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ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

Ohio TESOL Conference 2007

Thanks to all for another great Ohio TESOL Fall Conference! This year's conference celebrated 30 years of Ohio TESOL with nearly 800 participants. The Adult Ed track offered 21 sessions including Integrating Technology in the Multilevel EL/Civics Classroom through Virtual Visits, Ideas for Successfully Transitioning Adult ESOL Students into a GED Program, Using Games in the ESOL Classroom, Reading: The ABCs of Teaching Reading to Adults and Learning a Second Language: How does It Feel? Congratulations to all presenters!



Carol Kirwin, Barbara Wookey, Jan Thomas

If you missed the conference this year and/or are looking for ideas to use with your students, session reviews and lesson plans will be posted online at www.neable.org. The first review is included in this issue on page 2.

The OTESOL Board of Directors maintains Adult Ed representation. Although we lost Barbara Wookey, President 2006-07 and Kathy Olson, Grants & Awards Coordinator, Members elected Gloria Gillette as Second Vice President. Christina Theuerling continues as Adult Ed/Refugee Interest Section Rep. For more information on the organization, visit www.ohiotesol.org.

Web Resources for the Holidays

EL/Civics for ESL Students <http://www.elcivics.com/esl-christmas.html>

CELEBRATE! HOLIDAYS IN THE U.S.A. is an introductory survey of the historical and social backgrounds of American holidays.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/symbols/celebrat.pdf>

English Online - Materials for Teaching and Learning

<http://eleaston.com/listening.html>

International Holidays spreadsheet 2007

<http://www.mwls.co.uk/inthols07free.htm>



NE RC LIBRARY RESOURCES

Celebrate With Us:
A Beginning ESL Reader of
Holidays & Festivals

Holidays in the U.S.A.
An Interactive ESL Reader

Plays for the Holidays by
local ESL teacher, Anne
Siebert

Holiday Jazz Chants by
Carolyn Graham

Available upon request at
www.neablelibrary.org.



Review of Najwa Badawi's OTESOL Presentation: "Arabic as a Second Language"

Marhaba (Hi), and welcome to the world of Arabic.

Taking this short course on the Arabic language gave new meaning to learning a second language. Not only are the 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet different from our letters, but writing and reading of the letters/words are from right to left. In addition there are three different types of Arabic: *Quranic Arabic*-also called *classical Arabic* (used for prayers & religious discussions) has been in use for about 2000 years. *Local dialects-informal Arabic* evolved within the last 500 years, and *Modern Standard Arabic* -less formal than the Quranic Arabic, but more formal than local dialects (used to present the news) developed within the last 75 years.

To make the language more interesting one has to remember that vowels are not actually letters but symbols that are placed above or below a word. We also learned the Arabic ABCs as well as exceptions to the rules such as "V" not existing in Arabic. That sound/letter is replaced by "r" but can be read as "v". Therefore, David is written as Dafid in Arabic and pronounced with the "v" sound. The letter "P" does not exist in Arabic either. It is replaced by "b". So Pakistan would be "Bakistan" in Arabic and our word "Park" would be pronounced "Bark" by a native. And by the way, a "to be" verb does not exist in Arabic. Is/are sentences are created without the use of the actual verb. How great is that!

We learned helpful phrases and words should you have Arabic speaking students in your class. In this short session we also were introduced to Middle Eastern foods and how to ask for a certain food as well as cultural facts about "Life at Home" and things one should not do when interacting with Arabs. This last tidbit more than anything was most important for me. One can get off on the wrong foot right at the beginning if a cultural rule is broken. The ones that were shared at the session were:

- Do not refuse a gift if you are offered one.
- Do not drink alcohol in public
- Do not engage in public displays of affection
- Do not enter a room full of people without saying 'Asalam alaykum'
- Do not shake hands with a firm grip
- Do not ask to be introduced to a female accompanying a male.
- Do not sit with the sole of your shoe facing someone
- Do not open a gift in front of the giver
- Do not finish everything on your plate/drink

It was an excellent session, kept us engaged the whole time, and allowed for a closer understanding of a peoples and culture that so often is misunderstood. Although I must admit, there was just too much information and not enough time....that's the way it always is.

'Ma asalaama'

Erika Botsch
ABLE Coordinator, Cleveland ABLE Program