**Holiday Reception**

On December 14, 2003, NML's Board of Directors hosted a reception for members and friends to celebrate the holiday season. Held at its offices in the Executive Building in College Park, the event was the occasion for NML to unveil its renovated suite of offices. Some thirty guests defied snow, slush, and rain to view a variety of displays and to enjoy the delicious refreshments that are a hallmark of NML gatherings.

Arriving guests were greeted by the sound of holiday music coming from "the party room"—a room adjacent to our office that normally serves as a Princeton Review classroom and which NML rented to provide ample room for the festivities. As usual, Member Fran Reed and Associate Jane Page organized a sumptuous and ample array of holiday goodies, all supplied by our dedicated members. The adjoining hallway accommodated displays of NML events and people.

As visitors entered the Reception Room, they usually stopped abruptly at the sight of the four-foot cabinet radio against the back wall. They invariably spent a few moments reminiscing about how they and their families had gathered in front of similar radios, and the programs they listened to in their youth. The main exhibit was a five-panel display on dialects in general and the Smith Island dialect in particular. The latter dialect is a specialty of Associate Natalie Schilling-Estes, who prepared the display with the assistance of her husband, Associate Chris Estes, a computer expert. Her recordings of the Smith Island dialect were played through the antique radio. On the opposite wall a "Language Tree" was displayed.

Two main displays were exhibited in the Board/Conference room. One centered on the life and accomplishments of the distinguished linguist Allen Walker Read, whose language library now occupies three handsome bookshelves at one end of the room. Other exhibits gave a brief biographical sketch, pictures, and quotations from his works. The other main exhibit was a selection of antique radios and broadcasting equipment reflecting the evolution of this mainstay of American life. These were on loan for the occasion by special arrangement with Brian Belanger, curator of the Radio and Television Museum of Bowie, Maryland. Other displays treated the development of our alphabet and the Cherokee alphabet syllabary. A large map on another wall pinpointed the states where NML has members (let's make those numbers grow!).

Intended as a preview for members and friends before opening our spaces to the public, the renovations, the reception, and our displays were praised by all guests, who obviously enjoyed the opportunity to discuss our present and future, and to realize the success and continued progress of the Museum. Given the success of the reception, it is likely that this will become a museum tradition. We acknowledge elsewhere in these pages all those who participated in this collaborative effort.

—James McFadden and Amelia Murdoch

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As this issue of the Newsletter is being readied for the press, we are saying goodbye to the snow, ice, and cold winds of winter and admiring the daffodils and green shoots beginning to appear. Saying goodbye to the old year, we are saddened to report that many good moments are shadowed by the loss of two dear and esteemed friends, Doris Miller and Jack Gurin.

We are very pleased to emphasize here how much our recent successes are due to the many and varied efforts of a growing number of members and friends. As in earlier events, the Holiday Reception began with planning months ahead. Measuring the office spaces and the windows, scanning catalogues, shopping, and negotiating with merchants and the landlord preceded the actual labor. Work at home, such as shortening curtains and cataloguing several hundred books, preceded the Great Day of Labor when the crew was assembled. Everyone who wanted to be a painter was granted that privilege, though several levels of skills were recognized. Without naming names, it should be pointed out that some workers, however willing, were limited to painting doorframes. In the last stages, curtains were hung, books shelved, and computer equipment relocated and reinstalled. Meanwhile, the various displays were being prepared. The detailed account on "Preparing Exhibits" in the following pages will give some idea of the extent of thought, time and effort that all exhibitors had to expend. It should be noted that many costs were absorbed by these creators themselves. Their work will remain on display in the months to come, except for the radio exhibit.

Activities scheduled for the months ahead now engage our attention. A brief program at a local school, the completion of the long-awaited prospectus, the search for a site, the election of the next Board of Directors, the establishment of a National Advisory Council, and preparations for our Annual Meeting/Dinner in June will entail hard work and cooperation on the part of all our Directors and Associates. Development of our website and the possibility of a radio program are exciting prospects.

