

NEWSLETTER

WWW.LILTFL.ORG

Summer 2021
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Cheryl Sosa, Editor
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Message from the President



I began my career as a teacher 20 years ago in the shadow of September 11. Just a few days into my career, I watched in horror as the World Trade Center fell and our lives in the United States were forever altered. Each year as we memorialized this horrific event in the classroom, I would fight to hold back the tears while thinking of all we had lost as individuals and as a country. During the ensuing years, I faced many challenges as a teacher, from draconian budget cuts to the nightmare of APPR. While the impact of these events could never be diminished, nothing quite compares to the undertaking of teaching and living during this pandemic.

Those first days of the pandemic were fraught with uncertainty and fear. Fear of falling ill with Covid, fear of venturing out of the house after 6 months of quarantine, fear of virtual and hybrid learning and fear of facing a classroom of students, each with their own worries and anxieties. I am sure the months from September to January of last year were a blur for many of us and each day brought new challenges to what were for some, an already challenging profession.



***'Cause a
little bit of
summer is
what the
whole year
is all about.***

John Mayer



But...we survived. We woke up every morning and did what we were trained to do. We taught. We taught languages through masks and plastic shields. We taught languages virtually and in-person. We found ways to share with our students our love of other cultures and all the diversity and richness they bring to us. We learned new technologies. We learned how to adapt our lessons and assignments to fit the hybrid and virtual classrooms that became our reality. We learned that necessity is indeed the mother of invention and we invented new ways to reach out to our students and guide them through this strange new world.

For me, teaching during Covid provided the opportunity to learn so many new technologies that I just never seemed to find the time to master. I will incorporate many into my future lessons. But, if nothing else, this year taught me that it is the personal connection between teachers and students that is truly the magic of the classroom. I grew to love this group of students, more than any others before them, because I appreciated the face-to-face interaction. There was also the fact that we shared a unique experience that drew us together. It has made me a more tolerant and patient teacher, which I hope will make me a better teacher.

So, as we move past (I hope) this tragic period in our country's history, I hope that we can all find a new appreciation for things that we took for granted. Let us take this summer to relax and enjoy doing all the activities that we were unable to do over the past year.

Happy Summer!

JoAnne Orlando
President

TAKE REST; A FIELD THAT HAS RESTED, GIVES BOUNTIFUL CROP.

OVID



Message from the Editor

We need time to de-fuse, to contemplate. Just as in sleep our brains relax and give us dreams, so at some time in the day we need to disconnect, re-connect, and look around us.

Laurie Colwin



As we started the 2021 school year we understood that there were to be many challenges awaiting us. Some we could predict, others were unimaginable. Not knowing from day to day when the next shut down would be and who would test positive. We worried about our student's academic, financial and mental health, often putting our own on the back burner. Each day brought a new stress, a new challenge and yet we carried on. In spite of the challenges and setbacks, personal and professional, our dedication to the growth of our students remained steadfast, often at our own risk.

For most of us June 26, 2021 could not have come fast enough. The sound of a collective breath of relief resonated throughout the halls of the school house as educators felt more like convicts being released after having completed their sentence. A year full of uncertainties and 'reimaginings', isolation, political turmoil, fears and loss, to be finally able to touch other people and see faces. This past school year demanded more of our profession than ever before and honestly I could not feel prouder to be an educator and a LILT board member. The success of our student poster contest and our language competitions could not have been a success without the hard work and dedication of our members who have volunteered their time and skill.

As these hazy, crazy days of summer are here, enjoy, relax and be sure to take time for yourself and your family. Please join us and consider becoming a more active member of LILT. We are only as effective as our members.

