

# Foreign Language Honor Society Newsletter

June  
Juin/Giugno/Junio  
2015

## TURNING HATE INTO HOPE

by Tom Schinkel (Sachem 2014 graduate)

Last year, May 29<sup>th</sup>, students in Dr. Scriccos' Spanish 5 classes, including myself, had the privilege of hearing guest speaker Joselo Lucero. This proved to be an inspiring and thought-provoking presentation given by a man whose commitment is striking. Mr. Lucero's message was simple: we can all change for the better in the way we perceive others. He spoke of embracing diversity and outgrowing the predisposition to judge others based on their skin color, ethnicity, or religion.

Joselo Lucero lost his brother Marcelo to a hate crime in 2008. Marcelo, 37 years old, was stabbed to death by a group of high school students whose target was men of Hispanic origin. This highly publicized crime, which took place in Patchogue, raised awareness of the commonality of similar hate crimes throughout Long Island. Joselo told us his brother's story and the devastation his family experienced, and still experiences, because of this tragedy. Since then Joselo has made it his mission to prevent racism and the type of crime Marcelo fell victim to.

According to Mr. Lucero, prejudice is simply a misunderstanding that is held onto stubbornly by those who have not been taught otherwise. The solution lies in the youth, says Lucero, because their minds are still open to new ideas. He stated during his presentation that he feels more hope in ending racism by connecting with young people rather than adults, and on Thursday, he did make a connection.

He made an analogy that if he were to have prejudice, he would treat all high school students poorly because it was a group of them who were responsible for his brother's death. This is obviously not the case, because Mr. Lucero was speaking to us students as the generation to eliminate prejudice. Think about that-- Marcelo was killed by teenagers, and yet Joselo Lucero looks upon us teenagers as the solution. This is evidence of Lucero's uncompromising fair treatment of all people. He holds no grudges, and instead wants to solve this problem together.

Throughout the presentation, and even well after it was over, I thought about how great the man standing before us really was. He works continuously at perfecting English, his second language, to enhance his communication with high school students and teachers on Long Island. He displays admirable devotion to this difficult job of telling the story of his brother, which is understandably painful for him. He does this particular job because he is thinking far beyond himself-- a theme stressed by Dr. Scricco in her classes. Joselo Lucero speaks of peace and understanding on a grand scale and, despite the relatively small impact he alone may have in ending racism, he gets satisfaction out of spreading his message and making a difference locally. After all, it is these contributions by great people like Mr. Lucero that will complete this common mission.

*The Student Government and the Foreign Language Honor Society will be collaborating to offer another assembly in the future. Contact Dr. Scricco if you're interested.*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Turning Hate into Hope - A Lesson from Joselo Lucero	....1
Franck De las Mercedes: Priority Boxes - A Message of Hope and Peace	..... .2
Jasmine Martins' Winning Essay - A Teacher to Remember	.....3
Sean O'Gorman: Message from FLHS President	.....4
International Luncheon	..... .5
FLHS Culture Night	..... .5
Seven Blunders of the World	...6
FLHS Requirements	.....7



### FLHS

**President ..Sean O'Gorman**

*FLHS Induction Coordinators:*

V.P. for ASL.... Annmarie Gruick

V.P. for Italian.... Alison DePaoli

Acting V.P for Spanish.....

.....Jacob Totten

Advisor.....Dr. Maria Scricco

Editor.....Ms. Haussner

*PAZ ESPERANZA FE ...*  
*IMAGINACION NOS LLEVA A TODAS PARTES*  
**THE PRIORITY BOXES ART PROJECT:**  
**A MESSAGE OF PEACE AND HOPE**

With labels that read "Fragile Contains: Peace, Love or Hope", visual artist Franck de Las Mercedes sends abstractly painted, seemingly empty boxes to anybody, anywhere in the world.

The "Priority Boxes" project is a public art series that seeks to initiate dialogue on peace, challenge people to reconsider their ability to influence change and question the fragility, value and priority given to those concepts. Each box, sent by mail to anyone who requests one, is both a canvas for a unique abstract painting and a platform for communication through art. A mixture of art and activism, the boxes are sent free\* to convey that something of such priority as peace should not have a price and that art can be both inclusive and accessible to all. From his small New Jersey studio, the artist has sent over 12,000 boxes around the globe, to countries in every continent.

Since its beginning in 2006, the project has been funded by the artist and donations and has evolved into a movement that has been embraced by popular culture, the mainstream media, schools and art educators across America.



**About the artist:** <http://franckdelasmercedes.com/>

From his provocative portraits to his large scale abstract paintings, Franck de Las Mercedes' work has

been described as symbolic, vibrant, explosive and sometimes disturbing. An intimate journey into the psyche of the artist, Franck's art combines expressionism, photography and collage to illustrate how he sees the world around him.



