LONG ISLAND LANGUAGE TEACHERS, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

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Cheryl Sosa, Editor csosa@liltfl.org

President's Message

At last....Spring has sprung! As the weather gets nicer and the school year winds down, I would like to thank all those who have helped me during my time of transition to President of LILT. The countless hours of preparation and meetings to make all of our activities successful are greatly appreciated, not only by me but most importantly by all of our members.

LILT offers so many opportunities for World Language Teachers to enhance their teaching practices, acknowledge and showcase the accomplishments of their students, to socialize and network with others in the profession. During the Fall General Membership Meeting in October, Dr. Elaine Margarita spoke to us about the FLES programs offered on Long Island. Our Annual Conference in November at Great Neck North High School began with a truly motivational keynote speech by Dr. Juan Carlos Morales, followed by twenty outstanding workshops led by our colleagues. Dr. Jennifer Eddy conducted a Webinar in December, with a follow up workshop addressing the proposed changes to the NYS World Language Standards. The Professional Development Workshop Series during the months of February, March and April made available to our members the opportunity to explore several different topics of interest, such as Core Practices in the Mandarin Classroom and Incorporating Differentiated Assessments Using Google Tools. The Poster Contest in March added to the enthusiasm of our students as we celebrated National World Language Week. Our teachers submitted student entries in several different categories participating in the Student World Language Competition. In May we will have our Spring General Membership Meeting, giving us a chance to relax and mingle with our colleagues and honor those that are retiring from the profession.

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Please consider submitting your best travel photos for a chance to win a Dunkin' gift card or show your pride by purchasing a LILT bilingual t-shirt. We also offer plaques for purchase for your outstanding student graduates along with three awards, a teacher grant and a stipend for a new LILT member. Please visit our website, <u>www.liltfl.org</u>, for details and information on all that LILT has to offer!

As I finish this school year as President of this wonderful organization, I am very proud of all we have accomplished this school year and of all those who made it possible by giving their time and sharing their expertise with us, especially my Executive Board Jo Anne Orlando, Paula Luzzi, Ann Marie Lombardi, Daniela Hi-gueros, Chery Sosa, Ana Aguiar-Mady and Gene Lowenberg. It is also the year that I retire from my teaching post at Connetquot after 35+ years of teaching what I love, the Italian language. It is so true that if you love what you do you'll never work a day in your life. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to do what I love for so many years.

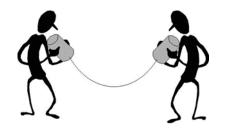
It may take a village to raise a child but it takes dedicated educators to help them fulfill their dreams.

Thank you all! Donna DiNatale



## 2019 LILT Poster Contest

Making Connections-Languages are Key



LILT would like to thank all those involved in our Poster Contest, especially Dr Patricia Lennon-Murphy, our committee chairperson. The topic this year was Making Connections -Languages Are Key.

The entries were judged on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration auditorium. This year there were more than 17 participating schools, with more than 32 teachers submitting more than 90 student entries.

We wish to congratulate the student finalists. Their time, effort and enthusiasm, as well as their talent, were reflected in the quality of their entries. For a list of the winners in each category visit our website <u>www.liltfl.org</u>

The judges were:

Sharon Betz, Town of Oyster Bay Arts Council, Inc.

Jo Greene, Town of Oyster Bay Arts Council, Inc.

Linda Scarcella, Art League of Long Island, Island Pottery and Studio, Mineola



## THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS SUBMITTED POSTERS

**Baldwin MS Elmont Memorial Jr/Sr HS Farmingdale HS** Floral Park Memorial Jr/Sr HS G. W. Hewlett HS Hewlett **Garden City MS Harborfields HS Kings Park HS** Long Island Lutheran MS and HS, Brookville **Massapequa HS** New Hyde Park Memorial Jr/Sr HS **Oakdale/Bohemia MS Our Lady of the Hamptons Roslyn MS** Southold Jr/Sr HS **Stewart School** William T. Rogers Middle School, Kings Park



#### 2019 STUDENT WORLD LANGUAGE COMPETITION

The Student World Language Competition is an opportunity for students in all levels to display their language abilities in a number of categories. Teachers submitted written essays and original poetry, vocal and dance videos, poetry recitations, and authentic speaking task videos such as cooking demonstrations and puppet shows from their talented students.