Cheryl Sosa

Editor

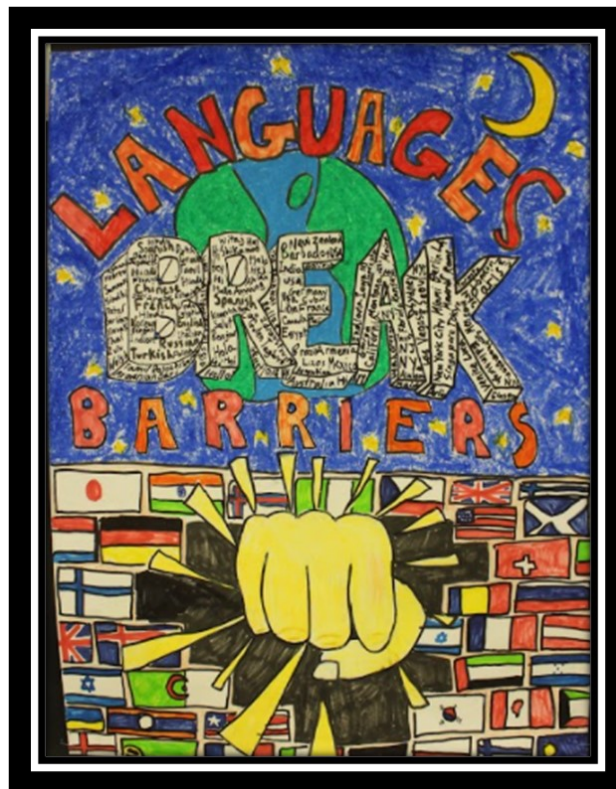
Every now and then, go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgement will be surer. Leonardo da Vinci



2021 LILT Annual Conference

Friday, November 12
&
Saturday, November 13

Languages Break Barriers



We are excited to announce our Annual Conference will once again be 100% virtual!

There will be opportunities for social networking with colleagues, visiting virtual vendor booths, chatting with presenters and much more !

CTLE credit will be given for those who attend.



2021 LILT Annual Conference Call for Proposals

Share Your Expertise...
with your LILT colleagues from near and far
Present a workshop at the Annual Conference

This year's conference will be virtual.
Listed below are some suggested presentation topics but we always welcome new and original ideas for workshops!

Administrators Session
New - New York State WL Standards
American Sign Language
Strategies for Teaching AP and/or IB Courses
Native Learners / Heritage Learners
Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA)
Project Based Language Learning
Language Proficiency
Proficiency Based Learning
Core Practices
Interactive Tasks/ Games
FLES Spanish / Chinese
New Teachers
Demo Lessons
Differentiated Instruction
Strategies for teaching differently abled students
Integrating Technology/ Digital tools
Engaging students online (synchronous and asynchronous)
Traveling with Students
Asynchronous Teaching & Learning in the WL/ENL Classroom
FLACS Checkpoint A, B, C
TPRS/CI
Best Practices for Recovery and Remediation

Submit your best ideas!!

Submission Deadline: September 1st

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The Traveling Teacher

The Migrating Monarchs of Mexico

*With Age
comes wisdom,
With travel
comes
understanding.*

Sandra Lake

One of the most difficult concepts for humans to wrap our head around is death. It is something that touches each and every one of us at one time or another and we all seem to have developed different cultural practices for coping with loss and making sense of the grief. Much can be revealed about

cultural identity by the way we deal with death. Some mourn in black for seven years, guilty to feel happiness, some mourn for a week. Some cultures celebrate the life, the afterlife or perhaps the legacy left behind. For many cultures, the belief is that one's acts in



the human plane will determine their destination in the after life. Others believe we simply rent a body to be reborn in another form. Some embrace the Elysian fields, paradise or heaven while others venture to a less pleasant spiritual residence. Many indigenous cultures of Mexico and other parts of the Americas believe that the soul lives on and loved ones return at time when the earthly souls can connect with the spirit world, with the *más allá*. For many indigenous cultures the Monarch butterfly embodies these souls.

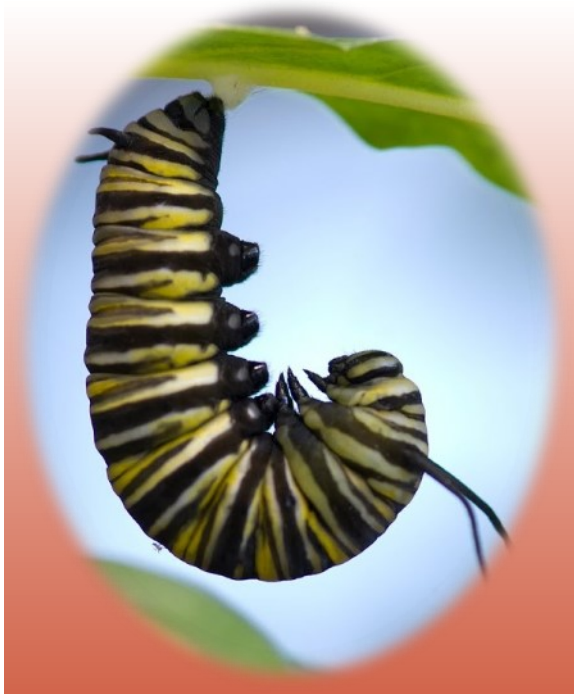
Migration, the Oxford dictionary defines it as *the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another, or movement from one part of something to another*. While humans are subject to borders and requisition of Visas, these human geopolitical constructs are ignored by Mother Nature. In the natural world, species migrate for many reasons without having to consider these obstacles. However, climatic change affects migratory patterns and the survival of many species, as well as some geopolitical obstacles that create limited access to necessary food sources and breeding grounds.