In 2006, De Las Mercedes conceived "The Priority Boxes Art Series", an ongoing, internationally acclaimed project that merges art and activism. "The Boxes" have traveled the globe, been taught in classrooms and featured on the iconic LED screens of Times Square.

Franck's work has been exhibited numerous solo shows and group shows around the world. In 2012, his portrait of Francisco de Quevedo was acquired by Fundación Francisco de Quevedo for their permanent collection in Ciudad Real, Spain.

He's also been featured on numerous national and international television shows and prestigious publications, including CNN En Español, LatiNation, Univision's "Aqui y Ahora", Selecciones (Reader's Digest), Art Business News, Hispanic Magazine, Museum VIEWS and American Style.

Born in Masaya, Nicaragua, Franck was raised in New York City after emigrating to the U.S. in 1985. He currently resides on the other side of the Hudson.

Mr. Franck de las Mercedes is collaborating with teachers to give a voice to the students through art. This new project is entitled "CHALK ABOUT IT" :  
Using chalk as a way of communication, expression and student/teacher support.  
This idea is in its beginning stages however, if you are interested in creative projects and might like to participate, email Dr. Scricco at [mscrizzo@sachem.edu](mailto:mscrizzo@sachem.edu) and write 'CHALK ABOUT IT project'.



## TURNING HIS CLASSROOM INTO NEW WORLDS..... NEW POSSIBILITIES

By Jasmine Martin

*Barnes and Noble chose Jasmine's  
essay as the winner of a contest  
about ...  
"A FAVORITE TEACHER"*

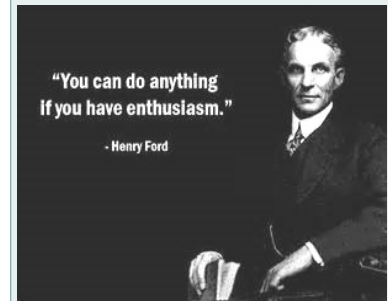
Throughout my years of school, I have had the pleasure of having some of the best teachers anyone could ever imagine. Most of my teachers have inspired me to want to know more and do more in and out of the classroom. They have been the driving force in my success as a student. One of my most inspiring, my favorite, is Mr. Kelleher, my 12<sup>th</sup> grade English Honors teacher.

Everyone at school knows Mr. Kelleher. He has a reputation for teaching in the most unconventional ways. Being in his class has changed not only the way I look at literature such as **Hamlet**, **Medea**, and **The Metamorphoses**, but the way I look at life. We don't just read stories, answer questions and then take a test. Mr. Kelleher has us act out everything in full costume! Seeing and hearing the play or story right in front of you helps bring the piece to life. Mr. Kelleher takes his time going through each part; nothing is overlooked or left out. Every part of the book has importance and significance in some way. Mr. Kelleher also explains things in such a way that you are forced to think. He asks questions and we openly discuss what we have just performed. As he asks more questions, they get more in depth and he is ALWAYS able to make a connection to our personal lives. He does this so that we understand the reasoning behind reading the book and how it connects to us.

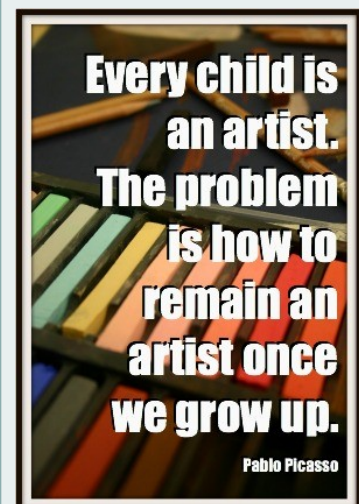
Mr. Kelleher's class is like going into a whole different world. He makes going to English a pleasurable experience. Everyone comes in excited to learn and hear what he has to say. We all sound like crazy kids when we walk out talking about the message of **Hamlet** or how the symbolism in **Medea** was spot on. He takes the characters out of the book and right onto the floor in front of us. I believe I have learned to appreciate the works we have discussed and I have a clear understanding of each story's message. Most importantly, I am able to connect to the message of each piece of work to my life because of his style of teaching.

I believe Mr. Kelleher is my favorite teacher because he is able to make English class and the school day a better experience. He has shown me how teaching in a different way has helped me to appreciate literature and how books and the messages within them will apply to me in life after high school.