I hope that the various accounts of the activities of our members and friends will encourage many of our readers to ask "What can I do to help?" The upcoming Spring Workshop will be a perfect opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of steps to expand our membership, so essential to our continued success. At that time you will enjoy the opportunity to work with our movers and shakers, who are truly remarkable individuals. Another area in which we will need your help is the opening of the office to the public on a limited basis. We welcome volunteers both to help in planning activities and to act as docents. And of course we wish to enlist new recruits to continue the success of our interim program.

We urge you to share your ideas with us, and we extend to all a warm invitation to join our committees and play an integral part in building the Museum.

Amelia C. Murdoch
Spotlight on Joan Houston Hall

In 1968, Joan Houston (pronounced like the street in New York City, not the city in Texas) Hall was a graduate student at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She was working as a fieldworker for a dialect survey of the rural parts of the state. Her travels took her through the small towns, where words and accents and ways of saying things have a life of their own. Talking to the folks in these places far from the mainstream, she fell in love: in love with the language.

At the same time, way up in Wisconsin, a man named Frederic Gnome Cassidy, "the James Murray of American Lexicography," was working on the fledgling Dictionary of American Regional English, a title which was chosen because its acronym spelled out the imperative of what they were doing, DARE! It was a dream conceived 70 years prior—an American dictionary to rival Joseph Wright's English Dialect Dictionary. But until Cassidy it was just an idea.

In 1968 the fieldworkers for DARE started to fan out across the country with 4 x 6 cards, huge, heavy reel-to-reel recorders, and a questionnaire: one thousand eight hundred and forty seven questions. Questions like, "what do you call the small insect that flies at night and flashes a light at its tail?" [I grew up calling it a firefly, but I'm sure several of us call it a lightning bug], and "Expressions meaning a long distance, Texas is a (from here.)." [Me, I'd say "far piece."] Armed with the equipment, and vans called "word wagons," the fieldworkers collected the thousands of words and variations of words that form the basis of the dictionary.

Joan caught word of the project and knew it was something she would love to do. Through her graduate advisor, an acquaintance of Cassidy's, Joan left Georgia for Madison in 1975. She worked diligently "chasing Z's," side by side with Cassidy, on completing the dream that they now shared. She was named associate editor in 1979.

Volume I was published in 1985, volume II in 1991, volume III in 1996. The dictionary was up to the letter "O." It struggled through financial crises, possible cancellation, and in May 2000, one of its biggest blows: Frederic Cassidy suffered a stroke. He died several weeks later.

Throughout those weeks after his stroke, Joan visited Cassidy every day, assuring him that they would not falter; his dream of "On to Z!" would come to fruition. She would see to it personally. She was named Editor-in-Chief shortly after his death. DARE is now up to volume IV—all the way to SK. Volume V? They're shooting for 2007.

Joan Houston Hall is a graduate of the College of Idaho, and Emory University, where she got her Ph.D. Her dissertation, A Phonological Survey of Rural Southeast Georgia Speech, was largely based on the fieldwork she did during her graduate studies. She is Vice-President and President-elect of the American Dialect Society and has been the President of the Dictionary Society of North America. This year she won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research from the University of Wisconsin—Madison for her efforts at the dictionary.

—Kathleen E. Miller

NML Annual Meeting 2004

The Annual Meeting of the National Museum of Language will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2004. The meeting will be divided into two parts: a business meeting of the Board of Directors at the NML offices and a reception and dinner starting at 5:30 pm. The event will be held at the University of Maryland University College Inn and Conference Center Mont Clare Café.

Joan Houston Hall, Editor-in-Chief of the Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE) will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Hall has been with the dictionary since 1975 and will be sharing her experience and expertise in lexicography and dialectology with us all. Her topic will be "American Dialects in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries."

A silent auction featuring goods and services donated by area merchants will take place during the reception time. Quizzes and dialect games on loan from the DARE are planned during the reception as well.

The dinner will feature a choice of Chicken Riesling, Rainbow Trout or Chef's Choice Vegetarian, along with salad, beverages and chef's choice dessert. Tickets are $22.00 for members and $25.00 for non-members. Seating is limited so reserve early for what promises to be an exciting and informative evening.