The Monarch Butterfly is one of Mother Nature's truly wonderful creatures. It is no wonder the indigenous peoples of Mexico were and continue to be so connected to them. The Purépecha people, among others, believe that human souls do not die, but rather continue living in Mictlán, a place where spirits rest until they can return home to visit with loved ones. The Purépecha have recorded the migration of the butterflies back to the highland forests of the Mexican Sierra for centuries. Their arrival, signals time for the corn harvest, *la parakata*. They return in late October, early November which conveniently corresponds with the Catholic holy days of All Saints and All Souls, November 1st and 2nd. Since the indigenous cultures marked these days when the souls returned to visit with their families, it was a very convenient way of syncretizing the beliefs with the calendar. With the syncretism of catholic beliefs, it worked nicely to interpret the butterflies as the winged carriers of the souls returning home.

We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty. Maya Angelou

The life cycle of these butterflies is a biological marvel. Their journey from the highlands to the north and back spans four generations of butterflies, each genetically programmed with unique features to perform a specific function during their life span to ensure the survival of their species. Incredibly, the butterfly that left the highlands of the states of Mexico and Michoacán will never see them again. Rather their progenies will be the ones who return. These beautiful winged spirits return to overwinter, where they will stay four to five months, fortifying their bodies before they once again depart for the north.



Scientists are mystified as to how these beautiful creatures are able to migrate more than 3000 miles. Some theories suggest they are guided by celestial cues along with a circadian rhythm to orient their journey. Other theories suggest that mountain ranges and other geographical landmarks cue them. Other evidence suggests that the butterflies possess a magnetic compass and a UV light that is read by their antennae which is what orients them to the

south. Whatever the biological equipment that enables them to return to Mexico, it is something beautiful to see when they arrive en masse.

While Mexico is home to many awe inspiring attractions, the beaches, the spectacular murals, the indigenous ruins, the gorgeous silver artisanry... the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve has to be one of the most spectacular! In 1980 it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The biosphere includes several sanctuaries for the butterflies, necessitated by the logging industry's deforestation of their habitat. The butterflies feed on the Oyamel fir tree which is indigenous to the high elevation of the Mexican sierras. Most of the sanctuaries are located in



the states of Michoacán and México. Although I have yet to experience the arrival of the butterflies for Día de Muertos, I have experienced their overwintering at the Valle de Bravo sanctuary in the state of México, about two hours southwest of the capital.

A few years ago when we were in Mexico City during our Christmas break, we had the opportunity to venture out of the city to experience the sanctuary. We chose the one in Valle del Bravo because it was the safest.

Unfortunately the state of Michoacán is riddled with political unrest and therefore was a less palatable option for us at the time. We departed our hotel in the chilly, pre-dawn darkness, as it is best to see the butterflies late morning, as if they are one mass cloaking the treetops, searching for the warmth of the sun. We drove for a little over two hours through winding hills, not realizing how high we actually were climbing. To my ignorance, I did not realize the highlands would be quite so high, so when I found myself breathing a bit heavy I was once again reminded of Mother Nature's power over us. We arrived ready to stretch our legs and explore, overwhelmed by the smell of clean, fresh mountain air. After spending a



few days in Mexico City, it was delicious! As we unloaded from the van we were greeted by the caretakers of the preserve, many of them not more than 12 years old. We were given a short tour of the small museum on site and then started our ascend. There are several paths carved out, one for walking and another for donkeys. As we began our walk it was recommended to go by donkey, as the path is a bit tricky and the hike about 2 kilometers to the top. A young guide accompanied each *burro* as we navigated the muddy path. As we approached the tree line we began to see the masse of what looked like moss covering the canopy. We continued silently as to not disturb the butterflies. Slowly as the sun began to break through the clouds, the butterflies began to awaken, fluttering their wings in a chorus of beautiful orange and black against a crisp blue sky. This was one of the most beautiful sights I have witnessed. The butterflies circling the tree tops, fluttering toward the heavens, it is no wonder the indigenous peoples saw this as the souls of loved ones.



