



## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021  
Volume 41 Number 2

[WWW.LILTFL.ORG](http://WWW.LILTFL.ORG)

Cheryl Sosa, Editor  
[csosa@liltfl.org](mailto:csosa@liltfl.org)

### Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Spring has sprung once again! After a difficult year of quarantining, hybrid learning and contactless living, warm and sunny weather has arrived and we are finally turning the corner towards a more normal lifestyle. I hope that you all had a restful and most deserving spring break and are ready for the final months of this most unusual school year.

Despite the ongoing health issue that has crippled our profession in many ways, LILT has remained active. We were able to offer four virtual Professional Development workshops for CTLE credit. Our presenters for the 2021 Winter Workshop Series were TinaMarie DeFalco, Margaret Krone, Anna Domingo, Christina Margiore and Dr. Jennifer Eddy.

The student Poster Contest in honor of National Foreign Language Week was organized by our Chairperson Paula Luzzi and submissions were sent virtually. Winners can be found in this issue of the Newsletter. Judges this year were Toni Layden-Rodgers, a retired art teacher from the Connetquot School District and Sharon Betz, Town of Oyster Bay Arts Council. The Student World Language Competition also received submissions virtually. I would like to thank Kerri Titone for assistance with the competition this year as we welcome the new Chairperson of this event, Samantha Thomas. Winners can also be found in this issue. Congratulations to all!

Consider joining us virtually at our Spring General Membership Meeting as we honor those retiring from the profession and also honor our award winners. We will be introducing the 2021 -2023 Executive Board members as well. Information and registration can be found on our website: [www.liltfl.org](http://www.liltfl.org).

As I complete my term as LILT President and write my last message for the Newsletter, I would like to thank all of the members of this organization that have supported me throughout my tenure. Special thanks to all of you who have volunteered to judge our competitions, presented workshops for us, both in person and virtually. Special thanks to those who have attended our many events and workshops as well as all of the teachers who have submitted entries each year for the Student World Language Competition and Poster Contest. Your help and participation is what keeps us going and is greatly appreciated.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us. There are many ways to become involved in the organization. Please continue to stay active in LILT and remember to renew your membership each year. Also encourage colleagues to join with you so we may grow and prosper. Spread the word!

I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the Executive Board members, both past and present, that have worked with me in my journey leading this organization. It is my hope that they will continue to play an active role in LILT and encourage others to become involved.

I will remain active on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President for the term of two years and assist as needed. I truly believe in this organization that was started over 40 years ago as our professional voice on Long Island: We need to be heard! All of us can make a difference and help each other and LILT is the perfect platform to do so. There is strength in numbers and we are a large, powerful group that can learn from one another. So participate, educate and share your expertise and knowledge with those in our profession, We need you!

In closing, I want to wish everyone a successful finish to the school year and a wonderful summer vacation. Enjoy what you can as the world starts to open up again. And remember, how you teach may have changed, but why you teach has not. Stay safe!

*Donna DiNatale*  
LILT President

*When you  
do nothing  
you feel  
over-  
whelmed  
and  
powerless.  
But when  
you get  
involved  
you feel  
the sense  
of hope  
and accom-  
plishment  
that comes  
from  
knowing  
that you  
are working  
to make  
things  
better.*

Maya Angelou

## Message from the editor

*The circus allows one to be logical and unreal at the same time. In the circus, all is possible: there can be a man with two heads or a character with a green face.* Fernando Botero

To say that this year has been one for the books would surely be an understatement. Mastery has been redefined as perfecting the art of the ring master in our very own three ring circus, balancing educating our in-person students, virtual students, chat monitoring, cameras on-cameras off and of course the constant battle of google translate. I never thought I would long for the days when I was buried under stacks of paper compositions and exams to read. Thank the gods for humor and the eager eyes of our masked students, because I think without them we would feel completely defeated. Although this experience has tested our resolve, we survive, adapt, emerge to hopefully thrive, learning from it.