—Kathleen E. Miller

Election of New Directors

Members of the NML Board of Directors are elected for three-year terms. The present Board was installed in June 2001. Thus a new board must be now be selected to serve for the next three years. In early February, President Murdoch established a nominating committee to produce a list of nominees for the coming elections to the NML Board of Directors. Vice-President Whitney Reed was asked to chair this committee. Serving with him on this committee are Director Eugene Becker and Associate M. J. "Mike" Levin. Nine of the present Board members have agreed to run for reelection, and the committee is seeking at least four further nominations for the two positions becoming vacant. Any local area members wishing to serve on the Board of Directors should contact Vice-President Reed (301-464-2780) by April 17, 2004. Ballots will be mailed to Directors and Associates on May 1 and the results of the voting will be announced at the NML Annual Dinner on June 19 and in the next Newsletter.

—Whitney Reed
Preventing Exhibits for the Holiday Reception

Our task was to prepare the renovated NML office for the forthcoming Holiday Reception in December 2003 by creating a number of exhibits relative to language. We wanted the exhibits to interest visitors and in some way to provoke their curiosity. The exhibits would also provide a basis for the future when the NML office will be open to the general public.

One of the exhibits, we decided early on, had to focus on the late Dr. Allen Walker Read, whose books on language and linguistics now reside resplendently in three tall, antique-stained bookcases in the largest NML office room. By good fortune, we had obtained a good-size picture of Dr. Read when we picked up the books at his home in New York City. We framed this picture and hung it on the wall next to the bookcases. Under it we placed a small plaque giving a brief sketch of his life and achievements. On the large wall across the room from the bookcases, we placed a larger picture of Dr. Read and, on either side of this picture, blow-ups of quotations by him. Associate Kathleen Miller, who had been instrumental in our obtaining the Read Collection, provided these materials. Getting all of this done required several trips to the local Kinko’s to learn how to enlarge pages. Then trips to an art store to get the right kind of paste spray, and more trips to Staples to pick up poster board on which to mount all of the exhibits.

After skimming through a number of books on language, we decided on two other exhibits. One was on the development of our alphabet from the origins in Phoenician through classical Greek and Latin. The second was an enlarged color photo of Sequoia, the great Cherokee chief, along with an enlargement showing the alphabet syllabary he created for his tribe—the very first written form of an American Indian language. We noted with some surprise that within a few years after his invention of a written language some 90% of his tribe had become literate.

Another important exhibit was to be a “Language Tree” showing the languages of the Indo-European language family. One of our members, Dolores R. Scheiner, a well-known local artist, graciously agreed to donate her time and skill to create the “Language Tree” for the Museum. Her husband, Burton R. Scheiner, helped by preparing identification labels for all of the languages and meticulously attaching them on the branches of the tree. Once finished, this exhibit was placed on the right-hand wall of the office entrance. We were so pleased with this exhibit that we are now having it framed under glass to make it a permanent display for the office. The above exhibits, along with a display of early radios on loan from the Bowie Radio and Television Museum, courtesy of Curator Brian Belanger, and the main exhibit, a fascinating five-part foldout on dialects (especially the dialect of Smith Island), by Associate Natalie Schilling-Estes, all elicited many favorable comments by the visitors to the reception.

In Memoriam: Jacob (Jack) Gurin

The language community, the intelligence community, and the museum community all lost a great friend with the passing of Jack Gurin on January 25, 2004, at age 83, at his new retirement home in Naples, Florida. Jack was born in Vladivostok in far Eastern Siberia in 1921 and immigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of three. After graduation from New York University he entered the Army and served during World War II as a Japanese interpreter and translator, work for which he was decorated. At war’s end, as an Army Captain, he served as interpreter for General Robert Eichelberger, Commanding General, Eighth Army.

Returning to civilian life he joined the Army Security Agency, forerunner of the National Security Agency, where he helped fill the critical language need of the time as a Russian linguist. Agency history records that “Within months of his entry on duty he engineered a revolutionary approach to the exploitation and reporting of Russian plaintext communications.” “Jack Gurin was convinced that if these messages were assembled and analyzed in the aggregate, they could yield valuable information on Soviet defense capabilities.” He served at NSA in progressively more responsible positions until his retirement in 1960. Early on, he saw the need for an organization which would make NSA retirees available to the Agency in time of emergency as well one which would foster the continuation of close employee friendships in retirement. To serve these purposes he became the principal founder of the Agency’s retiree organization, The Phoenix Society.

