

LILT™ NEWSLETTER

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WWW.LILTFL.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of LILT, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. I hope the holiday season brought well deserved rest, relaxation and time with loved ones. As we celebrate our accomplishments of the last year, I look forward with great anticipation to the New Year with a fresh set of new goals to accomplish.

One of these new goals for many districts is the implementation of the New York State Seal of BiLiteracy (NYSSB). At the LILT Fall General Membership Meeting an engaging and informative presentation on the NYSSB, and the process districts would need to follow in order to obtain the seal, was given by LILT member **Francesco Fratto**, President of FLACS, and the Herricks School District Director of World Languages, Language Immersion and English as a New Language/ESL. The Seal of Biliteracy fosters the importance of diversity in a multilingual society. Multilingualism is finally being recognized and appreciated! The NYSSB supports and encourages the study of world languages, and rewards students with language and biliteracy skills. The NYSSB also recognizes high school graduating students who have achieved proficiency in English and one, or more, world languages. This recognition, which supports the value of diversity in a multilingual society, becomes part of a student's transcript and high school diploma, and serves as evidence that our language and bilingual students are career and college ready, and graduating as true global citizens.

LILT was excited to celebrate the successful return of LILT's Annual Conference! It was attended by over 300 teachers (not only local, but from around the state), supervisors and student teachers. It took much behind the scenes work to make this event happen. Thank you

to Conference Co-Chairs **Cheryl Belz** and **Stacey Humphreys**, and our LILT Executive Board and LILT Planning Committee members: **Donna DiNatale**, **Richard Gentile**, **Adrienne Greenbaum**, **Gene Lowenberg**, **Joan Militscher**, **Jo Anne Orlando**, **Michele Ortiz**, **Nancy Russo-Rumore**, **Anahí Walton-Schafer**, **Ron Taub**, **Marissa Unger**; **Rob Dennis**, **Tammy Green**, **Daniela Higueros**, **Eva Morales** and

Marie Nuzzi. We are grateful to our wonderful colleagues who unselfishly gave of their time to share their expertise with the profession. A heartfelt thank you to our presenters: **William Anderson**, **Andrés Baracaldo**, **Lauren Beygelman**, **Xianxian Cascella**, **Stephany Contreras**, **Jacqueline Cunningham**, **Madalyn DeLuccia**, **Robert Dennis**, **Valérie Greer**, **Rosemary Haigh**, **Wei Huang**, **Brigitte Kahn**, **Janice Kincaid**, **Dr. Patricia Lennon**, **Wendy Mercado**, **Christina Margiore**, **Lauren Murphy**, **Jennifer Nesfield**, **Jo Anne Orlando**, **Daniela Panasci**, **Christopher Pipala**, **Robin Portnoy**, **John Reilly**, **Christine Rued**, **Daniel Saitta**, **David Schultz**, **Kerri Titone**, **Anthony Vittorino**, **Barbara Woo**, and **Mike Smith**, ASL Interpreter. The workshops covered a diverse plethora of topics from FLES

to Checkpoint C, Excelling In Your First Years Of Teaching to Essential Principles of Supportive Supervision. The diversity of the workshops offered all of us an opportunity to grow professionally.

Don't miss out on the following **UPCOMING** LILT events and opportunities:

- **LILT Awards, Grant and Stipend**
- **LILT Plaques**
- **LILT Poster Contest**
- **LILT Professional Development Workshops**
- **LILT Student Foreign Language Competition**

These are great opportunities for continued professional

JOIN US TODAY!

Do you want to have a say in what is done?

That's why we all are continuing on the LILT Executive Board.

We need active teachers who are willing to be a vibrant part of LILT to join us, and who will work diligently to ensure language teachers on LI remain a vital voice in the shaping of our profession. (See pp. 4 & 5)

JOIN US TODAY IN REALIZING THIS VISION!

Ana Aguiar-Mady, President
Anahí Walton-Schafer,
Immediate Past President
Donna Di Natale, 2nd VP
Jo Anne Orlando, Secretary

growth, and they also give your students an opportunity to shine and reward those who truly value the study of world languages and global mindedness. Further information about all these events can be found on LILT's website at WWW.LILTFL.ORG.

REMINDER: BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR LILT MEMBERSHIP BY FEBRUARY 15TH SO YOUR STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE LILT POSTER CONTEST AND LILT STUDENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETITION.

