

The LLL SIG Newsletter

Lifelong Language Learning Special Interest Group,
Japan Association for Language Teaching



A growing number of adults of all ages are engaged in second language study. The Lifelong Language Learning Special Interest Group (LLL SIG) invites those teaching languages to young, middle-aged, and older adults to share information through our website and newsletter, at various SIG conferences and events, and at the JALT National Conference.

Please feel free to contact us!

SIG Coordinator: Tadashi Ishida <papion_tadashi@nifty.com>

Membership Chair: Yoko Wakui <ywakui@bu.ij4u.or.jp>

Treasurer: Junko Fujio

Program Chair: Joseph Dias

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Welcome to the summer LLL SIG newsletter of 2011.

First, we have had a change in our officers and a new name added to our leadership. Peter Ross, who has done a wonderful job over the past six months, stepped down as Treasurer and Junko Fujio took his place. Thank you, Peter, for all your work for the SIG. For those of you who might not know, Junko was an office supervisor at the JALT Central Office for a long time. We are truly lucky to have her managing the LLL SIG's finances.

Julia Harper, our Publications Chair, attended the second Executive Board Meeting of NPO JALT on my behalf. She addressed concerns by the Board about our membership numbers, which are somewhat below the required 50 members, and explained what we are doing about this difficulty. Thank you, Julia, for all of your efforts there.

Our officers had a face-to-face meeting in Tokyo on the night of June 25th. In addition to discussing membership numbers, we planned our mini- conference to be held at Tokyo Keizai University, Tokyo, on Saturday, October 1st. If you have a chance to attend, I would highly recommend it!

Happy summer vacation!

Tadashi Ishida

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Greeting from our new treasurer.

This is Junko Fujio, the new LLL SIG Treasurer. I joined the LLL SIG because I want to help older people study English. I enjoy teaching English to housewives in Saitama Prefecture.

I worked at JALT Central Office for a long time. I would like to turn my previous experience to advantage in order to serve as an officer of the LLL SIG.

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A Conference fit for a Daimyo: Pan-SIG 2011 in Matsumoto, Nagano

Joseph Dias (JALT LLL-SIG Program Chair)

The 10th Annual JALT Pan-SIG Conference was held this year on May 21st and 22nd at Shinshu University in Matsumoto City, Nagano. The first day of the conference was unseasonably warm and the second day quite wet, but the heat and rain did not wilt the spirits of the participants nor dampen their enthusiasm. With a few hundred people in attendance from all corners of Japan, representing more than 20 of JALT's SIGs (special interest groups), networking opportunities were many, as were chances to reconnect with old colleagues and friends.

In addition to excellent, well-attended talks by the conference's three plenary speakers--John Read, from the University of Auckland, Rob Waring, of Notre Dame Seishin University, and the local representative, Hideki Sakai, of the hosting institution, Shinshu University--there were action-packed, day-long schedules of parallel sessions, conveniently divided into rooms dedicated to the respective SIG strands. With the publishing booths and SIG tables on the first floor of one building, and all the talks given on the two floors above, navigating the conference venue seemed effortless. If only all conferences could be as "user friendly." Such attention to detail was shown that, outside every lecture room--in addition to a schedule showing that room's program--a beautiful tag cloud, with all of the room's speakers and presentation titles, was considerably displayed.

On Saturday night, a rousing, if not slightly rowdy, social program was held, featuring a blues band, with special guest performances by some of JALT's own, a seemingly bottomless cask of sake, and delectable treats that even provided ample selections for the vegetarian/ vegans among us. The site chair, Mark Brierley, must be congratulated for leading the team that put on one of the most enjoyable and academically/ pedagogically useful Pan-SIG conferences ever.

Although we will have more speakers representing us (i.e., the LLL-SIG) at the LLL-SIG Mini Conference at Tokyo Keizai University on October 1st of this year, at the Pan-SIG we had only two speakers presenting on our behalf, my colleague, Gregory Strong, and myself. The title of our talk was "Reading for Life: The making of lifelong readers." There were approximately 15 participants in attendance, including the plenary speaker, Rob Waring. We discussed the groundwork of a reading curriculum revision project at Aoyama Gakuin University, by presenting the results of an investigation of current teaching practices there, along with an exploration,