In retirement, Jack continued to be very active in a number of different fields. With his lifelong love of music; classical, jazz, and choral and capability on several instruments he was now able to devote more time to this facet of his life. He played with a number of groups including the Parkway Jazz Band. He immersed himself in the study of history, particularly 13th and 14th century European and Asian history. His fluency in Russian permitted him to devote much time to help in the resettlement of refugees from the Soviet Union and he did that for nearly twenty years. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the newly organized National Museum of Language. When he moved south to a gentler climate two years ago he found that the residents of his new retirement community had trouble understanding the Central and South American dialects, so he started teaching Spanish.

To everyone he met he became a dear friend. The son of a close friend of Jack summed it up quite well. “Jack was like a second father to me. I liked and admired everything about that guy. He surely touched all those who knew him, and in so many different venues. What a fine human.”

Jack is survived by his wife of sixty years, Audrey, three sons, Robert, Douglas, and Nicholas, six grandchildren, and many, many friends.

—Mike Levin

President’s note: Many years before the formal founding of the National Museum of Language, Jack was responsive to its needs in collections. He was quickly receptive to the concept when it was first broached to him, and one day when our paths crossed at work, he assured me that materials he was then assisting in compiling would be made available to the future museum. He was eager to be counted among our early supporters, and reminded us often of his offer. As a member our Board, he enlivened our meetings with his wit and wisdom.
Why I Support the National Museum of Language

In the United States today, there is a critical need to attract people to become language specialists of all sorts. Languages other than English are more relevant here than ever before; yet many people with language skills spend years wondering if there is a way they can use their skills to make a living. In fact, there are many ways: translator, interpreter (court, diplomatic, medical, mental health, telephone), bilingual receptionist, bilingual intake specialist, foreign language specialist for the US Government, foreign language teacher, and bilingual educator. For all of these jobs language skills are central. There are other jobs where language skills are ancillary (attorney, salesman, police officer, firefighter, almost any occupation really), which allow one to provide services to a wider variety of people. A museum of language could show examples of the different ways that people can turn their language skills into dollars or into a career.

A museum of language would also have presentations and exhibits on the languages of the world. This is a fascinating subject, which can educate visitors about the many families of languages spoken throughout the world and the evolution of these languages. It has been shown that American high school graduates in general have a dismal knowledge of world geography; their knowledge of the languages of the world is almost certainly even more dismal. A tour through a museum of language should be a tour of the languages of the world.

Another subject on which a museum of language could exhibit is dialects. English could serve as an example for the discussion of prestige and non-prestige forms, standard and non-standard. Of course, from English you could move to other languages, such as the dialects of Arabic or Chinese. One might envision an exhibit on the factors that cause a language to spread or die, and these could be related to the spread of English, and the death of many languages each year.

The museum could also exemplify and educate on the writing systems of the world. One exhibit could show the development of writing from hieroglyphics (words, sounds, and determiners represented by icons), to cuneiform writing (similar to hieroglyphics but pressed into clay), to character sets, alphabets, etc. Different character sets and alphabets could be identified, along with the languages that use them.

On a personal note, I have always been interested in the history of language testing. I would love to see the museum show an exhibit of different kinds of tests that have been prominent at different points in time, and how the concept of a good language test has changed over time. Another exhibit could treat the different roles that language tests play in the world today (progress, achievement, admissions, screening, competency, proficiency, accreditation, certification, licensing). Such an exhibit could attract people to the field to language testing, which is desperately short of professionals to develop the different kinds of language tests for which there is a demand today.

