

25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE 1980-2005

LILT Newsletter

January 2005
Volume 25, Number 1

www.liltfl.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues,

As the year 2005, now officially known as the "Year of Languages" begins, let me, along with the LILT Executive Board, extend to you and your family our sincerest wishes for a healthy, happy and successful year.

It is with pleasure that I wish to congratulate LILT's Second Vice President, Joseph Tursi, Jr. upon his election as a Long Island Director to the Board of NYSAFLT. On January 1, 2005 Joe succeeded Isabel Cosentino, who held this position for the past two years. Joe will be working along side Ana Aguiar-Mady who also serves as a Long Island Director. Join with me in giving Joe our best wishes for a successful two-year term and in saying 'thank you' to Isabel, LILT's 1st Vice President for her commitment and hard work while holding this position for the past two years.

The LILT-NYSAFLT Regional Conference entitled *Innovate, Motivate, Communicate: Reaching All Language Learners*, held on November 13, 2004 at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School sported a new look this year.

Based on the many comments received, the pre-registration process was highly effective in producing much satisfaction from attendees while eliminating the overcrowding experienced in the past few years. As the conference is now usually attended by over 300 teachers, Dept. Chairs, college methods students and student teachers, preparations have multiplied. This year, led by Chair, Lillian Carey, the many tasks for this event were distributed to a 'committee' of volunteers. The enormous success of this year's conference was directly due to the dedication, the long hours of personal time freely given, and the painstaking attention to the

small details that made a difference in the final product. Orchestrated by Lillian, with scheduling engineered by me, both Lillian and I, along with the Executive Board, would like to acknowledge the work of the following committee members: Ana Aguiar-Mady (planning committee meeting), Rose V. Bunnell & Fiona Cardillo (mailing), Marijean Burke (clerical), Isabel Cosentino (presenters & program), Annette & Richard Gentile (catering), Diana Riccoboni (scheduling assistant), Grace Silva (vendors), Kristen Spielmann (treasurer) and Linda Stack (student helpers). They have delivered yet another excellent conference to the foreign language community. You should be proud of your efforts, and all of us on the Executive Board are proud to know and work with you. You are risk takers and innovators of a new and highly successful model. Kudos to you! On a personal note, I would like to say to you, Lillian, that it has been a total pleasure to work hand in hand with you. You are a true professional in every sense of the word.

Without presenters there would be no workshops. Our presenters this year showed that if we *Innovate* we can *Motivate* ALL our students to *Communicate* in a second language. The varied assortment of 16 workshops

included: an informational session on NYS Certification changes, a 'hands on' PowerPoint session, an introduction to the LOTE lab, e-pals, classroom management, lesson planning, the successful student teacher, FLES: Starting from Scratch, motivational strategies, the world of AP, learning disabilities, the heritage learner, Art and LOTE, Foreign Language Week activities and LOTE extra curricular activities. These were made possible by the following talented presenters: Marcella Berkovsky, Patricia Childs, Francesco Fratto, Marie Grilla-Loria, Debbie Hershkowitz, Diane Iglesias,

**CELEBRATE
EDUCATE
COMMUNICATE

THE POWER
OF
LANGUAGE
LEARNING**

ACTFL 2005 YOL Slogan

Dr. Sarah Jourdain, Sandra Krolik, Lee Lawler, Ronnie Maibaum, Barbara Meskill (also the keynote speaker), Erika Motill-Braga, Diana Riccoboni, Jessica Sauers, Diana Scalera, Kathy Shea, Lance Steinberg and Patrizia Wesnofske. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the presenters who generously gave of their time to prepare and share their knowledge and expertise with their foreign language colleagues. *Gracias, merci, grazie, danke* - no matter what language one chooses, words are not enough to express my gratitude to you all for taking on these tasks this year. And you, my fellow LILT member, perhaps next time YOU can be a presenter? Please do not hesitate to contact me (nrussorumore@liltfl.org) and explain your workshop idea for next year's regional conference.