As our classrooms have evolved, we at LILT have as well. The look of our events has adapted, moving to virtual formats for each, as our commitment to serving our membership endures. It has been a challenge, but hopefully we can return to some normalcy in the fall. Our success is rooted in our members, members who volunteer their time and share expertise to improve LILT and help us all grow in our profession.

As Donna DiNatale completes her term as President, on behalf of the board, I would like to recognize her for her service and dedication to LILT. As a veteran member, her passion and love for this organization is palpable. She has been devoted to this organization from its inception, giving countless hours to insure its success. A heartfelt grazie mille to Donna for all she has done for this organization. She will continue to be active as immediate past president.

As LILT moves forward and welcomes a new board, I would like to invite all our members to become more involved. LILT offers not only many opportunities for our members to network, LILT also offers awards and grants for teachers and students. Please take advantage of these opportunities and consider taking on a leadership role. As editor, I would also like to invite you to submit articles to share with our colleagues. Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

I wish you all a successful closure to this academic year and hope the promise of spring brings a world full of new possibilities. And if no one else tells you, you are a member of the most noble of professions! You have gone above and beyond our calling and I am proud to call you colleagues.

Cheryl Sosa  
Editor

# Attention Teachers!

## Calling All Student Artists!!

### LILT is looking for a new logo!!

Your creation could be chosen as the organization's new logo!  
The logo will be used online, in print and on LILT merchandise.

We are excited to see what you create!

**Deadline to enter: June 1, 2021**

#### Rules:

- All students of current LILT members are eligible.
- LILT members may submit a maximum of 5 student entries.
- ***All submissions will be online. Visit [liltfl.org](http://liltfl.org) for more information.***
- Each entry must bear only one student's name.
- A maximum of one entry per student may be submitted
- *Artwork must be original.* No copyright material may be used.
- Logo must contain the acronym, LILT and the full name of the organization, Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. (*see above logo*)
- Logo must be drawn using a black sharpie marker. Logo may be drawn first in pencil then filled in with a black sharpie.
- The acronym LILT will also be used by itself separate from the logo drawing.
- **Image should be drawn on a 8.5"x11" paper with at least a .5" blank border.**
- Hand write the wording in desired area/size and then specify any PC font.

Winning submission becomes the sole property of LILT and can not be used outside the organization. No educational or other institution has any rights in the entry.

Questions? Please contact:

[president@liltfl.org](mailto:president@liltfl.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!  
LILT VIRTUAL  
SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THE LILT EXECUTIVE BOARD CORDIALLY INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND  
OUR FIRST – EVER  
LILT VIRTUAL SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
COME AND MEET THE 2021-2023 LILT EXECUTIVE BOARD  
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE RECOGNIZE OUR RETIREES  
AND  
THE RECIPIENTS OF THE LILT AWARDS, GRANT AND  
STIPEND**



**DATE: WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 26, 2021**

**TIME: 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

**PLACE: GOOGLE MEET**

**COST: FREE!**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.LILTFL.ORG](http://WWW.LILTFL.ORG)**

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANY TEACHERS RETIRING THIS YEAR  
PLEASE CONTACT [JORLANDO@LILTFL.ORG](mailto:JORLANDO@LILTFL.ORG)**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE WINNERS OF THE  
2021 STUDENT WORLD LANGUAGE COMPETITION!**

**Authentic Speaking Task - Mandarin**

1st place	Nate Horstmann and Mikey Winchester	Sea Cliff Elementary School
-----------	--	-----------------------------

**Written Poetry - French Level B2**

1st Place	Lindsay Hoffman	Long Beach HS
2nd Place	Hailey Brandt	Long Beach HS
3rd Place	Abigail Parilla	Long Beach HS
Honorable Mention	Ava Hetzler	Long Beach HS

