



language legacies

KARL TEETER, 1929-2007

We are saddened to report the death of ELF board member Karl Teeter. Karl was a long-time supporter of the Fund and served on the Board of Directors since 1998.

Karl was Professor of Linguistics at Harvard from 1959 until 1989, and Professor Emeritus from his retirement until his death on April 20, 2007. He had a great love for languages, and he studied a dozen or more during his lifetime; he learned Japanese during his time stationed in Japan in the U.S. Army in the early 1950's, he worked for years on Maliseet-Passamaquoddy, and his work on the Wiyot language of Northern California was the focus of his career as a researcher. Karl worked closely with Della Prince, who was the last native speaker of Wiyot when she died in 1962. Karl's description of Wiyot continues to be the authoritative resource on the language, and his work has had lasting effects on the field of descriptive linguistics.

One of Karl's most important contributions to the field of linguistics was to confirm the relationship between the Ritwan languages of Northern California, Wiyot and Yurok, and the dozens of Algonquian languages of the Northeastern United States and Canada. This work helped put an end to the long-unresolved "Ritwan" controversy and established the Algonquian and Ritwan languages as part of the larger Algic language family.

During his life, Karl published books on the Wiyot language, including the two-volume *Wiyot Handbook* (1993). This year, Philip LeSourd published *Tales from Maliseet Country: The Maliseet Texts of Karl V. Teeter* (2007), a

collection of stories that Karl collected from Maliseet speakers during the summer of 1963.

Karl leaves behind a legacy of compassion and commitment to endangered languages, and we are fortunate to have had his inspiration and counsel here at the Endangered Language Fund over the last nine years. He will be sorely missed. Karl's family has designated ELF as a recipient of memorial contributions. Thanks to the ELF members who have made contributions in Karl's memory. Please visit our website to make an donation in Karl's honor, and for links to other tributes.

Karl's research helped resolve the "Ritwan" controversy, establishing the geographically distant Algonquian and Ritwan languages as part of the larger Algic language family.

CHANGES TO THE ELF BOARD

We are happy to announce that **Bobby Winston** has joined the ELF Board of Directors. Bobby is the owner of Bay Crossings, the San Francisco-based publication and business that explores the cultural, environmental, and maritime issues of San Francisco Bay, and lobbies for a comprehensive regional ferry service in the San Francisco Bay area. Bobby, who founded and ran the San

Francisco Shakespeare Festival until 1996, brings 14 years of experience in non-profit management and fund raising to the board. We welcome Bobby to the ELF Board of

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Directors, and we are fortunate to have his support, enthusiasm, and experience in non-profit fund raising and management.

Gay Story Hamilton has stepped down from the ELF Board of Directors. Gay served as chairwoman of the Tribal Council of Elders of the Mohegan Tribe of Eastern Connecticut, and has been involved in Native American language revitalization projects within the Mohegan community for years. Gay joined the ELF board in 2000, and her commitment to ELF over the years has been a blessing.

ELF welcomes **Stephen Anderson** back to the Board of Directors. The Fund reserves an ex-officio position on the Board of Directors for the chair of the Yale Department of Linguistics, and Stephen is replacing **Louis Goldstein** in that position this summer when Louis leaves for the University of Southern California. We are fortunate to have Stephen back on the board, and we are thankful to Louis for all his help and support.

Stephanie Fielding has joined the ELF Board of Directors. She is a member of the Mohegan tribe of Eastern Connecticut, and she works as a tribal linguist in the Mohegan community. Stephanie brings years of experience with language revitalization to the board: she earned a Masters degree in linguistics from MIT, and her primary research was on the Mohegan language. She is a descendent of Fidelia Fielding, who was thought to be the last native speaker of Mohegan when she died in 1908. Stephanie's work focused on reconstructing the Mohegan language by analyzing Fidelia Fielding's diaries and by investigating the sound correspondences between Mohegan and the other Algonquian languages spoken in New England. She is active in the lan-

guage program at the Mohegan reservation, and she is currently working on publishing educational materials in the language. We are thankful to have Stephanie's support on the ELF board.

Darrell Kipp, director of the Piegan Institute, has joined the ELF Board of Directors. The Piegan Institute is devoted to the revitalization of the Blackfoot language on the Blackfeet Reservation in Northwestern Montana. Darrell served on the Council of Tribal Advisors for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. He now serves on the advisory committee for the Native Voices endowed grant program, which will begin distributing grants this winter for work on Native North American languages (see the Native Voices Call for Proposals below for more information). We welcome Darrell to the Board of Directors, and are grateful to be able to draw on his experience with the revitalization of Native North American languages and his commitment to reversing the fortunes of the many endangered languages of North America.