Still on my bucket list is to be in Mexico for Día de Muertos, to experience the celebration, the joy of the return of these marvelous insects. The mariposas are such an important part of the



holiday, one which we may ignore when teaching about the traditions of Día de Muertos. Introducing the life cycle of the Monarchs might be a nice way to incorporate science and technology into the topic and could also serve as an excellent research project for students of any level. Below I have included several useful resources suitable for classroom use.

Sources/useful resources:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/descubre-wwf/historias/mariposa-monarca>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/descubre-wwf/historias/la-gran-migracion-de-la-mariposa-monarca>

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/espanol/especies/mariposa_monarca.html



<https://www.nationalgeographic.es/animales/mariposa-monarca>

<https://lpfw.org/es/our-region/wildlife/monarch-butterfly/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMs-lCaTKoE>

Cheryl Sosa
Editor



Stipend to Attend LILT Annual Conference For New Members

A stipend to cover the cost of registration may be awarded to a New LILT member to help defray the cost of attending the annual LILT conference.

The applicant must be a new member of LILT by April 15 of the current year, and prepare a written one (1) page statement, in English, in response to the following: *How I hope to benefit from attending the Annual LILT Conference...*

The winning member will attend three (3) workshop sessions at the conference, and afterwards write a short article for the LILT Newsletter about the conference.

The article will be submitted to the Newsletter editor within one (1) month of the conference date. The article will include an evaluation of the conference, and a summary of three (3) workshops attended.

Completed applications must be postmarked
(United States Post Office postmark only) by **September 1, 2021**

Email to:

Ana Aguiar-Mady: aaguiarmady@liltfl.org



The LILT Executive Board cordially invites all World Language
& ENL Educators to its annual

Fall General Membership Meeting



Please join us in person as we kick off the new school year!

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

TIME: 4:30 PM -7:00 PM

LOCATION: LA FAMIGLIA, 641 OLD COUNTRY RD, PLAINVIEW, NY

COST: \$30 MEMBERS / \$35 NON MEMBERS (TAX, GRATUITY INCLUDED), RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (CASH ONLY)

MENU: APPETIZER, SALAD, CHOICE OF ENTREE, SOFT DRINKS, DESSERT, COFFEE/TEA; CASH BAR

Our Guest Speaker, David Hymowitz, of the #SameHereSchools program will be talking to us about SEL and fostering connections with students.

Participation for CTLE credit will be available at the end of the meeting.
ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 23, 2021: www.liltfl.org





BOOK REVIEW

Una vez fui tú: Mi Vida Entre el Amor y el Odio en los Estados Unidos By María Hinojosa

History is written by the victors, which means we should question the version of history that has been handed down to us.

Anonymous

One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.

Jeannette Walls



One of the most valuable lessons we teach our students is about perspective, that history is told through the lens of the interpreter. Cultural or intercultural competence goes far deeper than celebrating Cinco de Mayo or Día de Muertos and is more important now than ever. We are experiencing a reckoning in this country about our own history and how it has been told. Who has done the telling? We cannot ignore that although we say we are one country, the *city upon the hill*, our experiences, especially of late, may say otherwise. As a people, perhaps it is time for us to reinterpret and retell our history, or better yet, our histories. Hinojosa has fought tirelessly to tell these stories and shed light on the lives of those who for so long have been ignored. We are reminded of this in her memoir.

The author begins her account describing her encounter with a child refugee she sees at the airport in McAllen, Texas. (She reminds us of the origin of Texas and a little of its history as a Spanish, then Mexican territory.) She goes on to relate her experiences as an immigrant, a journalist, a woman, a Mexican-American, an American, a mother and a wife. She shares many stories of her experiences covering the news and documentaries she produced, many focusing on the stories of the marginalized. She feels a connection to many of the them because of her own immigrant experiences but in the end highlights that although we are a country of immigrants, one that allegedly embraces the huddled masses, we are also one that too often loathes them. *Race*, is a game changer in the American experience. She compares her

memory entering the US, with a green card, with her mom, only to be taken from her arms by Border Patrol. A rash mistaken for measles detains her. She likens this to a Guatemalan boy being taken and housed in a detention center by ICE when he crosses the border alone. In spite of her coming from a well-educated family and the boy from a poor one, she feels there is no difference in the way they are perceived, brown is brown.

