

IN THIS ISSUE:

Vol II, Issue 15
April 15, 2008

- ▶ International TESOL
- ▶ ESOL Task Force
- ▶ NE ABLE RC Library
- ▶ BEST Literacy
- ▶ Resources

ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

International TESOL Conference 2008

Congratulations to all presenters representing Ohio last week at TESOL in New York City! ABLE presenters included Barb Wookey, Jill Kramer, Deb Hartsell, Theresa Konchan, Josie Kramer, Ruth Tracy, Monica Nagle, Marilyn McLaughlin, Gloria Gillette and Christina Theuerling.

Upcoming TAPAS issues will contain resources collected from the conference. Event Casts of sessions at the conference can also be viewed on the TESOL website at www.tesol.org.

Conference planners are already looking forward to next year in Denver, March 25-28, 2009. You can too - contribute to the TESOL Resource Center for a chance to win lodging at the conference.



Jill Kramer & Deb Hartsell presented at TESOL in NYC

Join the ESOL Task Force - Summit XIII

May 16-17, 2008

Best Western Franklin Park Suites - Polaris
Columbus, Ohio

Attention ESOL teachers and administrators! We are looking for a diverse representation of ESOL programs to join the task force, formerly known as the *ESOL Summit*. The mission of the ESOL Task Force is to review national, state and local issues. The task force also makes recommendations for policy and training needs regarding ESOL programming. The task force meets no more than twice a year. The next meeting will be on May 16th and 17th in Columbus. If you are interested in joining, please contact Donna Albanese at donna.albanese@ode.state.oh.us by April 22nd.

For those currently on the task force, please let Donna know if you are still interested in participating. This task force is limited to 20 people.

NE ABLE RC LIBRARY

USCIS Videos *A Promise to Freedom*, an Introduction to US History & Civics for Immigrants, and *Becoming a US Citizen*, an overview of the Naturalization process. The videos are available online at www.uscis.gov, in the USCIS Citizenship Toolkit and also in the NE ABLE library.

OUT & ABOUT in the World of Computers is an introductory computer course for beginning English Learners.

Visit www.neablelibrary.org to reserve a copy.

Assessment Policy Changes for FY2009 BEST Literacy



The revised *BEST Literacy* test has undergone more changes. In October 2006, Forms B and C were updated and Form D was released as another option for pre and post-testing. Recently, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) announced its findings from a study they conducted to align the revised test to the latest NRS levels. The results are new scale score ranges for NRS levels 1-5 effective **July 1, 2008**. A completion chart with the new scale scores aligned with the other approved tests in Ohio is attached. Laminated copies are available through the Bodega.

Ohio ABE is adopting the revised test and scale scores for use in FY2009. Therefore, only the revised test Forms B, C and D will be accepted in ABLELink. The old test forms B and C, otherwise known as the *BEST Literacy Skills Section*, must be destroyed after June 30, 2008. New **Test Manuals** will be available through the Northeast ABE Resource Center at no cost.

For more information attend Gloria Gillette's session entitled *Assessments for ESOL* at the OAAACE Conference on April 17th at 2:15 pm.

Resources

Khaled Hussein, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is holding a **book group discussion** online. Readers can submit questions throughout April and he will respond via videos posted on the website in May. Visit www.khaledhosseini.com.

CLINIC announces its **Immigration Advocates Network** - a web-based tool for distributing immigration-related content and advocacy tools to charitable legal service providers. www.immigrationadvocates.org

Upcoming-

Citizenship: Passing the Test by Lynne Weintraub - September 2008!

This student text has been revised for the new citizenship test and won't be available until this fall. However, order by **June 30** and receive a **35%** discount! Contact New Readers Press at www.newreaderspress.com or (800) 448-8878.

Free **Webinar** by Lynne Weintraub will preview her updated book and discuss the revised citizenship test. May 2nd at 3:00pm and repeated on May 9 at 6:00 pm. Register by emailing citizenship@prolitteracy.org.

The Visitor, a movie about immigration issues - Coming soon to a local theater!

The film highlights the impact of detention on two young immigrants and the American professor they befriend. It opens at the Cedar Lee Theatre on May 2nd. To view the trailer for *The Visitor*, go to <http://www.apple.com/trailers/independent/thevisitor/trailer/>