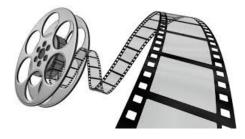
This year, for the first time, all submissions and judging was done online which made the

process easier for all those involved. A special thank you to our Chairperson, Van Grasso, who was in charge of the judges and our Coordinators, Valeria Greer and Wendy Mercado, who streamlined the process onto Google forms for us. We are truly greatly for all three of them for making the competition paperless! Our winners will be posted on our website.



Thank you also to all of our judges who took the time to read all of the written entries and view all of the videos to determine the winners:

- Esther Acevedo
- Rosa Antelo
- Carmen Berg
- Matthew Drucker
- Van Grasso
- Valerie Greer
- Jennifer Karpoich
- Slavomira Lorenzo



- Denise Marasco
- Wendy Mercado
- Lori Senia
- Annette Sklavounakis
- Samantha Thomas
- Valeria Tovar
- Emily Yehezkel



# LILT INSTAGRAM PHOTO CONTEST!



Have a travel photo you would like to share? LILT will be awarding a \$10 Dunkin' gift card each month for the best photo submitted and posted to our Instagram page· Just send your favorite photo to our Social Media Coordinator Emilio Sosa, at <u>esosa@liltfl·org</u> Encourage your World Language colleagues to follow our page to like your submitted photo, it may just help your photo win! A winner will be announced at the end of each month!



Spring General Membership Meeting The LILT Executive Board cordially invites all World Language Educators to its annual LILT Spring General Membership Meeting Please join us as we introduce the new Board, honor retiree Donna DiNatale and the recipients of our awards, scholarships and stipends

DATE: Thursday May 30, 2019 TIME: 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM PLACE: Old Street Restaurant Smithtown COST: \$40.00 [gratuity included] MENU: Salad, Choice of Entree, Soft Drinks, Dessert, Coffee/Tea N.B. Cash Bar Available

#### ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1 WWW.LILTFL.ORG

**DIRECTIONS:** Old Street is conveniently located in the Branch Shopping Plaza (L·A· Fitness Center) on Main Street, Smithtown (Rte 25) just West of Rte· 111

\*If you know of any other LILT member who is retiring and may meet constitutional requirements for recognition please contact JoAnne Orlando (jorlando@liltfl·org)





## 2019 Professional Calendar

May 1 LILT Awards, Grant and Stipend deadline (extended) May 30 LILT Spring General Membership Meeting, Old Street Restaurant, Smithtown

July 8-11 AATSP Conference, San Diego, CA July 14-17 AATF Convention, Philadelphia, PA

August 6-9 NYSAFLT Summer Institute, Oneonta, NY

November 1-2 NYSAFLT Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY November 16 LILT Annual Conference, Longwood High School, Middle Island, NY

#### Message from the editor

KEFP AND HANG ON

For most, spring is a time of rejuvenation, to refresh and celebrate life. their plans and without warning she For educators it can be the welcome burst into tears, saying how much **CALM** mat to stress, assessment preparation, award ceremonies, and hot, smelly classrooms. Although we delight in arriving to school while the sun is up, spring presents many challenges to us. I keep thinking of the Garfield image of him hanging on for dear life and try to remember course, I teared up. My point, somethat my students probably feel the same way, happy for the light at the you have on the kids in your classend of the tunnel, knowing they are so close. It's this time of year that

last day of class the girls shared she was going to miss our class, our discussions and me. She said she looked forward to coming to class every day. I really could not believe it. At first I laughed because I never imagined this tough cookie would be the one to crack, and then of times you have no idea the impact room, or the impact they have on you. Just when you get to the point