Since it is the beginning of a New Year, let each of us resolve to: promote the YEAR OF LANGUAGES and to participate in a LILT activity in which you have never participated before. In the pages that follow and on the LILT website (www.liltfl.org) you will find information for many upcoming LILT activities such as the Student Language Competition (**Remember, you must have paid for 2005 membership by Dec. 31, 2004 to participate.**), Winter Workshops (information to be mailed out at the beginning of Jan. to all members and Dept. Chairs), LILT Awards, Grant & Stipend (deadline for submissions: April 15, 2005), LILT Plaques, as well as plans for the celebration of LILT's Silver Anniversary. *Please note:* through more revision of forms and procedures, the Student Language Competition pages on the website now show a three step process and give "one click" access to the various competition categories. In addition, a Revision Committee met in October to review and revise all of LILT's awards, grant and stipend. Please be aware that you will find new forms and some new and different requirements for some of these awards, which at present are pending the approval of the Executive Board at its next meeting on January 13th. Therefore, *please check out this information AFTER January 30th* if you intend to submit any nominees for awards, etc. this year. It is our hope, with these final changes, you will find the information on the website more user friendly. Thanks once again go to Richard Gentile for painstakingly revising these forms for us.

This is THE year to make that extra effort as a LOTE educator and promoter of second language learning. Let your voice be heard by making your school community and the community in which you live become aware of the advantages - personal, national and international of learning another language. In our last issue we listed some preliminary ideas for "Year of Languages" activities. In this issue you will find even more suggestions. With the national focus on foreign languages this year, it is a timely opportunity for us to attempt to educate the public in order to garner support for foreign language education. Please visit the LILT

website (www.liltfl.org) and the ACTFL website (www.yearoflanguages.org) and plan together with other department members by utilizing the information on these sites. I would like to gather the many activities that come to fruition at your school to add to LILT's "Year of Languages" website page. Please share your ideas by sending them to me at (nrussorumore@liltfl.org) for inclusion on the LILT website.

LILT membership has grown by leaps and bounds! We are now 691 strong! Let each of us contribute our voice during the "Year of Languages". Let us use this tool afforded us in 2005 to best advantage to promote the study of foreign languages. *Together* we must work toward this common goal at a time when the future of so many LOTE programs is at stake. If WE don't, WHO will? *TOGETHER we can achieve "No American Left Monolingual."*

United with you, I remain,
Nancy Russo-Rumore



PROCLAMATION

Through the diligent efforts of LILT's President, Nancy Russo-Rumore, the entire year of 2005 has been declared YEAR OF LANGUAGES in Nassau County by Thomas R. Suozzi, Nassau County Executive.

If you would like to share this proclamation with your students, parents, friends, colleagues, and by all means, all of your administrators, it can be downloaded in color from our website, liltfl.org. It has been reduced to fit on a regular 8.5" x 11" page and looks quite stunning, minus the *grandeur* of the original 16" x 20". A black and white reproduction appears on the next page.

We are still waiting to hear from Suffolk County to see if they will do the same. Nancy has made her request on LILT's behalf, but nothing has been received to date.

THANK YOU

to Marie Loria for the creation of the raffle baskets for the General Membership Meeting on September 22, 2004.

to AATF Suffolk and AATSP for the donation of their lovely raffle baskets for the General Membership Meeting.

to AATI for the donation of AATI mugs which were included in the LILT baskets for Italian teachers for the General Membership Meeting.

to Alice Tiwari for volunteering to do the LILT membership renewal forms mailing.

to Nancy Russo-Rumore and Ron Taub for proofreading this edition.



OFFICE of the EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the County of Nassau is proud to recognize those outstanding events of benevolent community service; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance and stewardship of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) the year 2005 has been officially designated by the U.S. Senate as the "Year of Foreign Language Study;" and

WHEREAS, the importance of focusing America's attention on social benefits of studying other languages and cultures from around the world will positively influence the full range of language programs in schools across the United States, increase public awareness of our diverse population and their languages and cultures that enrich the American way of life with friends, neighborhood, colleagues, and employees coming from a vast array of backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, promoting international understanding and the ability to communicate in other languages will increase job opportunities for future generations of Americans and demonstrates the importance of Elementary and Secondary Education including foreign language as part of a core curriculum that includes English, mathematics, science, civics, economics, art, history, and geography;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas R. Suozzi, Nassau County Executive, do hereby proclaim the year 2005, as:

The Year of Language

in Nassau County, and through an exchange of different ideas and cultures, we can develop a better understanding and appreciation of our fellowman.



Thomas R. Suozzi
County Executive

JUDGES NEEDED

Judging student entries for the annual *LILT Student Language Competition* will be held at the Bay Shore Middle School on Saturday, April 9, 2005, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Brunch will be provided for all. Judges work within a group, and if you have never participated in this event, please don't have reservations about judging. Come, and bring a foreign language friend as well. It's a great opportunity for networking and getting to know your foreign language colleagues from all over Long Island. If you are interested in serving as a judge, please contact the LILT Judge Coordinator: Marie Brett at mbrett1@optonline.net.