**Written Poetry - French Level C**

1st place	Ben Armus	Long Beach HS
2nd place	Noelle Main	Long Beach HS
3rd place	Joseph Sukonik	Long Beach HS
Honorable Mention	Isadora Turbek	Long Beach HS

**Written Essay - German Level B1**

1st place	Olivia Kenny	Ames Campus Massapequa
2nd place	Emily Haggerty	Ames Campus Massapequa

**Written Essay - Spanish Level C**

1st place	Skylar McEvoy	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
2nd place	Stefanie Sadocha	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
3rd place	Mathew Wong	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
Honorable Mention	John Tiberia	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS

**Written Essay - Spanish Level C Native Speaker**

1st place	Robert Zavala	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
2nd place	Darline Hernandez	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
3rd place	Amanda Cerda Constanzo	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS

**Dance - Spanish**

1st place	Jackelin Palacios Romero and Vanessa Palacios	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
-----------	---	--------------------------

**ENL Written Essay - Level A1**

1st place	Christopher Gatica	Cutchogue East Elementary
2nd place	Emely Alfaro	Cutchogue East Elementary

**ENL Written Essay - Level C2**

1st place	Sandro Ulloa Ulloa	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
2nd place	Brayan Aguilar Rodriguez	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
3rd place	Evelin Ulloa Ulloa	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
Honorable Mention	Williams Rodriguez Hernandez	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS

**ENL Written Essay - Level C3**

1st place	Emmanuel Munoz Martinez	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
2nd place	Angel Molina Gudino	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS
3rd place	Sindy Argurcia Velasquez	Oyster Bay E. Norwich HS

**Congratulations to the teachers of the winning students!**  
**Their dedication to our profession and to their students is greatly appreciated.**

**Jenny Alvarado**  
**Aryls Digena**  
**Dean Guarnaschelli**  
**Paula Luzzi**  
**Amanda McCue**  
**David Schultz**

***Judges***

**C. Berg, A. Brown, T. DeFalco, D. Hannaoui, R. Hartz,  
S. Lorenzo, R. Owen, A. Sklavounakis, C. Sosa, V. Sosa, M. Turan**

***Welcome to our new Student World Language Competition Chairperson!***  
**Samantha Thomas**

## **Congratulations!** **2021 Poster Contest Winners**

<b>Grades 4-6</b>		
<b>Emma Tilloston</b>	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Hamptons RC School</b>
<b>Emil Zaleski</b>	<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Hamptons RC School</b>
<b>Brynn Thayer</b>	<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Hamptons RC School</b>

<b>Grades 7-12</b>		
<b>Eduardo Tacuri</b>	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Hamptons RC School</b>
<b>John Macaluso Vosganian</b>	<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Long Beach High School</b>
<b>Kevin Biggiani</b>	<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Oyster Bay High School</b>
<b>Caitlyn Krieg</b>	<b>Honorable Mention</b>	<b>Massapequa High School</b>

### **Participating School Districts**

Commack  
Connetquot  
Diocese of Rockville Center  
Long Beach  
Massapequa  
Oyster Bay East Norwich  
Roslyn

### **Judges**

Sharon Betz  
Town of Oyster Bay Arts Council  
Toni Layden-Rogers  
Retired Art Teacher (Connetquot)

### **Poster Contest Chairperson**

Paula Luzzi



## Tiramisù alle Fragole

*Cooking is all about people. Food is maybe the only universal thing that really has the power to bring everyone together. No matter what culture, everywhere around the world, people eat together. Guy Fieri*



While classic tiramisù includes coffee, for a "pick me up", this recipe includes a unique twist, swapping strawberries for coffee.

I learned this recipe at a cooking school in Florence with my high school students on a trip to Italy in April 2012. A few months later, I decided to bring it to Thanksgiving that year, and my family loved it so much that they've asked me to make it every time we get together since- for almost ten years!