What you leave  
behind  
is not what is  
engraved in  
stone  
monuments,  
but what is  
woven into the  
lives of others.  
*Pericles*



An unexamined  
life is not  
worth living.  
*Socrates*





# SEAN O’GORMAN - A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

My name is Sean O’Gorman and I am President of the Foreign Language Honor Society as well as the student representative for French Language and Culture Club of Sachem North. It is my honor to share some thoughts about my last year at Sachem North High School.

Besides FLHS, I have been involved in many activities. I am also the Secretary General of one of the most prestigious academic organizations offered at Sachem North, the Model United Nations Club. Starting out as a freshman, I had no idea what this club was or what it had to offer. Initially, international politics wasn’t very appealing and didn’t seem like it was the most exciting thing to get involved for a teenage boy, because it encompassed writing, research, and worst of all, public speaking! While most boys my age would have done their best to try and avoid such a demanding activity, I was surprisingly intrigued by it and wanted to learn more about it. Over the past four years, I have participated in numerous conferences in school districts across Long Island, representing different countries and debating world issues ranging from Ebola to women’s rights in the developing world to combating terrorism. By taking the position of a foreign ambassador from a nation, such as China, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, or Brazil, not only did I gain an understanding of the differences that separate us, but also all the commonalities that bond us. It encourages me to realize peace is actually possible.

As a senior at North, I am saddened that the past four years of my life will at some point become a distant memory. However, I am extremely grateful for all that I have learned along the way. If there is one thing that Model UN has taught me, it is that the first step to solving any problem is recognizing that there is one. If we are not careful, ignorance will become our biggest enemy - if we allow it to influence all of our decisions.

A successful compromise can only be reached if all sides to the negotiation strive for mutual understanding. Over the years we seemed to have lost our way on route to peace...violent attacks against religion in the Middle East...terrorism on the streets of Paris...racial tensions in Ferguson and NYC have resulted in divisions here at home as well as abroad.

As children, our parents and mentors would tell us that we will be the generation to fix everything wrong with the world. Now, as a young adult, I’m very much looking forward to fulfilling that request. As the future leaders and citizens of the globe, it’s time that we finally break free from the rusty chains of conformity that have imprisoned our world and finish the work that our forefathers were not able to complete. It is our duty to eliminate global hatred. To accomplish this, we must do nothing less than aspire to continue to dialogue, view issues from different points of view and endeavor to do good in all things.

Best to all my fellow graduates and to the

underclassman, work hard and seek to do your best always. I wish you well.



## INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

Several students from the French and Spanish Clubs, in collaboration with the Foreign Language Honor Society hosted an international luncheon May 29, in the Little Theater. Students had the opportunity to share cultural traditions as well as enjoy the cuisine of various cultures represented in the Sachem community. The clubs as well as the honor society are committed to bringing activities to Sachem North that foster the heart of language learning: people. It is this connection that is most valuable in the busy and technology driven world in which we find ourselves. Also in attendance was Mr. Salvatore Nicosia, retired teacher, parent and resident of the Sachem Community, who shared his life experiences and highlighted the importance of contribution.

If culture was a house,  
then language was the  
key to the front door,  
to all the rooms  
inside.

*Khaled Housseini*

meatville.com



## THE FIRST ANNUAL CULTURE NIGHT

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, Sachem North hosted its first Culture Appreciation Night. The Foreign Language Honor Society in conjunction with the Family and Consumer Science classes, under the direction of Ms. Esp coordinated the desserts for the event. Mr. Carroll and Dr. Pustovoit rallied the students to share their musical talents with all in attendance. Culture was appreciated through music and food. Everyone sounded wonderful and the food was absolute delicious! Also, there was a wonderful host. This host goes by the name "The Voice of Sachem North." He is Kyle Kilkenny and what a exciting host he is. Everyone enjoyed the performances and Kyle's great sense of humor.

The idea for the evening is a simple one. Language and Culture is a shared experience, its meaning comes from the diversity of the people that participate. It was truly an enjoyable experience for all. We would like to acknowledge the following students for their dedication not only to their language classes but the true universal language which enriches all.....music.

Hope to see new faces next year at the annual Culture Appreciation Night!

Sincerest thanks to all those who participated. The evening would never have been possible without your commitment to excellence. Sachem North Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Irina Pustovoit, Christian Groffman, Peter Groffmann and the strangers, Dr. Frank Scricco who performed a medley of Italian songs, Stephanie Pershteyn , Jake Buhler and Ryan Soyaedi and The Sachem North Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Michael Carroll.



"I would teach children  
music, physics, and  
philosophy; but most  
importantly music, for  
the patterns in music  
and all the arts are the  
keys to learning."

