

## **Minutes: AATG - Herbsttreffen 2004**

When: September 25, 2004

Where: Grossmont College, Griffin Gate

Members attending: Astrid Ronke, Gabi Zois, Angela Shaw, Michael Hughes, Beatrice Theis, Karin Epperly and twenty more AATG members and non-members.

1. The meeting started with an authentic and delicious German breakfast. Brötchen, Schwarzbrot, Musli, fresh fruit, hard-boiled eggs, Quark and cold-cuts, to mention just a few, were enjoyed and appreciated by all throughout most of the morning.
2. Astrid Ronke opened the meeting at 9:30 AM.
  - contributions for the Year of Languages were discussed and solicited
  - conference proposal for the CLTA on April 14 – 17, 2005 in Ontario encouraged
  - The World Language Workshop Series Tier I offered by the California Foreign Language Project starts on October 16, 2004. There are various workshop days. Contact [SAILN@SDCOE.NET](mailto:SAILN@SDCOE.NET)
  - AATG Membership forms were handed out and membership encouraged
  - Angela Shaw gave us the Treasurer's Report, our balance is: \$ 1,486.53
3. Members organized themselves into groups according to school level for an exchange of questions, concerns about their German programs, and professional contributions. What works? What is still needed? What could be helpful? Feedback was given after small group discussions.
4. Judy Stout recounted her year in Germany as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher. Full of flair and pizzazz, Judy described her culture shock and her experiences which elicited quite a few laughs and pangs of déjà-vu and "Heimweh".
5. Liz Kaulard and Astrid Ronke brought all the members to their feet with a dynamic workshop introducing and teaching a variety of activities to activate a language class. Juggling cups while reviewing vocabulary or miming one's weekend while other students relate what they see practicing the target language, were just two examples of an excellent presentation to get the students motivated and ready for language.
6. Doris Demmel, Head of the Language Department of the Goethe Institute in San Francisco, talked about how to approach and shape ideas for the Year of Languages and demonstrated the possibilities of the Goethe Institute web site.
  - Lettermag, the pen pal program sponsored by the German Postal Service, is one of the vehicles to bridge the cultural and linguistic divide
  - Goethe Institute is also a resource for videos and teacher materials

7. Liz Kaulard talked about her experience and involvement in the Soccer Bridge. She has won this exchange program competition twice and praises it as a great motivator and recruiting tool.
8. The meeting ended with a Sharathon. Teachers brought their most successful ideas and explained them via hands-on demonstrations

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted on February 14, 2005 by Karin Epperly