The LILT Executive Board continues to search for members willing to volunteer for LILT. Please contact me if you have questions or interest in any of our open positions. *Please consult pp. 5 and 6 of this edition.*

Thank you to the membership for your dedication to the organization, to my Executive Board for the endless hours they devote in making sure our members are given as many opportunities for professional growth as educators, and venues for showcasing student excellence in world languages. With 2017 in our sights, I look forward with great ambition to the continued growth of our learning community, LILT - a supportive organization that promotes the vitality of world language education and learning on Long Island.

Sincerely,

Ana Aguiar-Mady

EDITOR'S GOODBYE

This is my 61st edition of the *LILT Newsletter* spanning the last 15 years, my next-to-last as editor, my 37th year as an active member of the LILT Executive Board, and the last of the original founding members of this organization still active. As many of you may already know, I announced my retirement from the LILT Executive Board for this coming June over a year ago so I can devote more time to my family and undertake new adventures.

My LILT voyage has been extraordinary, from meeting many devoted LOTE teachers all over Long Island and making new friendships, to seeing the many trends in LOTE learning and teaching come and go. I was fortunate to be involved in the numerous changes that helped enrich the professional quality of LILT, some of which are: creating and maintaining the LILT Website with a dedicated webmaster, a place anyone can go for all LILT's information, and archiving all past postings; creating, organizing and codifying all the forms necessary for LILT's many activities: Student Foreign Language Competition; Poster Contest, Awards, Grant and Stipend; Student Language Plaques; Membership Application; Candidacy Application Form; Association Membership Application; co-created the Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policies; instituting catered meals at the LILT Annual Conference, LILT Student FL Competition, and Executive Board Meetings; editing and improving the

quality of the LILT Newsletter; instituting an official LILT Logo; chairing and helping create several LILT Constitutions, the latest working with LILT's attorney ensuring LILT's Incorporation was legally protected, as well as consulting with him in trademarking LILT's logo; understanding and following IRS laws when disbursing student stipends and other possible, monetary gifts; and serving on an incredible amount of committees too numerous to enumerate. As LILT's third president LILT Seminars-At-Sea were instituted as part of a Caribbean cruise, a wonderful activity future leaders should consider reviving. I also served as LILT Hiatus President, 30 years after my first presidency. Of all these activities, I most cherish mentoring new members to the board, and presidents undertaking second terms.

As I leave all of you there is a sense of loss and melancholy, proud of the work I've done over many years, many meetings and many hours of discussion to enrich the professional lives of countless teachers, student-teachers and administrators, but I do so knowing LILT is in good hands, and that it will prosper and continue to grow long after I am gone. That is the greatest testimony I can receive from each and every one of you.

I wish you all great success and happiness in every one of your endeavors,

Richard Gentile

TREASURER'S GOODBYE

It is with a sense of sadness, yet with professional pride, I announce my retirement as the LILT Treasurer effective June 2017, after serving in that capacity since the 1980's. While I enjoyed being your Treasurer, watching over every penny in the LILT treasury, and making sure that it was wisely spent, it is now time for me to move on, and for others to take my place.

In addition to my position as LILT Treasurer, I have been involved in many LILT activities that allowed me to meet new colleagues, and witness many reoccurring LOTE trends. As a member of the LILT Executive Board I was fortunate to help implement and shape many of new developments for my colleagues, some of which are: aiding in the creation of LILT's website; systematization of the treasurer's responsibilities into a step by step, readable format; serving as the *LILT Newsletter* editor for a short time after editor Kay Lyons passed away; serving on the LILT Constitutional Revision Committee; annually filing LILT's IRS and NYS Charities Bureau tax returns; serving as the LILT Student FL Competition Judge Coordinator for 5 years; purchasing gifts for the aforementioned SFLC judges; being a Past President, 1st VP, 2nd VP; participating in the yearly Annual Conference Planning Committee Meetings; serving as the LILT Student FL Competition Medal Packet Coordinator; serving on the LILT Awards Committee since July 2006; applying for and successfully obtaining a LILT credit card through Astoria Bank; serving as Chief Administrator of

Online Services since September 2008; researching and presenting a new banking report when HSBC bank suddenly closed our accounts; and applying for and successfully obtaining LILT's CTLE status from NYSED as a New York State approved credit sponsoring organization with an identifying number.

