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# THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

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## 131.0 SSILA BUSINESS

2001 Membership Directory: last call for corrections

The annual hardcopy version of the SSILA Membership Directory will be printed and distributed later this month. If you have changed your address (postal or e-mail) during the past year you should confirm that we have the current one on file by accessing your entry in the on-line Directory at:

# http://www.ssila.org

(Changes sent to us in the last few weeks may not have been entered yet.)

You should also let us know of any changes that need to be made to the index of language specializations. Updates must be received before February 15 if they are to be reflected in the printed 2001 Directory. Send all communications to:

# golla@ssila.org

E-mail notices have been sent to approximately 20 members in serious arrears for membership dues. Members receiving this notice will be dropped from the 2001 Directory if they do not contact us by February 15.

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## 131.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Day names in Amerindian languages

>From Mike Falk (falk@fox.nstn.ca) 2 Feb 2001:

I have been collecting data on the names of the days of the week in different languages. So far I have obtained them in only about a dozen Amerindian languages (Blackfoot, Carrier, Guarani, Inuktitut, Mohawk, Micmac, Paez, Papago-Pima, Potawotomi, Quechua, Tuscarora and Tzotzil). I would very much like to obtain the names of the days in additional Amerindian languages. I would also like to have references to the approximate dates (and other circumstances) of the initial coining of these day names.

--Michael Falk Halifax, Nova Scotia (falk@fox.nstn.ca)

Word for 'integrity'?

>From Alyse Neundorf (aneundorf@gallup.unm.edu) 1 Feb 2001:

I would like to know what the term/word \_tanda\_ means, and in what Indian language. I was told once that it is an "Indian word" which means 'integrity' or something like that.

--Alyse Neundorf Albuquerque, New Mexico (aneundorf@gallup.unm.edu)

I have recently been asked to act as a linguistic consultant for an experimental, short (one week) language immersion camp for young adults from the Blood (Kainai, Blackfoot) reserve near Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. This pilot project is an initiative from local Blood people, and is funded and co-ordinated jointly by the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Calgary, the Addictions Counseling Program of the University of Lethbridge, Red Crow Community College, and the First Nations Higher Education Consortium. Enrollment will be limited to twelve participants. The course is aimed at young adults with little or no knowledge of the Blackfoot language. The camp will take place on the Blood reserve in July 2001, and be run largely by local elders who are fluent in the language and who will do the bulk of the teaching in a culturally appropriate setting and in the context of culturally appropriate activities. Two focus groups have already been held in which members of the target group have been asked about their wishes and expectations for a course like this. What they have expressed in terms of what they would like to learn and why they would come to a course like this is being taken into account in developing the curriculum. There is already a fair bit of language work going on on the three Canadian Blackfoot reserves, including immersion for young children and language classes at the elementary and highschool levels. The University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Community College, and Red Crow Community College also offer Blackfoot language courses for adults.

This pilot is new in its exclusive focus on local Blood people and on young adults, and in its emphasis on a combination of language instruction with on-site cultural instruction in a relevant environment. While the experience will be intense (participants will camp at the site and have extensive interaction with fluent speakers), a week is not very long, and it is obvious that expectations for the amount of language that can be learned in such a short time should not be exaggerated. An additional factor that may hamper language learning is the fact that there may be participants with small children who do not speak Blackfoot and for whom we will probably not be able to organize a special, separate program.

I would be most interested in hearing from individuals and groups who have experience with similar small-scale immersion camps, and in getting their advice on how they combined cultural and language activities and

in general how they promoted language learning in such a setting.

--Inge Genee Dept. of Modern Languages, University of Lethbridge Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4, Canada (inge.genee@uleth.ca)

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#### 131.2 POSITION OPEN

\* Cherokee Heritage Fellow

>From Stephanie Snyder (altimiral@hotmail.com) 23 Jan 2001:

The Cherokee National Historical Society, Inc. is pleased to announce a one-year Cherokee Fellow position, funded by the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. This fellowship includes one year's support for a graduate student to do research in the Cherokee language. The resulting monograph (which will be published by the Cherokee National Historical Society) will meet the highest standards of scholarship and will be made available to the Cherokee people in their language preservation efforts.

The fellowship will pay \$20,000 for twelve months. The fellow will have an office and will be accorded access to native speakers, as well as typing facilities. In addition, the fellow will meet regularly with an advisory committee of Cherokee speakers. Topic of research is negotiable.

Send letter of application to:

The Cherokee National Historical Society P.O. Box 515
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 456-6007
info@cherokeeheritage.org

Application deadline is March 31, 2001, with notification in May 2001. The year of study will begin in September 2001 and run through September 2002.

For further information contact Stephanie Snyder (VISTA Volunteer) at <altimira1@hotmail.com>.

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## 131.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

A weekend workshop on "Deciphering Maya Glyphs: An Introduction to Maya Writing and the Calendar" will be held at New College of the University of South Florida, in Sarasota, April 7-8, 2001, sponsored by New College and the Institute for Hieroglyphic Research. The workshop will be led by Gabrielle Vail. April 7 will be devoted to the basics of reading Maya glyphs and interpreting the Mayan calendar; April 8 (optional half-day) will focus on Maya historical texts and the Long Count calendar. The fees are \$50 (April 7) and \$20 (April 8); a workbook is available for \$5. (No fee for New College students and faculty; discounts available for USF students and faculty from other campuses.) Registration will be limited to 50. To reserve a space, please contact Dr Vail at: <glyphs@sar.usf.edu>.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Best Western near New College for a special discounted rate of \$56/night. To make reservations please contact the hotel directly at (941) 359-5141.

Arrangements have now been finalized for the 2001 Athabaskan Languages Conference, to be held at the University of California, Los Angeles, on May 18-20. Papers are solicited in all areas of Athabaskanist study, but especially the following: New Data; Language and Pedagogy; Language and Theory; and Community-Academy Relations.

This annual conference brings together researchers, teachers and members of Athabaskan-speaking communities to stimulate each other toward continual improvement in linguistic research, Athabaskan language pedagogy, and language retention methods. A special workshop on the instrumental analysis of voice quality is planned for Sunday, May 20.

Please send a 1-page abstract(\*) via e-mail to < stuttle@ucla.edu> or by regular mail to: Athabaskan Languages Conference 2001, c/o Siri Tuttle, UCLA Department of Linguistics, 3125 Campbell Hall, Box 951543, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1543. The Postmark Submission Deadline is Friday,

March 2, 2001.

Further information is on the web at:

http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~stuttle/alc

(\* May be augmented with one page of tables, figures, or other non-text material.)

Aram A. Yengoyan and I would like to invite any interested participants to join a session we are organizing for the annual CAIL/AAA meetings this November in Washington, DC. Our working title is: "Language and Power: the Politics of Literacy, Memory and History." Interested participants of all fields and areas of study are encouraged to send their paper titles and a brief abstract. Please contact me by e-mail at <a href="mailto:amaximus@hotmail.com">amaximus@hotmail.com</a>, by phone at 530-750-3491, or by regular mail at Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

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## 131.4 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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NOTE: Please inform the \*Editor\* (golla@ssila.org) of any change in your e-mail address. Changes sent to the server (ssila@oregon.uoregon.edu) might not reach the Editor, and consequently might not be announced here or entered in the Directory.

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