it's easy to forget the impact we have on our students as we are consumed with our own crazy. I was reminded of this when I opened my email last week, receiving a message

from a former student now attending university in Boston. She shared with me her exciting plans for the summer and reminisced about how much she had learned in our class. This particular student was in my College French class, a class of 12 girls. She was quite strong willed, what I lovingly call 'fierce', who made me earn my salary every day. She was talented, vocal and made it her personal mission to express an opinion whether we wanted to hear it or not. I had always thought she would be delighted to leave me, as she was so over high school. The



where you think what you do doesn't matter, you are validated by the most poignant voice. As we prepare to pack up our classrooms, sign yearbooks and firm up our summer vacation plans, let's remember to enjoy

the moment and remind ourselves of our value! This is good time of year to focus on our achievements, to celebrate our students, to celebrate our noblest of professions! In this spirit of rejuvenation, I encourage everyone to attend our Spring dinner! This is a marvelous opportunity to chat with colleagues and share ideas, even to commiserate if that relieves your stress.

Cheryl Sosa Editor



## The Traveling Teacher

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world." -Gustav Flaubert



One of my favorite places to explore is Peru. I have traveled there several times and it seems to call me back over and over again, as if it is not yet quite done with me. There is something so spiritual about this place, with its pristine blue sky in the high Andes, the verdant weeping of its rain forests and glorious textiles weaved into the fabric of its bustling cities. There is color everywhere, bringing joy to

everyday life.

Lake Titicaca, the mere repetition of the name may cause a chuckle, is the highest navigable lake in the world. Lake Titicaca is home to several islands, including the Sun and Moon Islands which are in Bolivian territory and Taquille and the Uros islands, which are Peruvian. Each of the islands is home to a different group of indigenous people who practice their own language and



culture. There is a commonality among them, but each is distinct. These islands play an important part of Inca and Aymara mythology. On one of our trips to Peru we visited the Uros Islands, a collection of man made islands on the Peruvian side of lake.

The Uros islands were creating during the height of the Inca empire in an effort to



escape the marauding of the Inca invaders. The islands are actually floating islands, built on totora reeds in the shallows of the lake. Large chunks of the roots of the reeds are gathered and dragged into position, anchored into place by using ropes and long sticks. Once the reeds are in place they can reach up to 2.5 meters thick and can support housing and even full villages. As you walk on them you can feel the bounciness of the ground. The reeds are continually replaced, adding additional layers to the ground. Each is-

land can last up to 70 years, when they rebuild a new island.



Current inhabitants are descendants of these people who have chosen to live in the same way. This is a very communal way of life, giving literal meaning to 'it takes a village.' Since the inhabitants are physically so close and interdependent, the sense of community is ever present. In fact, if there is an individual or family

that is 'misbehaving' there are literally voted off the island. Their structure is separated by cutting it down to the foundation and floats apart.

The closest city is Puno, which is where the children attend school. Electricity is provided to the homes with solar panels, brought to the islands under an initiative during the term of President Fujimori who served from 1990-2000. Their diet consists of mostly fish but recently the community is measuring a high rate of diabetes and obesity due to the influx of tourists and food that is purchased from the main land.



Studying the Uros Islands can offer an inter-

esting cultural perspective to the students. This geographic area, as well as its cultural uniqueness, lends itself to explore the themes of isolation, family and community, technology, environmental sustainability, health and of course social justice issues.

Cheryl Sosa

Editor

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Mark Twain

## Sicilian Musings

Among my many trips to Sicily, the most memorable is always when I visit my



friend the Contessa at her home outside of Noto. The experience takes place at a rustic estate called Azienda Casabianca with Contessa Giovanna Modica Notarbartolo. She takes you through her historic villa, offering you a glass of wine, treating you and your friends like family. After enjoying a tour of the grounds we try a range of mouthwatering dishes. We began with appetizers outside in her garden followed by several courses of fresh, homemade Sicilian delicacies. Everything is cooked right on the premises and

served family-style along with the wine of the estate. The Contessa loves having guests at her estate and takes pride in her home and cooking talents, welcoming small groups that are visiting Sicily on vacation.