LILT AWARDS, GRANT AND STIPEND

Although it may seem to be too early, now's the time to begin thinking about those exciting projects you'd like to try next year, or colleagues and foreign language graduating seniors you'd like to honor at the end of this school year. *The newly revised and simplified forms* will be available on our website (liltfl.org) after January 30, 2005. The postmark due date is April 15th. Please send your entries only by first class United States mail. Chairperson: Annette Gentile, agentile@liltfl.org.

LILT STUDENT PLAQUES

LILT is proud to make available a plaque for the graduating senior at your school who has demonstrated excellence in foreign language study and who is currently enrolled in the most advanced language course in your school. A similar plaque is also offered for the graduating middle or junior high school student who has demonstrated excellence in foreign language study. These handsome plaques, will be made available for purchase through LILT in the spring of 2005. The honorees of these plaques will be chosen by you, the language teacher, as the most outstanding student for 2005. LILT offers this plaque to recognize Long Island language students as well as their teachers' efforts. A letter containing information regarding the purchase of these plaques will be mailed to district supervisors throughout Long Island in January. The postmark deadline for the purchase of plaques is March 31st. Please feel free to look up any information at LILT's web site (liltfl.org) and click on the *LILT Student Language Plaques* link, or send an e-mail to Joe Tursi, Jr. at jtursi@liltfl.org.

WINTER WORKSHOPS

Coming soon! In March and April, LILT will be sponsoring 13 Winter Workshops on topics such as: Multiple Intelligences, Classroom Management, Technological Tools, FLES, POP culture in the LOTE Classroom, The Virtual Field Trip, Cooperative Learning,

and The Interactive Book Report. These one day, two hour workshops will be offered in Nassau and Suffolk counties from 4 PM to 6 PM, Mondays through Thursdays. LILT is also very pleased to announce a special presenter this year from the Capital Region, Ken Hughes, NYSAFLT Webmaster and Mead Fellow. Registration flyers will be mailed soon. Be sure to register early!

Direct any questions you may have to Isabel Cosentino, LILT First Vice President, at (631) 689-7411 or isbelle@aol.com.

COMING SOON

In 2005, LILT will begin sending announcements and reminders via e-mail. Any member who has given LILT his/her e-mail address will be receiving an e-mail request from LILT asking if he/she wishes to continue to receive LILT updates via e-mail. Please respond ONLY if you wish to UNSUBSCRIBE.

TEACHING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bay Shore: 1 full-time, probationary, secondary level position in Spanish beginning September 2005. Contact Anne Wilding, (631) 968-7437, awilding@bayshore.k12.ny.us

Bellmore-Merrick: 8-12 full-time, probationary teachers of French, Spanish and Italian beginning September 2005, middle and high schools. Contact: Sharon Rothblatt, (516) 992-1442, srothblatt@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

Commack High School: 1 Italian teacher and 1 American Sign Language teacher, both for one-year maternity leaves, beginning March 2005. Contact: John Maher, (631) 929-8186, jmaher@commack.k12.ny.us

East Hampton: 2 full-time, probationary, Spanish teachers, one elementary and one middle/high school, beginning September 2005. Contact: Sandra Krolik, (631) 329-4620 or district office: (631) 329-4104, skrolik@ehufsd.org

East Williston: 1 full-time Spanish high school leave replacement, March-June 2005. This may lead to a full-time, tenure track position. Contact: Jerilyn Cowen, (516) 333-7214, cowenj@aol.com

Plainview-Old Bethpage: 1 high school full-time leave replacement in Spanish/Italian (levels 3 and 4), February or March-June 2005, and 1 part-time Italian II position, January-June 2005; Contact: Lillian Carey, (516) 937-6437, lcarey@pob.k12.ny.us

Riverhead: two high school, full-time, probationary positions in Spanish I & II beginning September 2005. Contact: Dali Rastello, (631) 369-6734, dali.rastello@riverhead.net

**LILT
FUNDS
AVAILABLE,
ACT
NOW**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING LILT'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY



LILT has arranged an interesting and relaxing "field trip" for its members to celebrate LILT's twenty-five year milestone. Take some time for yourself and enjoy a Saturday with your LILT colleagues and take pleasure in a one-hour docent tour of the Picasso exhibit at the Nassau County Museum of Art, followed by lunch at the nearby Culinary Arts Institute, New York Institute of Technology de Seversky Conference Center. Please join us and, if you wish, bring a friend on Saturday, April 16, 2005. The tour begins promptly at 10 AM and lunch will be from Noon until 2:30 PM. You will have time to peruse the second floor exhibit, gift shop and grounds before leaving for the luncheon. The registration deadline is January 31, 2005.