— Plato



**music**  
gives a  
soul to the  
universe  
and blight to the  
imagination  
and life to everything  
- Plato

By Arun Gandhi, 5th Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi:

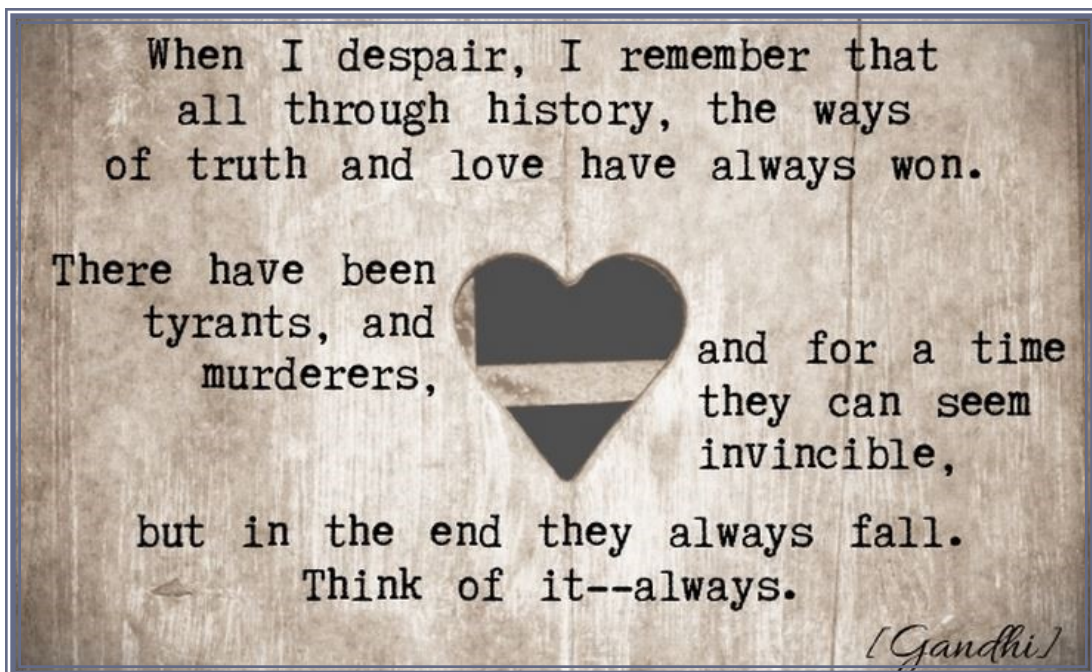
The 'Seven Blunders of the World' (aka the Seven Social Sins) is a list that my Grandfather gave to me, written on a piece of paper, on our final day together, shortly before his assassination in 1948. The Seven Blunders are:

WEALTH WITHOUT WORK  
PLEASURE WITHOUT CONSCIENCE  
KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT CHARACTER  
COMMERCE WITHOUT MORALITY  
SCIENCE WITHOUT HUMANITY  
WORSHIP WITHOUT SACRIFICE  
POLITICS WITHOUT PRINCIPLE

This list grew from Gandhi's search for the roots of violence. He called these acts of passive violence. "Preventing these is the best way to prevent oneself or one's society from reaching a point of violence," he would say.

To this list, I modestly added an eighth blunder, "rights without responsibilities".

To see the full article go to: <http://arungandhi.net/the-seven-blunders-of-the-world/>





# FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS

The academic requirement for acceptance into the FLHS is a solid 93 in the second language as well as a solid 88 average in all other subjects. There is some discussion on whether this should include Physical Education and this issue will be discussed at a later date. In addition to the academic requirements the student must exhibit excellent classroom performance and be an asset to his/her class. The student must have at least one club activity and be able to demonstrate service to his/her school community.

If you believe that you meet the academic requirements, please see Dr. Scricco in B209. If you meet the grade requirements, you will fill out the application form which will include a \$20 application fee.

Once accepted into the FLHS the following will be required to maintain your status:

- Attend at least one meeting per month.
- Participate in at least one activity per quarter (tutoring, library helper, newsletter, computer/website, FOTAL, Induction Ceremony, International Luncheon, Guest speaker presentations)
- Participate in your specific language CLUB (French/Italian/Spanish/ASL)



*We would like to dedicate this issue to the FLHS members as well as hardworking students who helped to highlight the importance of culture and communication. A special thanks to the Music and FACS Department for their collaboration on many events this year. Culture Night, the Induction Ceremony as well as our INTERNATIONAL Luncheon would not have been as memorable without Dr. Pustovoit, Mr. Carroll, Ms. Esp, Ms. Rodgers and all our talented students.*

*Thank you!!!*

Special Thanks to Mr. Dolan for supporting all FLHS and World Language Club activities at North.