### Ingredients:

1lb (500 gr) Mascarpone cheese  
4 eggs  
4 tbsp sugar  
Pavesini/Savoiardi/Lady fingers  
1lb strawberries  
salt

Mix the yolks with the sugar and mix until fluffy. Gently incorporate the cheese, then fold in the whites previously whipped with a pinch of salt.

Process and sieve (if desired) the strawberries, saving a few for topping and layering (diced). I blend thawed frozen strawberries and use as is.

Dip cookies in the processed strawberries.

Prepare the dessert in a bowl or tray by forming layers with the cookies, diced strawberries, and mascarpone mixture.

Garnish with crumbs from the cookies, white chocolate shavings, cinnamon, or strawberries on top.

Keep in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour, covered.

Serve cold.

Kerri Titone  
LILT Secretary

## BOOK REVIEW

*A memoir is an invitation into another person's privacy.* Isabel Allende

*Mother Tongue: My Family's globe-Trotting Quest to Dream in Mandarin, Laugh in Arabic and Sing in Spanish (A Memoir)* by Christine Gilbert

An engaging novel for language lovers and travel enthusiasts alike, the author takes us to China, Lebanon and Mexico with a goal to connect with the locals and to learn to speak their language. Her plans are often thwarted by political uprisings and other human events but Ms. Gilbert's willpower and her determination to succeed in her endeavors is truly inspiring. The reader will be drawn into stories of the family's adventures in foreign lands.

The book opens in Cairo with the author deciding whether to embark on a trip to three different countries with her husband and small infant son to live for a few months in order to learn the language. She convinces her husband that their son should be raised multilingual and now is the best time for him to learn being so young. They, too, are also hoping to become polyglots. They begin with Mandarin in Beijing, then Arabic in Beirut and finally Spanish in Puerto Vallarta, where the couple give birth to their second child.

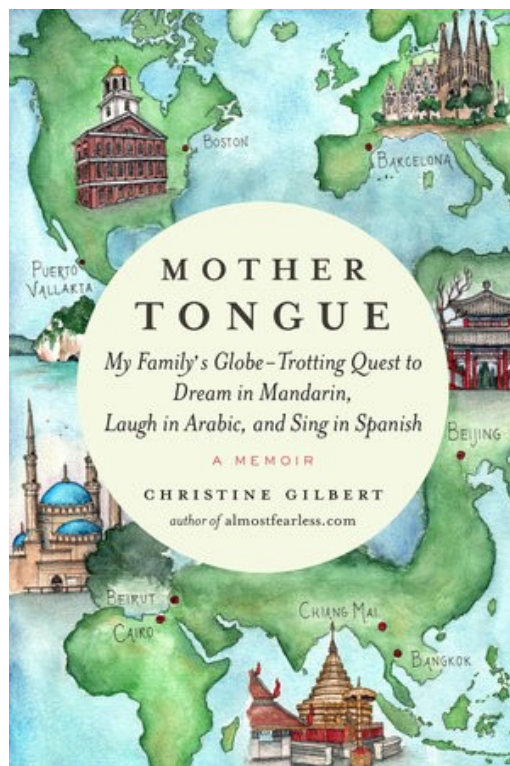
Both Christine and her husband Drew work as writers and film editors and can work remotely from anywhere in the world. Though she thoroughly planned the stay in each foreign city, she could never have expected what would happen or how their life would change when actually experiencing the local people and the cultures in each country.

Throughout the book, the author refers to several scientific studies done by many different experts on language learning. The topics discussed range from speaking a second or third language delaying the effects of dementia to the misconception that all bilinguals are bicultural. Ms. Gilbert definitely did her research in order to understand the benefits of language learning.

Christine Gilbert's honest, intimate and often amusing details of her family's experiences show the courage that it took to become a global citizen of the world and to raise children not only multilingual but also with cultural awareness. What a wonderful experience for the entire family to be able to live and speak among the locals in foreign lands. At the end, they decide to make Barcelona their permanent residence. How lucky!