I leave with ambivalent feelings. While I am extremely proud of all the accomplishments I have enumerated above as well as the stellar job that I have done in being meticulous with the monies you entrusted me to manage on your behalf for the LILT Executive Board, I will also miss the challenges of that very same job. However, I now feel it is time for an active teacher who is equally well versed in finances to take over as LILT Treasurer. While I will miss the thrill of the job and the meticulousness of the number crunching, I know that someone else can carry the torch in my stead. Since I still want to remain somewhat active in LILT, I will always be available as a resource for the future Treasurer, should my services be requested.

Wishing you all great success,
Fraternally yours,

Ron Taub

THANK YOU

To **Nancy Russo-Rumore**, LILT Past President, for her tireless work in improving the professionalism and functioning of LILT, obtaining LILT's NY State and Federal Tax Exempt Status, registering LILT with the NYS Attorney General Estates, Powers And Trust Laws, and proofreader extraordinaire. Nancy retired from the LILT Executive Board after completing all her obligations for the very successful 2016 LILT Annual Conference. LILT thanks Nancy for all her incredible work given to LILT over the last 15 years, and wishes her happiness in all her new endeavors. Nancy will be greatly missed.

To **Ron Taub**, LILT Treasurer, for doing the necessary work for LILT to receive NYSED's CTLE certification.

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Steven Levy, former Chairperson of the Roslyn LOTE Department.

To Linda Stack and her family on the death of her granddaughter, Adelaide Stiverson.

STUDENT AWARDS

Each year LILT awards one or two \$500 Lucille DiPietro Lambert Award(s) for Excellence in LOTE Studies. Since there was no room to post the two winning essays in the September 2016 LILT Newsletter, they are printed in this edition.

Noelle Fuggini, Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, Plainview, NY; Teacher, Dorothy Kleinman

From a young age, I have always valued being compassionate, empathetic, and open to other people and their respective cultures and ways of life. Now as a young adult about to go off on my own into the world, I

have been able to nurture this intrinsic desire into a passionate study of foreign languages and communication. I have established a life goal for myself – to become a bridge between myself and others in need when a gap exists in understanding – be it a language barrier or being mistreated or isolated.

Throughout my study of languages, I have been much better able to see patterns and connections to English. Oftentimes I might be doing a mundane task, and I suddenly get hit with an epiphany about a Latin root that is not only present in my English vocabulary, but in the same word across the Romance Languages. The metaphorical light bulb will go on above my head and I once again find myself with an entirely new linguistic connection of which I was not previously conscious. Being aware and knowledgeable about the relationship of Romance Language grammatical structure as well as having exposure to the vast expanse of vocabulary in Spanish and French have also helped me to recognize the definitions of more advanced English vocabulary words, which was incredibly helpful when taking the SAT and ACT exams. I have been given unique opportunities, such as taking both the National Spanish and French Exams at accelerated levels, and participating at the highest level of the Nassau County French Poetry Recitation Contest, as well as being selected to recite the 'lema' of the National Honor Society at our most recent induction ceremony. I felt much more confident in my abilities to communicate verbally with others, and I take pride in being able to help others translate or switch languages when needed or wanted.

Recently, while volunteering with one of our local charities, I was able to assist many Spanish-speaking men, women and children as I handed out food items at our set-up food donations booth in a poverty-stricken area. I noticed some of them would ask for a specific item in broken English, or simply take what we gave them and move on. Despite my insecurities about the grammar errors I knew I would inevitably make in my haste to help, I decided to outright ask families if they needed anything, and they immediately saw that I would be capable of helping them. I spoke with a few women about some spices we had on hand, and another told me how she was trying to make sure she was eating properly to ensure her pregnancy went well. At the end of the day I recalled the looks of relief and gratitude on these people's faces, and knew I had impacted their lives in some minimal, yet helpful way. This situation is just one example of how in today's growing world, adding another language to one's repertoire is not only an easy way to communicate better and with more people, but actually a vital necessity.