In short, a museum of language could treat the whole subject of language, which is as broad as the human endeavor. Language is at the center of the human experience. Many even say that it is essential for thought and intelligence. Without language, the information in this message could not be conveyed. So a museum of language could be an eye-opener for anyone who visits it. And what better place to have it than in the nation’s capital, a place where young people come to visit as part of their intellectual formation? I hope the National Museum of Language eventually grows to fill the needs described above. If it does, it will educate those who visit it in many ways, and will contribute to meeting the nation’s need for competent language professionals.

—Charles W. Stansfield

Note: Charles W. Stansfield is President of Second Language Testing, Inc., a small business devoted exclusively to the development of tests of competency in second languages. He served as Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse for Languages and Linguistics and the Division of Foreign Language Education and Testing at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he was director of TOEFL research, the Test of Spoken English, and the Test of Written English at Educational Testing Service (ETS). He was also a professor of Spanish and applied linguistics at the University of Colorado. He is author or co-author of dozens books and 60 articles on language testing and was the founding President of the International Language Testing Association. His company makes translation exams for the federal government and the Written Examination section of the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam.

Annual SPRING WORKSHOP: Fundraising

The NML Spring Workshop is one of two general meetings held each year at which the members are able to meet with the Board of Directors and Associates for the exchange of ideas and to participate in the planning for the Museum.

Our 2004 Spring Workshop is scheduled to be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, at the Old Parish House, corner of Knox Road and Dartmouth Avenue, in College Park, Maryland. As in the past, this event will include a potluck luncheon, featuring “noon delights” to be brought in by our wonderful member attendees. Frances Reed and Jane Page and their team will coordinate this aspect of the meeting.

The theme for this important event is “Fundraising.” Brief presentations will be given by President Amelia Murdoch, Membership Chair Whitney Reed, and others. The emphasis of the workshop will be on increasing memberships by corporations, institutions, organizations, and ethnic groups. Come, bring your best ideas, and enjoy participating in the planning and execution of this important effort.

—Joseph E. Page
NML INTERN PROGRAM

During March of 2002, the NML adopted an Intern Program under a new Subcommittee of the Administration Committee. The Subcommittee, entitled “Interns,” was chaired by Vice President Whitney Reed and included as members Frances Reed and President Amelia Murdoch. The Interns Subcommittee began by documenting the purpose, terms of service, a planned acknowledgement of services, and desired qualifications of candidate interns, along with an appropriate application form. The Subcommittee then attended the Internship Fair sponsored by the University of Maryland’s Department of Communications. Here information was given to numerous potential intern candidates as to how to apply for an NML internship in accordance with the Undergraduate Internship Policy of the Department of Communications. As a result of this process, the NML selected Ms. Veronica A. Segovia as the NML intern for the fall of 2003.

Segovia was a senior communications major at the University of Maryland, with a focus in public relations. She is a Paraguayan-American raised in Maryland. She speaks fluent Spanish and has traveled in several Spanish-speaking countries. Very active in her sorority—Phi Sigma Sigma—Segovia has held numerous leadership positions, including two years service on the Executive Board. Her duties in the sorority have included the planning of social events, overseeing the budget, collecting dues, keeping members informed of upcoming events, chairing a committee for preparation of an Alumnae Newsletter, and chairing a committee for Member Orientation.

Segovia's task as an Embassy Correspondent Intern was to prepare correspondence to embassies in the Washington, DC, area to enlist their support of the NML. Her work began by performing in-depth research on the NML involving familiarization with the history, current activities, achievements, and future plans of the NML. She was responsible for attaining and preparing a list of the appropriate contact points and addresses of all of the embassies in Washington, DC. Once this list was complete, she prepared the critical correspondence for each embassy, providing them with an explanation of the goals of the NML, requesting their support of the NML through membership, and asking for their ideas and suggestions as to possible Museum exhibits featuring the language(s) spoken in their countries. Meeting weekly with the Chair of the Intern Subcommittee, Segovia continued to polish the text of these letters until an agreed-upon version was achieved. Segovia ultimately developed a highly professional and outstanding letter that was condensed yet delivered NML's message in a convincing manner. Her internship lasted from September through December 2003. During this period she worked in excess of 135 hours of volunteer work for the NML.

In recognition of her work, Segovia received course credits from the University of Maryland, and the NML gave her a Certificate of Appreciation as well as a complimentary membership in the NML for 2004.