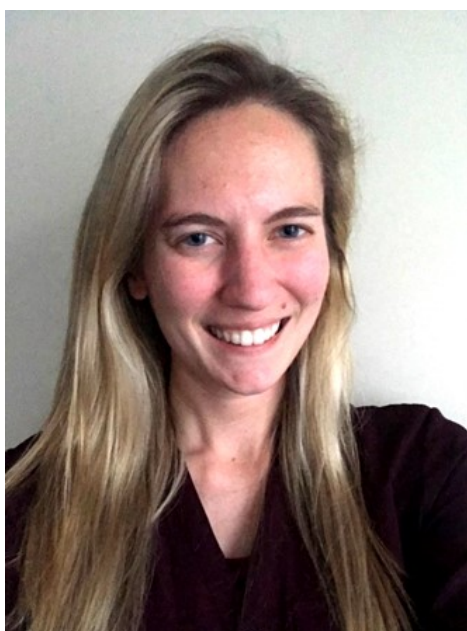
After not being able to finally travel "off peak" since retirement in 2019, this book satisfied a bit of my wanderlust. To anyone who has ever considered what it would be like to simply pick up and live abroad, this book will give you a first hand look at the courage that it takes to survive.

Donna DiNatale  
LILT President





We know we have many amazing educators who have made a difference in the lives of so many. This edition's member is Samantha Thomas!



**Q: How long have you been an educator?**

A: I received my MAT in Italian from Stony Brook University in 2017. I had been subbing before then and did leave replacements after I graduated. I am excited to say that this is my first full year teaching :)

**Q: Where and what do you teach?**

A: I teach Italian levels 1, 2, and 3 at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip.

**Q: What made you decide to go into teaching?**

A: I had thoughts of going into teaching since my senior year of high school, but didn't think of Italian until midway through college. I had a lot of motivational teachers in high school and I just wanted to share my love of learning with others and aim to be as inspiring as my teachers were for me.

**Q: What advice would you give to a new teacher? What has been the best advice you have been given by a veteran teacher?**

A: The best advice that I was given is the same advice I would give now; keep a day for yourself. Everyone knows first year teachers have it rough; creating lessons from scratch, establishing classroom rules, figuring out what works and rethinking what doesn't. The first year can be very overwhelming, feeling like you have to constantly work on lessons and grading in every spare moment. If you take a day, even half a day, to not do anything school related I guarantee you will feel more refreshed and be even more productive than if you burn yourself out working constantly. (I was told the best days to not think about work are Saturdays, because Friday nights you still had work that day and everyone thinks about Monday morning on Sunday.)



**Q: What do you enjoy most about teaching?**

A: That satisfaction you feel when a lesson was a huge hit with the students! That feeling when all your hard work paid off because the students learned something while having fun.

**Q: What have been some of the benefits of your LILT membership?**

A: Meeting like-minded people to exchange ideas with and learn new things from. I find the LILT conferences to be extremely informative, because it sheds light on what other schools are doing outside my department's circle. This year in particular I was able to bring back a lot of ideas to my school for keeping virtual learning interactive.

**Q: What do you like to do in your free time? Hobbies?**

A: I actually went to culinary school for baking and pastry arts while I was in grad school for teaching. So my Saturdays 'off' really consist of me working in bakeries and restaurants all day. For me however, this is my break from school, my opportunity to do something physical and creative. Not to mention sampling all the sweets :P







## The Traveling Teacher

*In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed..* **Charles Darwin**

The past year or so has taught us all many lessons, among them being the importance of adaptation, resilience and survival. As I opine for times gone by when we could simply pack our passports and hit the skies, I am brought back to lessons learned in the Galapagos.

The summer of 2016 gave me the opportunity to return to the Galapagos and experience the beauty of the archipelago, truly an exceptional voyage. We began our two week journey in Ecuador, spending a week exploring the Galapagos.