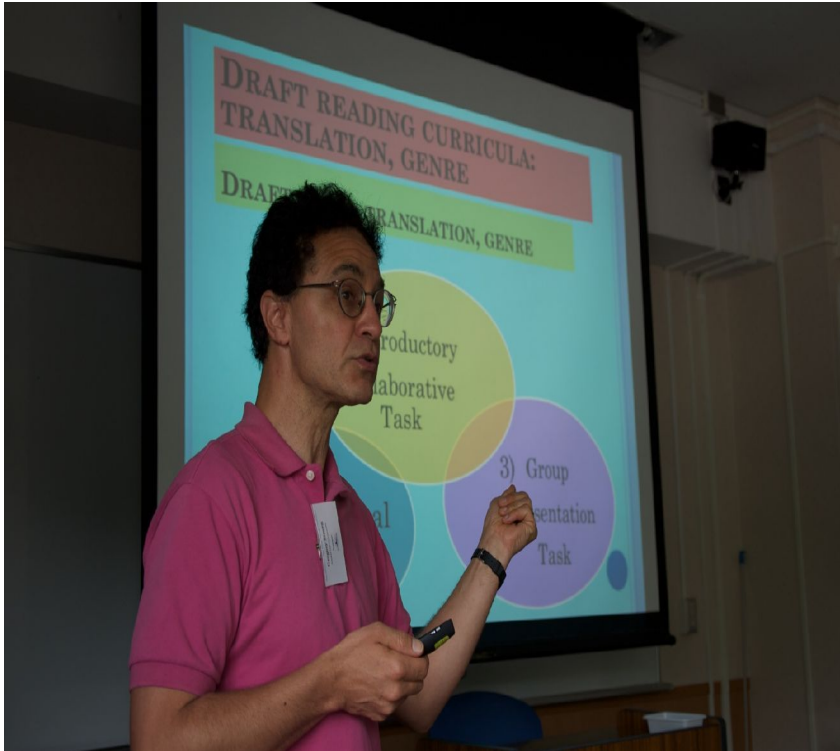
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through online surveys, of all aspects of our students' reading: both in the L1 and L2, online and off, mobile and static, for pleasure and required, current and projected. Particular attention was focused on how reading instruction can be made relevant to digital natives who prefer YouTube to Hugo, Facebook to Fitzgerald, and Twitter to Twain. We also discussed how the practice of reading could be made into a habit and carried beyond the temporal and physical confines of school life. The participants punctuated the talk with many questions and accounts of experiences in programs at their own universities, making the session truly interactive and enjoyable. The PowerPoint that accompanied this talk can be accessed at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/giuseppedias/reading-for-life-matsumoto-jalt-pansig-conference-presentation>

The next event that our LLL-SIG members may be interested to participate in is our Mini Conference at Tokyo Keizai University on October 1, 2011. The conference will coincide with the ETJ (English Teachers of Japan) Expo, so, in addition to our LLL-SIG strand of six sessions, there will be many publishers' displays and talks organized by ETJ. We hope to see you there!

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Gregory Strong, presenting with Joseph Dias, in an LLL-SIG sponsored presentation: Reading for Life: The making of lifelong readers.

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Irises growing in one of the beautifully kept gardens on a backstreet of Matsumoto.

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Joseph Dias (LLL-SIG program chair) taking a break from the conference to enjoy Matsumoto Castle and its undulating reflection.

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Photo taken at the entrance gate of the castle. The lower walls of the castle have space left between them and the stone wall so that stones can be dropped on the heads of enemies attempting to scale the castle wall. [Samurai apparently sometimes had to make a quick retreat by motor boat.]

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Morten Hunke, representing the OLE (Other Language Educators)-SIG in an interesting talk on "Audio applications for improving pronunciation/fluency."

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The daimyo's commanding view of now peaceful Matsumoto.

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Report on the JALT Executive Board Meeting (EBM)

Place: Olympic Memorial Youth Center (NYC), Tokyo

Date: Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26, 2011

LLL SIG Representative: Julia K. Harper (LLL SIG Publications Chair)

The following are highlights from the meeting that may be of interest to members.

- 1) Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund
 - a) To date a number of Chapters and SIGs have made individual donations to various relief organizations working in the Tohoku area. LLL SIG donated 24,000 yen to the Red Cross. Testimonials from Chapters and SIGs about their donations will be posted on JALT's Emergency Response Website.
 - b) Chapters and SIGs wishing to donate through JALT were able to do so by July 15
 - c) An ad hoc JALT Tohoku Relief Committee was set up at the EBM and had a lunch meeting on Sunday June 26. The committee coordinator is Maria Gabriella Schmidt (mariamori@gmail.com) and the committee will research options and decide how to use any funds donated.
 - d) Members of chapters or SIGs with ideas as to how the funds could be used, please contact the committee coordinator (email above)
- 2) Report from JALT president, Kevin Cleary
 - a) Since February, President Kevin Cleary has represented JALT at CamTESOL (Cambodia, in February), TESOL (March), and IATEFL (April).

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- b) Mentors are needed for scholars awarded CamTESOL research grants. As well, for 50 US dollars, CamTESOL can arrange for a local teacher to attend the conference.
- c) Kevin Cleary and Director of Public Relations Michael Stout, attended a meeting of the United Association of Language Studies (UALS). The over 30 members of this association would be willing to collaborate with JALT SIGs.