Darrell Kipp is director of the Piegan Institute, devoted to the revitalization of the Blackfeet language in Northwestern Montana.

ELF AT IFIP CONFERENCE

In May, Nick Emlen represented ELF at the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) conference, held at the Levi-Strauss Foundation in San Francisco. IFIP works to increase funding for indigenous projects, and to provide a forum to help funders fulfill their goals more effectively. The conference was attended by indigenous people and by funders from all over the world seeking to establish a closer relationship with the people that they support. Many of the discussions centered on the problems that arise from misunderstandings between funders and indigenous people, and the conference highlighted strategies for pursuing partnerships that are consistent with the needs of those receiving support.

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The keynote speakers were Isabel Ortega Ventura, President of the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas, and actress Q'orianka Kilcher, who played Pocahontas opposite Colin Farrell in the 2005 film "The New World." Ms. Kilcher is producing a documentary about the fight of the Achuar people of Peru against the oil companies that have moved onto their land. Kilcher is also involved in bringing indigenous issues to the attention of young actors.

The conference sponsors included The Levi-Strauss Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Kalliopeia Foundation, Livingry Fund, Tides Foundation, Ford Foundation, Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation and The Mailman Foundation.

ELF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

This spring, the NYU Department of Linguistics and the Yale Language Student Interest Group invited Nick Emlen to talk about the work of the Endangered Language Fund. NYU linguistics professor Chris Collins, who has worked on Ewe and the Khoisan languages of Africa, taught a class in the fall on the subject of endangered languages. Dr. Collins invited ELF to speak to his class about the projects that the Fund supports, the goals and progress of the endangered language revitalization movement, and the issues and conflicts that arise in the world of endangered language funding. The Yale Language Student Interest Group, which hosts weekly talks on topics in language and linguistics, invited ELF to give a similar talk in April. If you are interested in our education and outreach program, please visit our website.

NATIVE VOICES ENDOWMENT: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Native Voices grant program provides funding for those tribes whose ancestors experienced contact with the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1804-1806.

This is the first year of the Endangered Language Fund's annual Native Voices endowed grant program, established for work on some of the indigenous languages of North America. This endowment comes from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, which received the revenue from the U.S. Mint's sale of the Lewis and Clark 2002-2004 Commemorative Coins.

We will accept proposals from members of eligible tribes along the historic route of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition whose ancestors experienced contact with the expedition, or whose ancestral homelands were traversed by the expedition, or whose tribal customs or languages were recorded by the expedition, including tribes who were removed to Oklahoma subsequent to the expedition.

This year, the Native Voices Endowment grant program will make a total of \$75,000 available to enrolled tribal members, tribal government language programs, tribal community language programs and tribal schools and colleges. Proposals will be accepted for Native American language educational programs, individual study by Native American language students, and research efforts to document and record Native North American languages for future preservation and education.

Proposals for \$2,500-\$25,000 will be considered. Grants may be awarded over a period of one to three years. Native Voices grants must be matched by the recipient on a 1:1 basis. The match can be in cash or in-kind goods or services. Salaries, equipment, supplies, consultant fees, travel, and publication subventions are eligible. Eligible salaries may include those for tribally enrolled teachers, mentors, researchers, traditional teachers, elders, and storytellers. Indirect and general operating expenses are not eligible.

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LANGUAGE LEGACIES:

Nick Emlen
Editor,
The Endangered
Language Fund,
New Haven, CT

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NATIVE VOICES ENDOWMENT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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Required application materials include 1) a cover page containing the title of the project and the name, contact information, position, and qualifications of the project managers, 2) a detailed description of the project, 3) an itemized budget, 4) supporting letters and resolutions from the governing body and individuals or organizations who are familiar with the project manager's work, and 5) a statement of ethical approval from the appropriate tribal group stating that the research and use of the materials after the research is concluded meets the ethical standards of the tribe. For a full description of these application materials and requirements, please visit our website.

All grant recipients are required to provide the tribe, whose language was subject of the project, and the Fund with copies of field materials, audio and video recordings collected or made with Native Voices funds, accompanying transcriptions, and any publications or films resulting from materials obtained with the assistance of the grant. The purposes of this requirement are to make available to tribes and tribal members a means of preserving their own data and to build an archive of language education and preservation materials that can be available to future teachers, researchers, and students.

The deadline is October 15, 2007. There is no application form. Applications must be submitted electronically. The Request for Proposals and a list of eligible tribes are available at our website. For more information, please visit our website:

[www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/
native_voices_RFP](http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/native_voices_RFP)



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fund

300 George Street, Suite 900; New Haven, CT 06511

p: 203.865-6163, ext. 265 f: 203.865-8963 www.endangeredlanguagefund.org