Twenty-two educators representing a variety of disciplines, language, physical education, science, math, special education and history, all

ready to explore a pristine paradise. It was a living classroom, where the lesson each day was ad-



aptation, natural beauty, geology, volcanology, social justice and of course, evolution. .

The Galapagos islands were discovered in 1535 by Fray Tomas de Berlanga, the Bishop of Panamá. He had been sailing to Perú when the ship went off course and was carried west by the currents and seem to have been discovered by accident. The islands were not inhabited with people, only flora and fauna.

There's a legend in Galápagos folklore that early Spanish explorers dubbed the islands' famous inhabit-

ants “galápagos” because the characteristic shape of their carapaces, which resembled a Spanish saddle. In Berlanga’s report to the King of Spain, he did not refer to the islands by name. On the Flemish cartographer Ortelius’s 1570 world map, they appear as *Insulae de los Galopegos* named for the saddleback giant tortoises de Berlanga reported seeing.



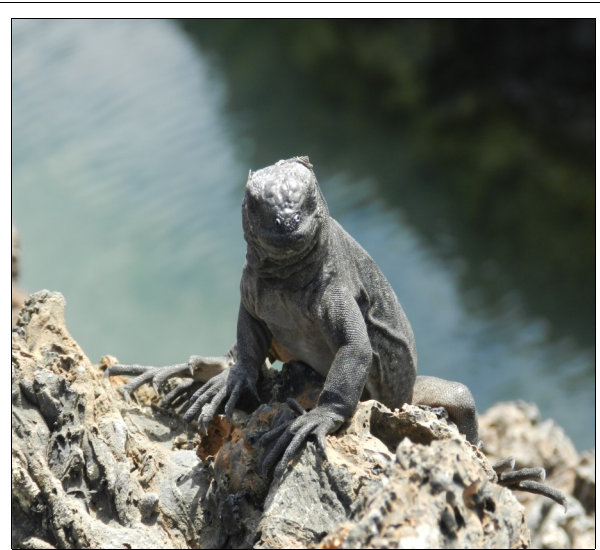


According to Incan oral history, the islands may have been discovered 60 years earlier by the Inca King Tupac Yupanqui. This oral history tells of his voyage to the west and discovery of two 'Islands of Fire.' No way of knowing if this is true, but some historians believe he may have traveled to Easter Island and not the Galapagos.

In the 1600's the Galapagos became the base for English Pirates. Fresh meat, in the form of the giant tortoise was a valuable commodity for mariners,

as it provided a food source that could be kept fresh on board ship with little food and water to be consumed later. By the late 1700's pirates were being replaced by whalers. Captain James Colnett set up a Post Office Barrel on the island of Floreana. Whalers, who would often be at sea for years, would leave letters in the barrel and ships heading back to England would pick up the letters up and deliver them to port, and vice versa. Among the whalers who stopped in

Floreana was Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*. He wrote a short story *Los Encantados*, published in 1854, which takes place on the island, reflecting many of his experiences there.



In 1832, the recently independent Ecuador, claimed the islands naming them *Archipelago del Ecuador*. In 1892, in honor of the 400 year anniversary of Columbus, the islands were re-named Archipelago de Colón. Although this remains the official name, Galapagos is more widely used. Yet another place Columbus lends his name to in spite of never stepping foot there.



In 1833 the Ecuadorian government granted a concession to Frenchman José Villamil, who left Louisiana when the US purchased the territory, to establish the first settlement on Floreana, in the Galapagos. He raised fruits, veggies, cattle, pigs and goats, doing brisk business with whalers. By 1846, long after the colony was abandoned, many of the tortoise species had disappeared.



Perhaps the most famous traveler to the islands is Charles Darwin, who visited the islands in 1835 and documented his discoveries. Darwin of course, explored the islands and the science of evolution and adaptation. Darwin observed much about

adaptation and evolution studying the Darwin Finch, a species that now bears his name. Darwin, developed his theories studying the flora and fauna of the islands.







In the 1940s-50s, a period of tragic human history, Isabella Island served as a penal colony. It was virtually impossible to escape. The prisoners were tasked with building a wall, in the middle of nowhere, with the sole purpose of the project to make the inmates suffer. The Wall of Tears is a grey, cold structure in the middle of a mosquito infested landscape, surrounded by brush and suffering. Imagining the isolation and physical torment of these prisoners brings to mind Sisyphus and how even when we feel there is almost no hope of changing our condition, we continue to try.



Today the Galapagos are one of the most biodiverse places on the planet and most of the islands are designated National Parks and can only be visited accompanied by an official guide. Although the islands

enjoy a thriving eco-tourism business, the Ecuadorian government enforces strict rules for entering and exiting the islands, limiting access even to Ecuadorians. Non natives of the islands are permitted to visit only 90 days each year.







Exploring the Galapagos is a truly unique experience. Each of the islands offers a different experience and are natural ‘classrooms’. Although many cruise companies offer expeditions to the islands, I highly recommend staying on the islands. The people are lovely and this experience invites you to live more like a local, even if it is for a short time. There are plenty of activities to take advantage of while there, such as kayaking, bicycling, scuba diving, snorkeling, volcano hiking, photography or even walking about exploring the terrain. The Galapagos are

one of ‘those’ places, like Machu Picchu, Venice, or the Pyramids,. They are unique and inimitable. Hoping, one day soon, to return.

#### Some useful resources

<https://es.khanacademy.org/science/biology/her/evolution-and-natural-selection/a/darwin-evolution-natural-selection>

has great information about evolution, Darwin’s Beagle and his investigations. Includes texts, youtube videos and resources for use.

<http://espanol.galapagos.org> The Galapagos Conservatory, Official site, offers a lot of information about the islands, tourism, as well as links to valuable sites (available in Spanish and English)

<http://www.darwinfoundation.org/en> The Darwin Foundation, official site, offers much information about research and activities of the organization as well as links to other useful sites. (available in Spanish and English.)

<http://www.openculture.com/2013/09/googles-new-virtual-tour-of-the-galapagos-islands.html>

virtual tour of the Galapagos, partnership with Google, The Darwin Foundation (although in English, this can present a wonderful opportunity for students to summarize in the target language what they learned.)





**Meet the Candidates for the  
2021-2023 Long Island Language Teachers Executive Board**  
**All current 2021 LILT members will be invited to vote.**  
**Online voting ends May 24, 2021**

**President: JoAnne Orlando**

JoAnne Orlando attended the State University at Stony Brook where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature, a Masters of Teaching in French and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership. JoAnne has taught in the William Floyd School District for 20 years, first as a French teacher and most recently as a Spanish teacher. She currently teaches Spanish 2 Honors (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and a new course in Exploration of French. She is excited to be teaching French again after almost 10 years. JoAnne has served as LILT Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and is currently the 1st Vice President. JoAnne states, "I am proud of the job we have 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 5 Annual Conferences, including our very first Virtual Conference this past November. *"It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with the members of the LILT Executive Board. As President, I would continue to work at building membership by offering both current and new members access to useful and informative professional development workshops. I would also like to see more socializing events where members can network while enjoying fun activities outside of conferences and meetings. To me, the collegiality and cooperation among members is the force that moves the organization forward. I would also like to enhance and expand our outreach to the new generation of teachers out there on whom the future of World Language studies rests. It is so important to have the younger teachers involved in new initiatives and leadership opportunities"*

**First Vice President: Vanessa Sosa**

Vanessa Sosa graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelors in French and Spanish Language and Literature. She also holds a Master's Degree from Stony Brook University in TESOL. Vanessa is certified K-12 TESOL and Grades 1-6 General Education. She is currently in her 5th year of teaching at Riverhead Central School District working as a 6th Grade ENL teacher. Vanessa has taught several classes and given workshops within her district as well as with LILT at their annual conferences. She is currently one of the ENL liaisons at LILT hoping to help the organization offer more opportunities for professional development for educators in her field. She is currently the LILT 2nd Vice President and is the Student Award Plaques Chairperson. Vanessa looks forward to growing with LILT as they incorporate more opportunities for ENL teachers on Long Island.



**Second Vice President: Dr. Kerri Titone**

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 Diploma Programme 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 including 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 to build a community of young, empowered, scholars. Kerri has served as the LILT Executive Board Secretary for two years, during which LILT established a mission statement and hosted its first Annual Conference online; she looks forward to continuing to serve the LILT membership as our new 2nd Vice President.

**Secretary: TinaMarie DeFalco**

TinaMarie DeFalco earned her B.A. in French Language and Literature and M.A.T. in French, both from SUNY Stony Brook. She holds certifications in teaching French and Italian both at the secondary and elementary levels. She is a member of LILT, NYSAFLT, AATF, AATI, ACTFL and NECTFL. Tina is currently a Leadership Ambassador in NYSAFLT's Leaders of Tomorrow Program. Tina currently teaches middle school and high school French in the Miller Place School District, levels 7th grade, I, III, IV, V and AP. This year, she has presented at both LILT's Annual Conference and NYSAFLT's Spring Conference and will be presenting in New Orleans at AATF's Annual Convention this Summer. TinaMarie will be teaching at Three Village Central School District starting in the Fall.

**Treasurer: Ann Marie Lombardi**

Ann Marie Lombardi graduated from Long Island University - CW Post with a BA in Spanish Education. She continued her studies at LIU, graduating with her MS in Special Education. She holds certifications in Spanish, Special and Elementary Education, as well as FLES. Ann Marie currently teaches Spanish at Oakdale Bohemia Middle School in the Connetquot Central School District, where she is also the school's yearbook advisor. She also coaches the Cheerleading team at Ronkonkoma Middle School. Ann Marie is the past Treasurer of the Elementary and Middle School PTA units where her children attend school, as well as the current Treasurer of LILT; a position she has held since 2017.

**Member At Large: Samantha Thomas**

Samantha Thomas is a first year Italian teacher at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip. She graduated from Stony Brook University with a Masters of Teaching in Italian and earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Modern Foreign Languages from James Madison University in Virginia. She has been a long time member of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy as well as a member of AATI and LILT. Samantha has attended LILT conferences and has helped to judge the World Language Competition and is now eager to take a more active role in LILT.





## The Center for Italian Studies

The Stony Brook University Center for Italian Studies is extending its on-Line Virtual Program of Italian Language Classes 2020-2021 to include a special summer session.

Classes on the Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Levels will each be offered in a session of eight (8) one-hour classes beginning June 1.

Please contact Josephine Fusco for information and registration: [josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu](mailto:josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu)



It is with sadness that we learn of the recent passing of Betsy Siegelau, a retired World Language teacher who taught for thirty seven years at Mepham High School in Bellmore. She earned her Masters degree in both French and Italian, secured two Fulbright scholarships for post-graduate studies in Europe and received a Harvard fellowship. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy's family.



## **2021 Professional Calendar**

**May 26 LILT General Membership Meeting, Virtual**

**June 1 Submission Deadline for New LILT Logo Design**

**August 6 NYSAFLT Summer Institute, Virtual**

**October 22-23 NYSAFLT Annual Conference, Syracuse, NY**

**November 12-13 LILT Annual Conference, Virtual**

**November 19-20 ACTFL Convention, Virtual**

***Save the Date!***

***2021 LILT Annual Conference***

**Virtual Format**

**Friday November 12 and Saturday November 13**

**Details Coming Soon!**

**[www.liltfl.org](http://www.liltfl.org)**