Here is a recipe that the Contessa has shared:

#### <u>PASTA WITH ZUCCHINI, MINT AND PECORINO</u> (From the Kitchen of Sicilian Contessa Giovanna Modica Notarbartolo)

12 oz. short curly pasta
sea salt to taste
2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
3 anchovy fillets rinsed and patted dry
2 gloves garlic minced
5 small zucchini shredded with a box grater
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
2/3 cup Pecorino Roman finely grated
1/4 cup freshly packed mint leaves chopped



Add zucchini and season with salt and pepper flakes. Cook stirring occasionally until zucchini is very tender - about 5 minutes.

Add pasta and 1 cup reserved water. Simmer stirring occasionally until liquid is reduced and slightly thickened about 1 to 2 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in cheese and mint. Add more pasta water if needed - a few teaspoons at a time until sauce evenly covers pasta.

Served drizzled with oil and sprinkle with more mint and cheese.

Donna DiNatale





Giuseppina Santi and Victoria Vuolo sharing their expertise during their Professional Development Workshop series.

LILT offered several workshops exploring topics ranging from Chinese to developing Individual Performance Assessments aligning with NYS new standards.

Do you have a talent, lesson or practice to share with colleagues? Consider leading a workshop at our annual conference of during our workshop series.

Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching. (Inknown





LONG ISLAND LANGUAGE TEACHERS, INC.

## Share Your Expertise...

with your LILT colleagues from around Long Island and present a workshop at the

2019 LILT Annual Conference

November 16, 2019

#### **Longwood High School**

We welcome your original ideas for workshops. Listed below are some possible

topics:

Administrators Session American Sign Language Strategies for Teaching AP Courses Native Learners / Heritage Learners Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) Language Lab Incorporation Language Proficiency Proficiency Based Learning Core Practices Interactive Tasks/ Games FLES Spanish / Chinese New Teachers Demo Lessons Less Commonly Taught Languages Special Ed in World Languages/Differentiated Instruction Literacy Workshop Integrating Technology/ Digital tools Traveling with Students Google Classroom FLACS Checkpoint A, B, C TPRS/CI New World Language Standards If interested, please contact Carmen Berg, Presenter Coordinator @ cberg@liltfl.org Proposal forms available on our website: www.liltfl.org deadline June 1st 2019



# LILT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN 2020!

LILT was organized by a group of dedicated educators who recognized their obligation to professional growth, and their responsibility to successfully service and educate their students. They were equally united in their commitment to promote and advance the positive image and viable position of second language instruction on Long Island and in New York State.

LILT provides:

A forum for ongoing communication and exchange of ideas in foreign language education

Opportunities for professional development

- Direction and leadership on local, state and national issues regarding standards for second language instruction and acquisition
- Leadership in the development, innovation, and implementation of curricula and programs

Sponsorship of regional events and programs which promote teacher/student participation and excellence

Celebration Event Announced in our Summer Issue! Stay-Tuned!

## Meet the Candidates



Donna DiNatale Candidate for President

Donna DiNatale has served LILT as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President., and is serving currently as Interim President. She is a native Long Islander, has two sons and currently resides in Mount Sinai. Donna has been active in the organization for many years. She earned a B.A. from Stony Brook University in Italian Language and Culture and an M.S. from Dowling College. Donna taught for over 35 years in the Connetquot School District at both the

Middle and High School level.

Donna is also active in other professional organizations. She teaches at the Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University, has been a workshop presenter for NYSAFLT, NECTFL, ACTFL and LILT. She has also been a valued contributor to the LILT newsletter. She also serves as an educational advisor to the Sons of Italy Commission of Social Justice Committee which promotes the study of the Italian language and culture in schools on Long Island.