Most European nations raise children to be at least semi-fluent in English, yet our nation's students hardly have a handle on basic conversational Spanish, an ever-expanding problem within the United States. (See p. 5)

2017 ELECTION OF LILT OFFICERS TO BE HELD THIS SPRING

In accordance with the LILT Constitution and Bylaws, the LILT Executive Board is calling for nominations for the following positions for 2017-2019: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Member-At-Large. Any eligible LILT member may submit his/her own LILT Candidacy Application Form, or nominate a member, to **Richard Gentile, LILT Immediate Past President, via e-mail** ("LILT" on the subject line) **grich99@verizon.net, by March 24, 2017** for any one of these offices, if he/she meets the criteria set forth in the constitution. Nomination information and forms are online at **WWW.LILTFL.ORG**.

The following is excerpted from the LILT Constitution for your immediate perusal:

ARTICLE II, SECTION 2

All Members of the Executive Board Shall

- Demonstrate active involvement and commitment to LOTE education on Long Island.
- be an active LILT member in good standing for at least two (2) previous, consecutive years. However, elected officers shall be active LILT members in good standing for at least four (4) previous, consecutive years.
- agree to and sign the provisions of LILT's three (3) policies: Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment, Conflict of Interest, and Ethics. (See Appendix B.)
- attend the four (4) LILT Executive Board meetings and other LILT events.
- have the right to one vote on all LILT Executive Board business. The President shall vote only in the event of a tie.
- be entitled to only one vote even if the Executive Board member holds multiple positions.
- give service to at least one (1) LILT activity per year.
- sign all organization policies, to acknowledge acceptance and adherence to all policies adopted by the Executive Board.
- obey, observe and support the Constitution of the Organization. Any Executive Board Member who is found to have violated any provision of the LILT Constitution may be removed from the Executive Board, after being informed of the alleged violation, given an opportunity to be heard at a meeting of the Executive Board, and upon a majority vote of the Board finding said violation occurred, that said Member is the violator. The Board in its sole discretion may censure said Member in lieu of removal.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 3

To Become An Elected LILT Officer, A Candidate Shall

- have served on the LILT Executive Board for at least two (2) years for election to the office of President and First Vice President
- not be required to have previous LILT Executive Board experience to serve as Second Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

- complete an official LILT Candidacy Application Form. (See Appendix C.)
- attend a meeting with the LILT Nominating Committee.
- agree to serve recognizing the importance of dutifully executing all of the duties of the officer's position in a timely manner for the good of LILT and its members.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 4

Duties of the Elected LILT Officers

The President Shall

- be elected for a term of two years, and may not serve consecutively in this position.
- preside at the meetings of LILT and the Executive Board.
- vote only in the event of a tie.
- be responsible for all LILT activities.
- act on behalf of LILT with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.
- create committees with the consent of the Executive Board.
- be a member *ex officio* of all committees.
- distribute an Executive Board meeting agenda at least one week prior to its next meeting
- hold the original incorporation papers, the LILT Seal and all other legal documents, which shall remain with the president during the president's term, and shall be transferred to the new president at the time of his or her election.
- designate any activities or services not provided in Article II, Sections 4 and 5 of these Bylaws that the Executive Board Members shall perform.

The First Vice President Shall

- be elected for a term of two years, and may not serve consecutively in this position.
- exercise the duties of the President in the absence of that Officer.
- be responsible for the LILT Professional Development Workshop Program.
- coordinate the LILT Spring General Membership Meeting (i.e. May/June).
- be responsible for any other activities or services designated by the President.

The Second Vice President Shall

- be elected for a term of two years, and may not serve consecutively in this position.
- exercise the duties of the President in the absence of that Officer and the First Vice President.
- act as liaison with any group designated by the Executive Board.
- be responsible for any of LILT's legislative programs.
- coordinate the LILT Fall General Membership Meeting (i.e. September/October).
- be responsible for the LILT Student Plaques for Excellence in LOTE Study.

- be responsible for any other activities or services designated by the President.

The Secretary Shall

- be elected for a term of two years, and may not serve consecutively in this position.
- preside over meetings in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents.
- keep a record of the proceedings of LILT and its Executive Board.
- edit and revise the minutes of all meetings.
- be responsible for sending a copy of the minutes to the members of the Executive Board three weeks following an Executive Board meeting. Corrections by Executive Board Members to the minutes shall be done via e-mail, and sent to the secretary via e-mail at least three (3) days before the date of a meeting.
- preserve papers and records.
- assist with official correspondence.
- have available a copy of the Constitution and *Robert's Rules of Order Revised* at all meetings.
- mail to any new member of LILT's Executive Board a *Welcome Folder* that shall include a copy of the *LILT Executive Board Welcome Letter*, the LILT's three (3) policies: Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment, Conflict of Interest, and Ethics, contact sheets, emergency telephone chain, and LILT's Constitution and By-Laws.
- be responsible for mailing the LILT Annual Conference information to department leaders, and to send the data file of private schools and colleges to the appropriate person.
- monitor the monthly financial statements of LILT, and report such information monthly to the President.
- be responsible for any other activities or services designated by the President.

The Treasurer Shall

- be elected for a term of two years and may serve consecutively in this position.
- preside over meetings in the absence of the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary.
- keep a database of LILT members and have the option of an assistant who shall be charged with maintaining the membership database. The assistant shall be approved by the Executive Board, with the input of the Treasurer.
- collect dues
- keep financial records.
- deposit and disperse funds.
- serve as chief administrator of online services.
- submit for each Executive Board meeting a written Treasurer's report, which shall include itemized income and expenses.
- submit a preliminary and final LILT Annual Conference financial report.
- present an annual Treasurer's Report to the

membership.

- submit for approval, by a majority vote of the Executive Board, the disbursement of funds for unusual expenses.
- submit for approval, by a majority vote of the Executive Board, the selection of all financial institutions and investments.
- submit to the Executive Board an operating budget for the coming year at the Executive Board's first meeting of the fiscal year (i.e. January).
- be responsible for any other activities or services designated by the President.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 5

One Elected Member-At-Large Shall

- be elected to the Executive Board by the LILT membership for a single, non-renewable term of two (2) years.
- complete the official LILT application.
- have his/her nomination approved by the LILT Executive Board.
- contribute short LOTE articles to the LILT Newsletter editor.
- be responsible for any other activities or services designated by the President.

STUDENT AWARDS, Continued

In order to raise more empathetic, well-rounded citizens, we must push the envelope with the value on learning and retaining a second language among children who have the educational capacity to do so.

I have decided to major in Linguistics, since one's major should be a subject in which one is most interested and finds enjoyable. I can't explain it; language fascinates and captivates me. From its most basic origins to how we program Siri to understand voice to text. I wish to dedicate my life to better understanding of others and unearthing new possibilities and means to make the world a better one in which to live, where everyone, not just myself, will be able to understand one another.

* * * * *

Sarina Gonzalez, Valedictorian, East Rockaway High School; Teacher, Frank Cuttitta

It is important to study a foreign language in today's world for many reasons. Besides being of value to a potential employer, or the ability to help a tourist out, learning a foreign language forces some to open their eyes to a whole new world different from their own. I could've taken any other language, and this would still hold true. Learning a foreign language is more than just learning some new words, and lacing them together to form sentences. To fully understand that language, one needs to envelop themselves in the culture of the country, or countries, and understand the context of the language. To gain a full understanding of a language, and truly master it is a feat reached by those willing to endure, and so much more. Learning a new language

forces people to explore outside their bubble, go out of their comfort zone, and learn so many lessons along the way. Many a times, there is at least one lesson to take from the country the language is from, and so much knowledge gained in the process that blows your mind. I know the things I've learned about Italy have only forced me to look beyond the cliché idea of the United States being the country superior to all, and taught me about and, made me fall in love with a country I never would have explored otherwise.

In the future, I hope to visit the country I have learned so much about, and finally have a real life experience and interaction with all the pictures I've seen, and books I've read about Italy. I hope to use the knowledge of Italian, and its culture to enrich my travel experiences and continue opening my mind to foreign cultures. It is so incredibly important to learn about other cultures and I am grateful that I have been able to embrace the beautiful country of Italy in the process of learning Italian.

Dante once wrote: "Che non men che saver, dubbiar m'aggrata." Loosely translated, this means ignorance not less than knowledge charms. I never knew when I walked into my first Italian class, that six years later, an ignorant seventh grader would transform into a human enriched with new views on the world. Besides the benefits of learning Italian (including but not limited to being able to order gelato), the knowledge I have acquired throughout my years of study has and will continually prove to be priceless.

Studying a foreign language has opened my eyes to the rich culture of a country across the ocean. It has forced me to see beyond the spoiled, capitalist country where anything is attainable at the push of a button. I have learned to see beauty in art and coastlines that stretch for days. I have wanted to jump into the crystal blue water, and take in the history that lies in ancient phenomenons, unravel the mysteries embedded in the rock and see how people lived hundreds of years ago. I have learned to appreciate the simple life, with much envy for the daily *riposo*, a time to take a nap, and remove yourself from the draining demands of life to step back and take a breath for a while. Had I not taken Italian, I would still be that ignorant seventh grader unaware of a country that may as well be a world away, for life is so different there. I've been enlightened and fallen in love with a culture so different from the United States, with such a focus on religion and tradition, as well as the value on family, the most important thing in one's life. And how could I forget the food? It's so full of flavor and fresh ingredients, and the United States should take note. I can truly say from the bottom of my heart taking Italian has changed my life, and I believe it is so important for other students to realize the value of taking a foreign language all the way through high school, and not quitting after a requirement is fulfilled.

ANTICIPATED VACANCIES, JUNE 2017

The following positions are anticipated in June 2017. If interested, please contact the people noted below, and write "LILT" in the subject box of your e-mail.

LILT TREASURER

The current LILT Treasurer, **Ron Taub**, will be retiring from his position as of June 2017 after serving in that capacity since the late 1980's. We are looking for a LILT member to become the next LILT Treasurer as of June 2017. Ron will train that individual in all the Treasurer's procedures, which are quite user friendly. If you are interested, please contact Ron at RONTAUB@LILTFLL.ORG (LILT on subject line).

LILT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The current *LILT Newsletter* Editor for the last fifteen years, **Richard Gentile**, will be retiring from this position in 2017. If you like to write, gather information about the latest trends in LOTE teaching, and keep LILT members informed, this is the perfect vehicle for you. You must be computer literate since final copies of the newsletter are sent to the publisher electronically; typing required. Kindly contact Richard at GRICH99@VERIZON.NET (LILT on subject line) if you are interested.

LILT WEBMASTER LIAISON AND ASSISTANT

This position requires good writing skills and an artistic eye. You will work with the Webmaster to decide how the LILT website (LILTFLL.ORG) should look and work. You will also look over all documents to be posted, format them to make sure they are grammatically correct, and concisely convey the ideas presented so they are easily comprehensible; typing required. Kindly contact **Richard Gentile** at GRICH99@VERIZON.NET (LILT on subject line) if you are interested.

LILT DOCUMENTS MANAGER

All LILT printed documents for distribution (*LILT Activities Booklet*, *LILT Annual Conference Flyer and Program*, *LILT Newsletter*, etc.) are reviewed by the documents manager. This requires making sure everything is grammatically correct and concise; typing required. The layout of the document is equally important to make sure it is visually attractive. If you are interested, please contact **Richard Gentile** at GRICH99@VERIZON.NET (LILT on the subject line).

LILT CATERING ADMINISTRATOR

Meals for the LILT Executive Board Meetings, the LILT Annual Conference, and any other LILT gathering where food may be necessary, is arranged by the Catering Administrator and the caterer, always keeping in mind the dietary requirements of those in attendance. If you are interested, please contact **Richard Gentile** at GRICH99@VERIZON.NET (LILT on subject line).

FRENCH: LINGUA FRANCA

The French are a proud bunch, especially when it comes

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

Jan. 27	Multicultural Children's Book Day	Mar. 31	LILT Plaques order deadline
Feb. 9-11	NECTFL Conference, New York City	spring TBA	LILT Spring General Membersip Meeting
Feb. 15	LILT Membership deadline	Apr. TBA	AATF Suffolk Concours de Poésie
Feb. 15	LILT Association Membership deadline	Apr. 15	LILT Awards, Grant & Stipend deadline
Mar. TBA	AATI National Italian Exam	Jun. 28-July1	ASL Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
Mar. 1	LILT Student Foreign Language Competition deadline	Jul. 6-9	AATSP Convention, Chicago, IL
Mar. 17	LILT Poster Contest deadline	Jul. 16-19	AATF Convention, St. Louis, MO
Mar. 24	FLACS Conference, Hofstra University	Nov. 17-19	ACTFL Annual Convention, Nashville, TN

to their mother tongue. So it must have been hard for them to take a backseat and watch English become the *lingua franca* of the 21st century.

But revenge could be on the horizon: The language beloved by Parisian poets, Russian aristocrats and pretentious grad students is set to reclaim its title when it becomes the world's most commonly spoken language by the year 2050, according to a study by Natixis, an investment bank.

French is currently ranked sixth among world languages, after Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi and Arabic. But it is gaining speakers quickly and, the study reports, will be spoken by 750 million in 2050, up from 220 million today.

A boom in the African states could bump the percentage of global French speakers from 3 percent to 8 percent by 2050.

C'est possible? English enjoys an indisputable global popularity, and Mandarin has long been touted as the language of the future, given the size of China's population and its growing economic power, but French has a demographic ace up its sleeve: French-speaking populations are growing faster than English-speaking and Mandarin-speaking ones.

Besides France and its best-known former colonies, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, the language of Molière and Manet is spoken in 28 other states — which happen to be some of world's fastest-growing nations. In Africa, French is the official schooling language of countries with increasingly high fertility rates like Mali in the north, and Guinea, Chad and Democratic Republic of Congo in the sub-Saharan region.

A demographic boom in these African states could bump the world's percentage of French speakers from 3 percent today to 8 percent by 2050.

Meanwhile, China and many English speaking countries are likely to experience a demograhic slowdown, which could lead to an expected decline in the number of English speakers — from 8 percent to 3 percent of the world's population. For Mandrain, a drop of 10 percent to 8 percent is anticipated.

While this sounds like cause for celebration for

Francophiles who might cringe at the notion of studying Mandarin, it's not time to pop open the Dom Perignon quite yet. Some skeptics think the predictions are overstated.

The study labels all the citizens of the states where French is the official language as "French speakers," which is not strictly true. Countries like Belgium, for example, have more than one official language and, in some African nations, the tongue of the former colonial power is losing ground. Even in Algeria, only a third of the population can write in French.

"The number of people who speak French continues to increase, and the projections are indeed impressive, but they do not take into account the coexistence of languages, which is the reality in many countries," says Alexandre Wolff from the Observatory of the French Language.

So while French is on the rise, it may be a while before it can challenge the hegemony of English or the growing appeal of Mandarin Chinese. Which makes it a good time to dust off your old French phrasebook — but don't bid *adieu* to those Mandarin lessons just yet.

Reprinted from OZY.com, June 2, 2014.

Submitted by the Editor

LILT SPRING OUTING TO ARTHUR AVENUE, BRONX, NY

Join us for an historic walking tour of Arthur Avenue, the "real" Little Italy. The price will include transportation via Hampton Jitney coach bus, food tasting, lunch in a local restaurant, and free time to shop.

The trip will take place in April or May. Date and price yet to be determined. Space is limited. For more information when available, contact Donna DiNatale, LILT 2nd VP, ddinatale@liltfl.org.

Thank you to Ana Aguiar-Mady, Donna DiNatale, Adrienne Greenbaum, Ron Taub, Anahí Walton-Schafer and an *in pectore amicus* for proofreading this edition.



Richard Gentile
LILT Newsletter Editor
99 Soundview Road
Huntington, NY 11743

**IF '16 APPEARS AFTER YOUR LAST NAME ABOVE,
YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED - THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST
MAILING. RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

PLEASE CUT HERE ▶ -----



**MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ONLY (Go to LILTFL.ORG to register on-line.)
PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY IN BOLD BLUE OR BLACK IN.
*REQUIRED FIELDS**

Last Name* _____ New, First Name* _____

Former Last Name _____

Home Address* _____ New

Home City* _____, State* _____ Zip* _____ New

Home Phone* () _____ New, Cell Phone* () _____ New

E-MAIL ADDRESS* _____ New

School Name/District _____ New

School District City _____, State _____ Zip _____ New

School Phone* () _____ New, School Fax* () _____ New

Languages and levels you teach.* _____

- Dues* (check one): \$20 Individual \$10 Full-Time Student \$10 Emeritus \$500 Lifetime
- I am a **NEW** LILT member*.
- I am **RENEWING** my LILT membership*.
- I am interested in being a **JUDGE** for the LILT Student Foreign Language Competition*.

In order for your students to participate in LILT Student Foreign Language Competition and the LILT Poster Contest, your present LILT Membership must be paid by February 15th of the current school year.

Make your check **PAYABLE TO LILT** and mail to: Ron Taub, 16 Radford Road, Lake Grove, NY 11755