I really enjoyed this read and I highly recommend it to all. I read it in Spanish, but it is available in English, as well as on audio. There is a lot of information in the book, much of which many are unaware. As a journalist she is interested in facts, truth, and so she shares much about U.S. immigration policy and law dating back centuries, the good, the bad and the ugly.

Hinojosa began her career around the same time as I did and so the events and memories she shared brought me back to a familiar time. Another radical time in our history. A time when news was only available from a few sources, no cable, just tv and radio. Just one perception of the news and what was important to report. I remember listening to her on NPR on my way home from classes because there was little else that I could get on my car radio. Later she became a familiar face on CNN. She investigated things that mainstream Americans were not so interested in, that had no *commercial value*, but her voice always seemed to resonate with me. She has always been a staunch advocate for those marginalized and never afraid to challenge and search for the truth, the facts. She is a strong Latina with a unique voice, a fierce voice to be heard, to tell the stories that might otherwise not be told. She was a ground breaker in her field as well as a stellar role model for all women, all journalist, not just Latinas.

On a side note, I would also recommend watching the episode of the PBS series, *Finding Your Roots*, with Professor Louis Gates, Jr. that investigates her ancestry. It was really quite a fascinating story. To her surprise, there are ancestors that were on both sides of the oppressor's fence. This, for me, brought greater depth to her work and reminded me how misguided it is to judge the past from the moral lens of the present and how important it is to take a hard look at our past, both personal and collective and own it.

*El que lee
mucho y anda
mucho, ve
mucho y sabe
mucho.*

*Miguel de
Cervantes
Saavedra,
El ingenioso
hidalgo Don
Quixote de la
Mancha*



The Mexican Wedding Cookie



I am sure we have all sampled a traditional, amazing butter cookie. Every culture seems to have one. I thought the inclusion of the Mexican wedding cookie would be a suitable recipe for this edition, since it is a butter cookie and has an interesting, migratory, history. These *biscochitos* or *polverones* have an incredible similarity to Viennese crescent cookies, Greek *kourabiedes*, Russian tea cakes, pecan sandies, snowballs... the list goes on with the greatest variant being which nut is incorporated into the recipe. So I think this makes it the perfect *American* treat.

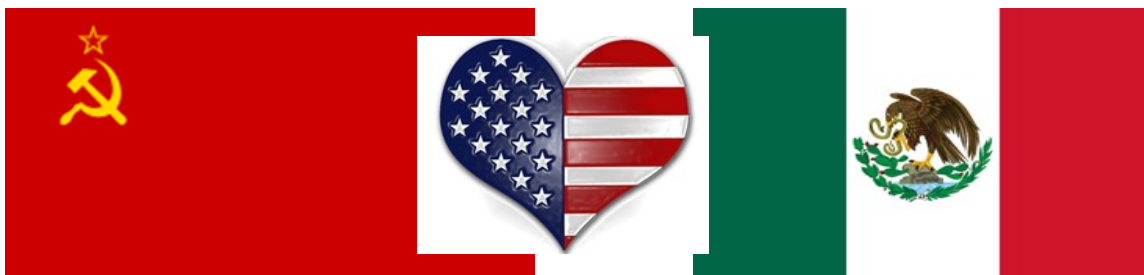
It seems that the origin of the *Mexican wedding* cookie dates back centuries. Believed to have been brought to the Americas by Spanish nuns and colonizers in the 16th century, it actually dates back even further to the Arabs, who brought the treat to southern Spain. These little cakes were a treat more on the dry side and so lasted longer than some other sugary treats. They also incorporated almonds in the recipe, makes sense since the moors brought almonds, among other wonderful things, to Europe. As trade routes opened this treat was brought to many places, each incorporating a local ingredient.

Prior to the 1950s, the cookie was actually more commonly called a Russian tea cake, but recipe books began changing the name during the cold war as relations between the U.S. and Russia became strained. As it was a common treat at served at weddings, it became known at the Mexican Wedding cookie. Ironically Mexican Wedding Cookie had a more positive connotation.

¡Buen Provecho!

Here is one of the recipes I have had much success with.

- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup confectioners (powdered) sugar
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract (can do half pure vanilla/half pure almond)
- 2 teaspoons water
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup finely chopped almonds (can use pecans, walnuts, hazelnuts)
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar



Directions

- In a medium bowl, cream the butter and sift the powdered sugar in with the butter.
- Add vanilla and water.
- Add the flour and finely chopped almonds, mix until blended.
- Cover and chill for 3 hours.
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
- Shape dough into balls or crescents. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Prepare a bowl with the ½ cup powdered sugar.
- Remove cookies from pan a couple at a time and roll in the powdered sugar while warm.
- Set aside to cool.
- When cookies are cool, if desired, sprinkle additional powdered sugar over the cookies.

Store at room temperature in an airtight container, unless they are immediately devoured!

Cheryl Sosa

Editor



SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

In this edition our member in the spotlight is Adriana Devers. She has been a presenter for LILT on several occasions and is an accomplished author and educator.

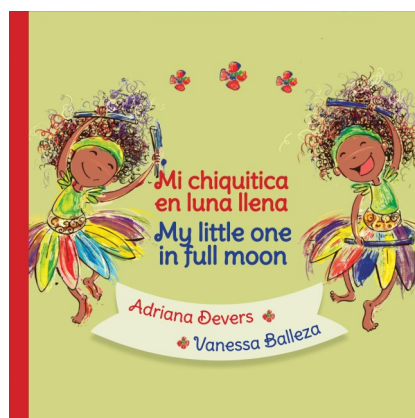


Q: How long have you been an educator? Where and what do you teach? What made you decide to go into teaching?

A: I've been an educator for seventeen years. I taught Spanish for 14 years at the Patchogue-Medford School District, until transitioning to my own bilingual Child Care Program and becoming a cultural events coordinator through my company Cuentos de Triadas Inc.

The main focus of my child care bilingual program is to instill in young children, and their families, a sense of pride, love and respect for Hispanic cultures and Spanish language. As an author, and cultural events facilitator, I combine different forms of artistic expression to explore a variety of topics such as identity, moral values and self acceptance, among others; all through culturally enriched programs offered in Spanish and English. My programs are available through the Eastern Suffolk BOCES catalog and my published work can be found through Amazon and Booklandia.com

The passion I have for the arts, especially for literature, led me to leaving the public school classroom and taking on this new career path. Little did I know that I would end up re-creating a classroom in my own family room, planning lessons for a younger age group, incorporating STEAM activities with a "pizca de español" in the mix, and conducting author visits in between for public libraries and school programs.



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 I was given by one of my greatest mentors, Professor Russo-Rumore, was to believe in myself, to really tap into my essence and give it my all inside and outside the classroom. That is the very same thing I would say to new teachers: believe in your potential, put your heart in what you do and teach with a higher purpose in mind. Assessments are important, the subject at hand is important, but what truly makes a difference is teaching "de corazón a corazón" from heart to heart, listening to your students and building connections that go beyond the classroom walls.

Q: What do you enjoy most about teaching?

A: What I enjoy the most about, both, teaching and presenting my work as an author, is sharing stories and listening to the students. There is so much power in storytelling, and so much more that can be achieved when we validate students' voices. As Maya Angelou said: "They might forget what you said, but they'll never forget how you made them feel." Teaching is more than asking children to open their books. Teaching is to inspire them to dig into each lesson making relatable connections. It is to admit when a plan didn't work but be willing to try it a different way.

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

A: LILT was one of the first organizations to accept my workshop proposals and support my work. From relevant workshops, innovative ideas, outstanding conferences and guidance through the certification process, LILT has given me many opportunities to better my craft and share my expertise with other educators.

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

A: At the present time, I'm working on my third children's book and recently participated in an anthology titled *Mujeres que se atreven, empowering stories during challenging times*, which became an Amazon best seller in the United States and Mexico within a week of been published. I enjoy spending time with my family, sharing stories of my upbringing with my children, dancing merengue and finding wonders everywhere I go!





The LILT Board would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jon Early, who has served as our webmaster for the past few years. He has been an invaluable asset to our organization. We welcome veteran LILT member Wendy Mercado as our new webmaster.

2021 Professional Calendar

September 30, LILT Fall General Membership Meeting

October 22-23 NYSAFLT Annual Conference, Syracuse, Hybrid Format

November 14 LILT Annual Conference, Virtual

November 19-21 ACTFL Convention, Virtual

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Happy Summer!

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way*

*Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.....*

*Oh, yes I can make it now the pain is gone
All of the bad feelings have disappeared
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day*

Johnny Nash