—Whitney Reed

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Letters have been sent to all Washington area embassies offering them membership in the NML and asking for their ideas and suggestions for exhibits relative to the language(s) spoken in their country. Since the first embassy to respond has been the embassy of the Czech Republic, it has been decided to develop the first exhibit on the Czech language and Czech culture once we open the Museum to the public. In the meantime, we have begun the search for Museum docents and to develop a program for training them.

President Murdoch attended two sessions on fundraising offered by the Maryland Non-Profit Association. Linked to this, work has continued in planning the Spring Workshop on April 24, 2004, which is to focus on fundraising.

An ad-hoc committee was established under Director Glenn Nordin to develop a list of prospective nominees for the planned National Advisory Council. All Directors and Associates were asked to submit nominations to the Nordin committee.

Preparations are now underway for the election of new members of the Board of Directors. A brief review was made of the contents of the Prospectus and several changes were proposed. Membership renewal letters have been sent to all members and a goal of a 10% annual increase in membership was established.

—Whitney Reed

Opening the NML Office: Docents needed!

Current plans involve opening the office a couple of days every week, and one Saturday a month. Members who would like to assist in this capacity are invited to write, telephone, or email us for further information (301-864-7071/natmuseum@juno.com).
Acknowledgements

We would like to express our deep appreciation to all those whose efforts made it possible to open our museum to the public at the Holiday Reception.

Bowtie Radio and Television Museum
Brian Belanger
P. Manuel Guevara
Rachel Liu
Kathleen E. Miller
Yuki Onoe
Joseph E. Page
Frances Reed
Margaret W. Reynolds
Natalie Schilling-Estes

Chris Estes
James E. McFadden
Amelia C. Murdoch
Dorene Okediji
Olga Jane Page
Whitney E. Reed
Dorothy Schiener
Burton Scheiner

DONORS
Marian M. Jenkins
Wills Interior Decorating
Jennifer DeCamp

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to:
The National Museum of Language

Annual Membership (calendar year)
Patron ............................................ $5,000 and up
Benefactor .................................. $1,000 - $4,999
Sustainer ................................... $500 - $999
Supporting Member ......................... $250 - $499
Contributing Member ...................... $100 - $249
Dual/Family Member ........................ $50
Individual Member .......................... $30
Student/Senior Member ................... $15
Corporate Member .......................... $1,000
Institutional/Organizational Member .... $300

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________
Telephone _____________________________
E-mail _______________________________

The National Museum of Language is officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "non-profit" organization; membership gifts are therefore tax deductible to the full extent authorized under the law.
Revised January 2000

NML Associates February 2004 – February 2005

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of the following Associates, who will serve until February 2005. As is apparent from the reports published in the Newsletter throughout the year, our Associates are active in every phase of our work. We appreciate their support, for they have been, and are, essential to the success of our mission.

Nikoleta Dineen
Manuel Guevara
Marion E. Hines, Ph.D.
Dora F. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Rachel Liu
Lee Lubbers, SJ
Yuki Onoe
Margaret W. Reynolds

Chris Estes
Kirk Hazen, Ph.D.
Michael J. Judge
M. J. "Mike" Levin
Sheri Spaine Long, Ph.D.
Kathleen F. Miller
Olga J. Page
Natalie Schilling-Estes, Ph.D.

Membership

Letters have been sent to all NML members urging them to renew their memberships for 2004. We have again set a goal of achieving another 10% increase in membership for this year. We strongly urge you to help us by recruiting new members. Please use the application form in this Newsletter to approach your friends, relatives and colleagues. You might even consider giving a gift membership to someone you think might be interested in the goals of the NML. These are great ways to show your continuing support.

Through the efforts of Associate member Dr. Sheri Spaine Long, we have already received a new Institutional membership ($3000) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. For those of our members who are actively associated with a university or college, please consider the possibility of urging them to become Institutional members also.

— Whitney Reed
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NML MEETINGS

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**National Museum of Language**

Administrative Offices
7100 Baltimore Avenue
Suite 202
College Park, Maryland 20740

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED