



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

WWW.LILTFL.ORG

Cheryl Sosa, Editor

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President's Message

As you may have noticed, the 2018 April Newsletter is late!. Too many snow days in February took a toll in all our plans, forcing us to re-schedule most of our Winter/Spring offerings.

As the school year winds down, I want to thank you for your participation in our 2017 Fall General Membership Meeting and Annual Conference, and the 2018 Professional Development Workshops, Poster Contest, and World Language Student Competition. Soon we will bid adieu to the school year, award exceptional World Language students and celebrate the career of retiring colleagues. Come celebrate with us May 31 at the Old Street Grill, Smithtown! Visit LILTFL.ORG: Online registration opens May 1.

On Saturday April 28th, the LILT Student World Language Competition took place at Northport High School. We are grateful to the Northport-East Northport Public School District for allowing us to hold this event at this very convenient location. We thank Superintendent Dr. Robert Banzer, High School Principal Daniel Danbusky and Supervisor of World Language and ESL Jennifer Nesfield, for their abiding support.

We sincerely appreciate the countless hours, dedication to task and attention to detail that Chair Bob Tenaglia and his assistant Van Grasso willingly gave to this event. The many volunteer judges, our active and retired teachers, enjoyed a delicious brunch, collegiality, networking, and collaboration. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible, so thank you again.

The annual LILT Poster Contest judging was held at the Bethpage Restoration Village on

April 19. This year our judges were: Sharon Betz and Jo Greene, from the Town of Oyster Bay Arts Council, Inc., and Linda Scarcella, from the Art League of Long Island. I also want to thank Marie Nuzzi for arranging the judges and Doug More and John Rizzo, a Queens College student teacher, for assisting at the judging. Dr. Patricia Lennon Murphy, Chair, once again did a fabulous job coordinating all of the aspects of this event. I want to thank John Christianson, Floral Park Memorial High School, Renee Fallon, JFK HS -Bellmore, Josephine Maietta, AP Willits-Syosset, Doug Moore, Great Neck South MS, Nino Rodriguez, Farmingdale HS, David Rose, Oceanside MS, Donna Bennett, Center Moriches MS, Bruno Bernardino, Newfield HS-Selden, Donna DiNatale, Connetquot HS, Marissa McCord, Stimson MS- Huntington Station, and Wendy Mercado, Bay Shore MS, who volunteered to collect posters, check memberships, deliver and set out posters for judging. As usual, teachers of the winning students are being contacted for prize distribution and the names of winners will be easily viewed in the summer edition of the LILT Newsletter, which has been traditionally posted on our website - www.liltfl.org - after the close of school.

The Excellence in Foreign Language Award Plaques was handled adeptly this year by our Second Vice President, Jo Anne Orlando. When your plaque order arrives, we are confident you will agree they make for a beautiful presentation to honor your best and brightest World Language students. Thanks Jo Anne for the meticulous care you took in coordinating this opportunity for our members.

LILT offered a great series of eight Professional Development Workshops in March

and April. I would like to thank First Vice President, Donna DiNatale, for the tremendous job she did recruiting presenters, gathering workshop descriptions, driving directions, posting this information online, and all the rest that goes into overseeing this task. My sincere thanks also go out to the presenters of these workshops: Stacey Chesloff, Lori Senia, Anahi Walton Schafer, Gala Handler, Susan Beitzinger, Elizabeth Villajos, Deena Christophorou, Pedro Medina and Regina Casale for generously sharing their expertise with us. An online survey was sent to each participant in order to simplify the evaluation process. We will be using this type of survey in the future for all workshops and our Annual conference.

As I mentioned earlier, LILT will hold the Spring Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 31 at Old Street Grill, Smithtown. At this dinner we will award outstanding students and honor retiring members. Although it is a busy time for teachers, please consider attending this happy occasion to spend some relaxing, social time with colleagues. If you know of any member who intends to retire at the end of this school year, please contact 1st Vice President Donna DiNatale (ddnatale@liltfl.org) as soon as possible to ascertain if this person meets the constitutional profile for recognition. A big thank you once again to Donna DiNatale for organizing this event.

Last, but not least, I would like to recognize the work of Jon Earley, LILT Webmaster and Data Manager since January who has revamped our website.

Although the 2018 Annual Conference may seem very far off, the Planning Committee Meeting chaired by Jo Anne Orlando, has already met twice on February 28 and April 26th and will hold more meetings during the summer.



On behalf of LILT Executive Board I want to extend many thanks to all those who attended and contributed their ideas and suggestions for workshops and presenters. I want to thank Carmen Berg for serving once again as our Presenter Coordinator. This year's conference, *All Aboard! Full STEAM Ahead To Proficiency*, will be held on Saturday, November 10. Juan Carlos Morales, World Language Chair, Inter American Campus, Miami Dade College, will be our Key Note Speaker. Stay tuned! Visit LILTFL.ORG for updates. If you are interested in giving a workshop, please go to the LILT website (www.liltfl.org), download the "Call for Proposals" form and mail it to Carmen Berg (cberg@liltfl.org) as soon as possible. You can also submit your proposal online. Please visit the LILT website (www.liltfl.org).

Please note how many people are needed to make these events come to fruition as successfully as they do each year. I am so grateful to all of you who made the extra effort to lend a hand. Any member is always welcome to help and get involved. The end of the school year is around the corner and I wish you and your students every success in June.

One way to highlight the importance of World Language education on Long Island is to participate more in the events LILT offers. Showcase your students and your district. Take further steps: give a workshop with us, volunteer to help us in our various programs, be a judge in our competitions, join the Board. LILT is happy to continue to provide all these opportunities for the benefit of your students and World Language education on Long Island. We need you!

Anahí Walton-Schafer
LILT President

Message from the Editor

"The key to pursuing excellence is to embrace an organic, long-term learning process, and not to live in a shell of static, safe mediocrity. Usually, growth comes at the expense of previous comfort or safety." — Josh Waitzkin

Preparing for this newsletter, I explored many topics that I would like to consider. So many possibilities! Consider, 'fakealia' v 'realia', comprehensible input, art, music, global competency, student travel...so many avenues to pursue. After reading several articles, many in the ACTFL reviews, I decided to focus on one of our greatest resources; each other.

Each year when we fill out our BEDS forms we are asked about our professional development. Was it high quality professional development? I think most of us just answer yes without really giving thought about what that term actually means. The presence of this question is a step in the right direction, but to what end? What does high quality professional development really even mean?

Many years ago one of my most respected colleagues was transferred to the high school after many years of teaching 8th grade. She hated teaching at the high school level, having left a team teaching model at the middle school in exchange for such an isolated environment. She said she felt like an independent contractor, coming in to do a job and then leaving. This gave me great pause, as I knew what a phenomenal teacher she really was. I thought about what she said. The truth is, we do seem to operate in a very isolated environment. We close our classroom door and focus on our lessons and students. This is after all, where we feel most comfortable and passionate. We don't seem to have many opportunities to share our failures and successes, our coveted lessons that we have spent hours poring over, or learn from each other in non-threatening communities. With this in mind, having to contractually fulfill PDP hours, we decided to form a collegial circle, using a peer review model. I had participated in the State initiative a couple of years prior and the experience was life changing for me. It made me rethink what I was doing in my classroom and what I wanted for and from my students. More importantly, I learned so much from my colleagues as well as forming bonds that have endured for years.

The idea of being observed and getting feedback from my colleagues was really quite unsettling at first, a bit uncomfortable. Did I want to welcome criticism? Was I willing to put myself out there and be open to really listening to what others had to say? Was I willing to take the same risk I ask my students to take every day? Well, I took a leap! This process made me grow and appreciate the talents and passion of my most esteemed colleagues.

My point here, we all have something wonderful to share. I would like to feature some of your best tips and lessons, advice for both experienced and novice teachers. I would also like to encourage all to consider sharing your experiences and knowledge with our colleagues. The first workshop I presented at LILT, I was a nervous wreck, not sure I could do it. The risk was so worth the rewards! I learned so much about myself, but the sharing with my colleagues was like walking into a language nerd candy store. I urge you to consider presenting a work shop during our annual conference in November, or an extended work shop for our winter series offerings. Proposals available on line at www.liltfl.org.

Cheryl Sosa



SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The LILT Executive Board cordially invites all World Language teachers to its annual end-of-year Spring General Membership Meeting. Please join us as we honor our retirees and the recipients of our awards and scholarships.

Date: Thursday May 31, 2018

Time: 4:30-7:30 PM

Place: Old Street Grill, Smithtown

Cost: \$40.00 (Gratuuity included)

Menu: Salad, Choice of four entrees, dessert, soda
N.B. Cash bar available

R.S.V.P. Sunday, May 19, 2018

Online or mail in payment postmarked by May 19, 2018

Visit LILTFLL.ORG for registration





Save the Date!



ALL ABOARD! FULL STEAM AHEAD TO PROFICIENCY!

LILT ANNUAL CONFERENCE. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018.

JUAN CARLOS MORALES WILL BE OUR KENOTE SPEAKER

DETAILS AVAILABLE ON THE LILT WEBSITE SOON! LILTFL.ORG

We need you! Interested in presenting a session during the conference? Sign up at www.liltfl.org

2018 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Sharing will enrich everyone with more knowledge.

*Ana Monnar(*1954, Cuban-born, founder of Readers Are Leaders U.S.A.)*

This year, World Language Teachers had the opportunity to choose from nine workshops led by their colleagues. Workshop topics included *FLES, Google Classroom, FLACS Checkpoint A, Integrating Games into the WL Classroom, Digital Narratives, Comprehensive Input, Pear Deck, Breakout EDU*. CTLE Certificates are issued for all workshops.

A new online survey was sent to evaluate the workshops this year. Comments included:

"Best workshop ever! "

"- Learned so much that I can use immediately in my classroom. "

"- Handouts were valuable. - Presenter was organized and knowledgeable."

LILT provides the opportunity for individuals to identify their areas of expertise and to share with others. Please consider sharing a lesson or idea that works for you at a future workshop. A special thank you to all of our presenters and to those who participated this year!

Check out our new Facebook page!



LILT's Facebook page has moved to a new place! Our new page is titled "Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. - LILT"

For those of you reading the digital PDF, you can click on the link below to be brought straight to our new page. After that just log in to give us a "like" and a "follow"!

<https://www.facebook.com/LILTFLInc/?ref=bookmarks>

Special thanks to Emilio Sosa, new director of Social Media.

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

2018

May 31 , LILT Spring General Membership Meeting, Old Street Grill, Smithtown	July 18-20 , AATF Convention, Martinique
June 25-28, AATSP Convention, Salamanca, Spain	October 20-21, NY-SAFLT, Niagara Falls
TBA ASL Convention, Salt Lake City, UT	November 10, 2018 LILT Conference
	Nov 16-18 ,ACTFL Convention New Orleans

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