SIGs and Regions Spotlight

For this issue, we present a roundup of some of the doings of various SIGs and Regions groups.

**Late Spring and Summer Events**  
*by Julie McCarthy (Regions Coordinator); jmccarthy@me.stier.org; regions@nystesol.org*

Although many different types of events were held throughout New York State, one of the most popular, judging by the photos, was Salons! The first Salon to be held in the Rochester/Syracuse Region was “Getting to the Core with Mother Goose.” Participants learned how Mother Goose rhymes address Common Core Standards for English language learners in ELA and content-area subjects such as math, science, and social studies. Teachers sipped on wine and snacked on cheese and crackers in the comfort of a private home while learning about a practical skill to use with their students. Another enjoyable activity held in this Region was a summer luncheon at a restaurant in the beautiful Finger Lakes town of Skaneateles. Diane Staehr-Fenner, author of the ColorinColorado ESL blog, talked about updates to her book(s) and her work for NYS on the Common Core for ELLs.

**TESOL Resource Outdoor Sharing Event at Pier 26 (Tribeca)**  
*by Ravneet Parmar (Former Adult Education SIG Chair and current Regions Assistant Coordinator) ravneetminhas@gmail.com; regions@nystesol.org; and Tilla Alexander (SIGS Co-Coordinator) esltilla@gmail.com; sigs@nystesol.org*

Ravneet Parmar, then-chairperson for the Adult Ed SIG, organized this event to provide an opportunity to collaborate and network with other TESOL professionals. As part of this Salon, attendees had an initial meet-and-greet session. They were then put in small groups of 3-4 and given a set of questions to discuss. Later, they came together to have a whole-group discussion. The facilitator was present to help initiate large and small-group discussions.

This Salon enabled the attendees to exchange ideas, discuss concerns, and provide support. While interacting with each other, attendees were able to share more information on different teaching styles, methodology, classroom management, and student management.

The teachers also became more acquainted with the different adult education programs in New York City, benefited from the advice from teachers in the workforce, and had their questions or concerns answered by professionals. Although there was a threat of rain, there were more than twenty attendees. I believe this event was the first of its kind, but we’re sure it will be repeated as it was so well received.

**SIGs and Regions Social Hour at NYS TESOL Conference, November 2014**  
*by Julie McCarthy (Regions Coordinator) jmccarthy@me.stier.org; regions@nystesol.org; and Tilla Alexander (SIGS Co-Coordinator) esltilla@gmail.com; sigs@nystesol.org*

As attendees entered the door to the annual SIGs and Regions Social Hour at the 44th Annual NYS TESOL Conference, they were given a ticket for a free beverage. In the middle of the ballroom floor, a buffet laden with cheese, crackers, fruit, and other tasty snacks tempted conference-goers. High-top pub tables scattered throughout the room were quickly filled with
people chatting, drinking a glass of wine, and munching on a plate of goodies. Long tables edged
the room, where posters with photos and information highlighting NYS TESOL’s various SIGs
and Regions events during the past year were propped on the wall. People milled about, looking
at photos of the varied events that had occurred and talking with SIGs and Regions
representatives. The atmosphere was collegial and relaxed, with people connecting and sharing
new knowledge gained from the sessions of the day.

Announcements
We are happy to welcome Lisa Pye as our new chair for the Teaching English Internationally
SIG. Lisa works for the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN).
In addition, we are pleased that Ravneet Parmar has a new position as Regions Assistant
Coordinator on the NYS TESOL Executive Board. We look forward to a very productive year!