"My goal is to continue to serve as president of LILT and to promote the study of World Language studies on Long Island. As educators, we need to work together to insure that the students of today become the global students of tomorrow. LILT is the perfect forum to do so and offers so many opportunities for us to ensure that our goal can become reality."



Josephine (Jo Anne) Orlando Candidate for 1st Vice President

JoAnne attended the University at Stony Brook where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature, a Masters of Teaching in French and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership. She has taught in the William Floyd School District for 16 years, first as a French teacher and most recently as a Spanish teacher. She currently teaches Spanish 1 and 2 (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade).

JoAnne served as LILT Secretary for a two-year term and is currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. She is proud of the job done in restarting and rejuvenating the organization. She has also worked as Chairperson of the Annual Conference Planning Committee where she has enjoyed planning and organizing the past 3 Annual Conferences. "It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with the members of the LILT Executive Board." As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, she would continue to work at building membership by offering both current and new members access to useful and informative professional development workshops. She would also like to see more socializing events where members can network while enjoying fun activities outside of conferences and meetings. "The collegiality and cooperation among members is the force that moves the organization forward. "

Vanessa Sosa Candidate for 2nd Vice President



Vanessa Sosa is running for the position of second vice president with the LILT Organization. She is an English as a New Language (ENL) teacher with the Riverhead Central School District where she has been teaching for 3.5 years. She has NYS Teaching Certifications in TESOL and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6). She earned a M.A. in TESOL with a specialization in Linguistics (2015) and a B.A. with a double major in Spanish and French Language and Literature (2012). Vanessa has also completed various courses as a

student abroad. She attended La Sorbonne in Paris, France for a semester where she was immersed in the language and culture. She also attended the language institutes at the University of Coimbra, in Coimbra, Portugal (2010) and The University of Lisbon (2012) where she worked to improve her bilingual abilities in the language of Portuguese. Before becoming a teacher, Vanessa also worked as a Translator for the Sachem Central School District and as an Office Manager for a Law Firm that specialized in Immigration Law. Vanessa's passion for learning is the driving force behind her professional achievements and endeavors. She looks forward to the opportunity of working with LILT and sharing her ideas with colleagues who share the same passion for teaching.

Kerri Titone Candidate for Secretary



Dr. Kerri Titone graduated from St. John's University with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration, completing a dissertation entitled *The DNA of 21st Century Schools: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Teacher and Administrator Qualities that Facilitate Innovation.* She is currently the coordinator for Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate program at North Shore High School. Kerri taught Italian and Spanish for 12 years at Northport High School, from elementary to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses in Standard and Higher Level, and led trips abroad to Italy with over 100 students. She has advised student clubs includ-

ing Student Government and Italian Club, and was a Class Advisor for 11 years. Outside of school, Kerri loves to travel the world and experience its diverse offerings. Each day, she works with teachers and students within and beyond the classroom each day to build a community of young, empowered, scholars. Kerri looks forward to joining the LILT leadership team as our new secretary.

Paula Luzzi Candidate for Member at Large



Paula is an experienced Educator holding a NYS Professional Certificate in Spanish 7-12 and ESOL. She has been teaching Spanish for 20 years, from elementary level to Advanced Placement and College classes. In addition, she has taught Adult ESOL classes through BOCES and English as a Foreign Language in Chile for 3 years. In the year 2000, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias en Educación in Chile. Later, in 2010, she completed a Master's Degree in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language from Universidad de Leon, Spain. Currently, she is working on her Advance Certificate for School Building Leadership at St John's University.

Paula has worked at Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Syosset for 14 years, 10 of which, she served as Department Chair. She is currently teaching Spanish at Oyster Bay High School completing her 4th year in public education.

She believes it is a great honor to be part of a this organization and member of the Executive Board, a group of talented, motivated and dedicated teachers. Paula has been a member of this Association for over 15 years supporting many of the events offered to language teachers. Paula recognizes and values the work each member and officer makes to improve and advocate the study of foreign languages on Long Island.

Members will be receiving instructions to vote online for the above candidates!