UALS Website: <http://www.nacos.com/gengoren/index.html>

3) Report from Director of Membership, Buzz Green

- a) There is an ongoing problem with Chapter and SIG officers letting their JALT membership expire, which is a violation of JALT bylaws (Bylaws V. 3.2). Officers are asked to be vigilant and membership chairs are asked to be sure that officers renew their JALT memberships on time. Those who renew their membership more than 3 months after the expiration date will have their membership backdated to the expiry date.

4) Director of Public Relations, Michael Stout

- a) The advertising contract between JALT and the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper has been renewed. The number of ads to be run has been increased in order to offer Chapters and SIGs a chance to advertise their activities and events. CUE SIG has already taken advantage of this offer.

5) Director of Treasury, Oana Cusen

- a) Reorganization of national bookkeeping categories

- * Categories have been added for meal expenses claimed by officers attending various JALT meetings.

- * A line has been added to keep track of donations from Chapters and SIGs for

Best of JALT

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b) Late Monthly Accounting Statements (MAS)

- * A number of Chapters and SIGs have fallen behind with MAS submissions, which causes a lot of extra work for treasurers and examiners. Standing Rules 1.9 and 1.10 state that Chapter and SIG accounts can be frozen if MAS and Annual Financial Reports are submitted late.
- * There will be Skype training courses on how to fill out the Officer Expense Claim (OEC)

c) Missing receipts

All expenses must be documented with receipts, or money cannot be reimbursed

c) Incomplete budgets

Many Chapters and SIGs failed to create a budget last year. Email reminders with detailed instructions and Skype training sessions will be implemented this year.

6) Financial Steering Committee Chair, Kevin Ryan

- a) A pilot program has been implemented to allow Chapters and SIGs to enter financial information online at Google Docs rather than into an Excel spreadsheet. So far, the pilot program is working well and the advantages to treasurers are that they can share spreadsheets when they need help, the Director of Treasury can get frequent updates, Google Docs supplies upgrades automatically, and Google Docs saves every change so that errors can be easily corrected. The program will likely be open to more treasurers next year.

7) SIG Representative, Hugh Nicoll

- a) The Teacher Helping Teachers (THT) SIG has been recognized as a full SIG and the Task-based Learning (TBL) SIG has been recognized as an affiliate SIG. As well, Vocabulary, EFL Literature, and Speech, Drama and Debate have been introduced as forming SIGs
- b) Full SIGs that are unable to maintain over 50 members may be reassigned to affiliate SIG

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status. Thanks to the support of representatives at the EBM, a motion to change the status of LLL SIG from full to affiliate SIG was postponed (LLL SIG now has 46 members), but we will need to bring our membership above 50 to ensure that we maintain our status as a full SIG in the future.

- c) There was a long discussion about how to handle the change of status from full to affiliate SIG.

8) SIG Breakout Meeting

- a) Some people feel concerned because the number of SIGs is rapidly expanding (there are currently 26 SIGs). First, it is a financial burden for JALT, which provides financial aid and reimbursement of expenses for travel to EBMs. Second, it causes a lot of administrative work for the JCO staff. Third, it makes conference planning more difficult, and forums and Annual General Meetings (AGMs) take slots from vetted presenters. Last, it is felt that SIGs will have an increasingly hard time finding members and officers from among the pool of JALT members.

Other representatives at the meeting felt that a large number of SIGs was an advantage, as they allow JALT members to pursue specific interests and become involved in the organization.

- b) Several proposals were made with regard to the proliferation of SIGs. One was to make it harder for SIGs to form by requiring more members, treasurer training sessions, and a longer wait time to become a full SIG. Another proposal was to have several related SIGs unite to form a single SIG.

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LLL SIG Officers' Meeting Report

An LLL SIG officers' meeting was held in Tokyo on Saturday June 25 at 7pm (after the JALT Executive Board Meeting (EBM)). Four officers were in attendance: Tadashi Ishida (Coordinator), Junko Fujio (Treasurer), Joseph Dias (Program Chair) and Julia K. Harper (Publications Chair). Two members-at-large (Peter Wanner and Peter Ross) were also in attendance for part of the meeting.

Items discussed:

1. Welcome to our new treasurer, Junko Fujio
(Please check Junko's greeting in this newsletter)
2. Report about the Saturday session of the JALT EBM (Julia Harper)
(See JALT EBM report in this newsletter for details)
3. SIG membership numbers
LLL SIG has had a membership of under (but close to) 50 for several years and a membership drive is needed to bring us up to the required number of over 50 members. (See the JALT EBM report, sections 7 and 8, in this newsletter for details)
4. Upcoming LLL SIG mini-conference (Joseph Dias and Peter Ross)
There was a planning session for the upcoming LLL SIG mini-conference to be held at Tokyo Keizai University on October 1. The final date, the number of speakers, and the possibility of having the mini-conference co-occur with the English Teachers of Japan (ETJ) Expo were discussed. (Please see the mini-conference call for presentations in this newsletter for details)

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Upcoming LLL SIG Mini Conference

The JALT Lifelong Language Learning (LLL) SIG will hold its Mini Conference on October 1st at Tokyo Keizai University. This year the conference will not be so mini, as it will co-occur with the ETJ (English Teachers of Japan) Expo. The theme of the conference is "Starting the Journey toward Lifelong Language Learning."

