon at the ACTFL convention in Boston. Entitled “Immerse Yourself in French: the Interpretive Mode and Beyond—Making Effective Use of Authentic Resources,” the workshop was sold out with 75 attendees from across the country, representing all levels of teaching. Participants were introduced to concrete strategies for enhancing comprehensible input and maintaining target language use at 90%. During the workshop, participants had time for group discussions to share assessments and resources. Newly-elected AATF Vice-President Brian Kennelly, California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (CA), presented the full-day AP French Language and Culture workshop, which was also well-attended. Participants received a comprehensive understanding of the AP exam structure and strategies for how to prepare students for it.

### Embassy of France Luncheon

The Embassy of France luncheon was also sold out, to the dismay of disappointed French teachers who waited at the door, hoping there would be some no-shows. Each attendee received a navy blue bag with red and white stripes and the slogan “French Up Your Life” with culinary phrases such as “*crème de la crème*” “*bon appétit*” and “*à la carte*” written on it. The *pièce de résistance* was the raffle. Eastern Massachusetts Chapter Vice-President Carole LaPointe won a summer study program in Nice, and AATF member and former ACTFL TOY Nicole Naditz 🍀 won two round-trip tickets to Paris! Other prizes included books, videos, and another summer study program in Bordeaux.

### AATF Reception and Concert

On Saturday evening, the Eastern Massachusetts AATF Chapter joined forces with the five other New England chapters (Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Western Massachusetts/Vermont), AATF National, and the French Cultural Service in Boston to sponsor a reception and concert. The reception began with greetings from Joyce Beckwith, former AATF Region I Representative and Chair of this event, who introduced several VIPs who welcomed attendees: Karl Cogard from the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, Magali Boutiot from the French Consulate in Boston, Jayne Abrate, AATF Executive Director, and AATF President Catherine Daniélou. Other national officers attending were AATF Past-President Ann Sunderland, Region I Representative Margarita Dempsey, and Region IV Representative Daniel Noren. Joanne Hammadou, University of Rhode Island, announced a new online graduate degree program in French at her institution. Eastern Massachusetts Chapter President Brian Thompson gave a brief introduction to the evening’s special entertainer, the dynamic Franco-Togolese singer Brice Kapel, who had recently arrived from France to give several performances around New England in celebration of National French Week. His songs, dancing, and running commentary delighted participants. Everyone was, out of their seats, singing, clapping, and moving to the music! *Bravo, Brice! Un grand merci* to the French Cultural Service and all the AATF chapters!

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