We still have a few slots available for presentations by our members, so, if any of you have a proposal to submit, please do so by the end of this month (July 31st, 11:59 PM). Submit them to the program chair, Joseph Dias, at << jodias@cl.aoyama.ac.jp >>. In your proposal, include a succinct title, a summary of less than 75 words, an abstract of 250 words or less, and a bio of approximately 50 words. Also, please note any sort of technology you would require for your presentation [We probably would be limited to preparing a projector for presenters.].

Looking forward to receiving your proposals.

Clear skies,

Joseph Dias

Program Chair (LLL-SIG)

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An Afternoon in Ueno Park (Part 14)

Tadashi Ishida

This is the fourteenth in a series of articles in which Tadashi Ishida, an English teacher at a community center in Taito Ward in Tokyo, describes a language-learning activity that he conducted with his class. After considerable research and preparation, the learners toured Ueno Park with a foreign visitor, Mrs. Fitzwater, explaining to her the highlights of the park and answering her questions. After the tour, the learners wrote their own combination text and guidebook based on this experience.

Mr. Akagi continued his discussion.

A: People who lived in tenement houses always helped each other. In this way the tenement houses became a community.

F: And were all these stores part of the tenement houses area where the people did their shopping and lived?

A: Yes, that's right.

F: Very interesting. Several times in Japan I have been asked if we helped each other in America, if we are like a community or a family in our neighborhood. And of course we are, you know. If people are sick or in trouble, we help each other. I think that's probably true of most societies.

赤城さんは話を続けます。

赤：長屋に住んでいた人々は常に助け合いました。このようにして、長屋は共同体になったのです。

フ：そして、ここにあるお店は、人々が買い物をしたり、住んでいた長屋の一部でしたか？

赤：はい、その通りです。

フ：非常に興味深いです。日本にいる間、私は幾度か聞かれました。私たちはアメリカで助け合っているのか、地域で私たちは共同体や

家族のようなものかとね。そして、もちろん、その通りですよね。もし人々が病気になったり、困ったときは助け合います。それは、

ほとんどの社会でたぶん当てはまると思います。

Mrs. Fitzwater asked another question.

F: What do you call the board that you use in the tub?

A: A washboard.

F: A washboard? So do we.

Miss Mizuguchi showed Mrs. Fitzwater how to use it.

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フィッツウォーターさんは、別の質問をしました。

フ：たらいの中で使う板は何といいますか？

赤：洗濯板です。

フ：洗濯板ですか？ 私たちもそう言います。

水口さんがどのようにそれを使うのか、フィッツウォーターさんに見せました。



Mrs. Fitzwater found a well and asked Mr. Akagi about it.

F: Did you ever use this kind of well? Did you ever have to use this kind of well?

A: No, I didn't.

Miss Yamada tried to use it. She tried to pump water.

F: You can just try everything here. It's a very special museum.

フィッツウォーターさんは井戸を見つけて、赤城さんに尋ねました。

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フ：こんな井戸を使ったのですか？　こんな井戸を使わなければいけなかったのですか？

赤：いいえ。

山田さんがそれを使おうとしました。彼女は水をくみ出そうとしました。

フ：ここでは何でもやってみることができますね。本当に特別な博物館です。



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Call for Submissions for the SIG Newsletter

LLL SIG Publications Chair

The next issue of the LLL SIG newsletter will be published in Fall 2011. We invite members to send submissions such as teaching ideas for the My Share column, interviews, book reviews, resources for adult learners, teacher or class profiles, or short research articles. Research articles written in English should follow the American Psychological Association (APA) style. For information on APA style, please check <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Language: Submissions may be in English or Japanese, or both.

Deadline for submissions: September 30, 2011

Submissions should be sent to Julia Harper at: harper.julia.k@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

The editors

投稿を募集中です。また、My Share のコラムにレッスンのアイディアなどをお寄せ下さい。その他、インタビュー、書評、論文など、どしどしお願いします。論文の書式はAPAを採用しています。APAスタイルの詳細に関しては以下のサイトを参照に：<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

言語は英語でも日本語でも OK です。

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すべての原稿はこのアドレスまで：harper.julia.k@gmail.com

原稿、楽しみに待っています。

編集担当者一同