LILT Nassau County Museum – Picasso Tour & 25th Anniversary Luncheon

The tour of the Picasso Exhibit only at the Nassau County Museum is \$6.00

The luncheon only at the Culinary Arts Institute, New York Institute of Technology, is \$30.

The tour of both the Picasso Exhibit and the luncheon at the Culinary Arts Institute is \$36.50.

- Please enclose a check payable to LILT.
- **Registration Deadline is January 31st, 2005**
- Mail this form and payment to: Joan Militscher, 22 Plaza Lane, Selden, New York 11784. For any questions and/or further information you may call Joan at: (631) 698-1482 or e-mail her at: jfmil@aol.com.

Directions to the Nassau County Museum (1 Museum Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576. Tel: (516) 484-9339): Long Island Expressway to Exit 39 N (Glen Cove Road North), go approximately two miles to Northern Boulevard (Route 25A) and turn left. At the 2nd traffic light, turn right into the entrance of the museum.

Directions to The Culinary Arts Institute, New York Institute of Technology de Seversky Conference Center, from the Nassau County Museum of Art (Northern Boulevard (Route 25A), Old Westbury, Tel: (516) 626-1600): From the museum, drive east (left turn as you exit the museum) on Northern Boulevard for about 1.5 miles. At the fourth light you will see a sign and entrance for the NYIT on the right side. On your left will be the St. Francis DeMattis Center.



LILT NASSAU COUNTY MUSEUM PICASSO TOUR and 25TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., Dr.) _____

Home Address (include Zip) _____

E Mail Address: _____

Home Phone #: () _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

E Mail address: _____

Home Phone #: () _____

Total amount enclosed: _____ Exhibit only, Luncheon only, Both exhibit and luncheon

Number of people attending (including yourself): _____

Mail this form and payment by 1/31/05 to: Joan Militscher, 22 Plaza Lane, Selden, New York 11784

AATF Suffolk

AATF Suffolk's successful fall membership meeting was held at Le Soir Restaurant, Bayport. An intern from the French Cultural Services gave a presentation on the separation of church and state in France, which led to a discussion on the current feeling of the enforcement of this policy, particularly as it pertains to wearing *la voile* (headscarves) in public schools.

The annual *Concours de Poésie* was held at Stony Brook University on December 3rd. Students, teachers and judges spent a very pleasant day in their own francophone environments.

AATG

The annual Sprachfest will be held at Commack Middle School on Saturday, March 5, 2005.

The annual AATG Awards Presentation Dinner honoring students and retirees will take place at The Larkfield Manor on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at 7 PM.

AATI

For the first time, AATI Long Island members marched in the Columbus Day Parade on Fifth Avenue, NYC, lending their support to the Advanced Placement Italian Exam. AATI had a special banner for the occasion and its members held it throughout the march. K-16 students enthusiastically gave out AATI leaflets describing the many reasons to study Italian. AATI Long Island members mingled with various colorful groups marching in traditional Italian regional costumes. These groups, with diverse marching bands, resulted in phantasmagoric images and sounds that were the highlight of the parade. AATI Long Island would like to thank all those who made this first march a resounding success. *Grazie di cuore.*

October 22, 2004 was the first AATILI professional meeting of the new school year attended by 70 members and friends. Josephine Maietta, the new AATILI president, began the meeting with a swap shop of exciting LOTE activities. President Maietta also reminded its members to participate in the Italian Poetry Contest which will take place at Stony Brook University on April 8, 2005. Professor Irene Marchegiani, Stony Brook University, gave an update on the AP Italian Exam, with special emphasis on the AP training courses for teachers beginning this summer.

AATILI is very proud of its new website, www.aatili.org, and invites all Italian teachers to peruse it. Brava Annamaria Hernandez, webmaster, on a job well done.

NYS AFLT

Congratulations to Joseph Tursi, Jr., the newly elected Regional Director from Long Island. He will represent Long Island with Director Ana Aguiar-Mady, and replaces Isabel Cosentio who just completed her two- year term. Thank you Isabel for a job well done.

Members of the NYS AFLT Public Advocacy Committee, under the leadership of two Long Islanders – Judy Martialay and Louise Terry, have been quite busy with senate and assembly members to complete sponsorship of a bill that will provide funding for school districts to implement FLES programs and provide incentives for college students wishing to become foreign language teachers. This bill could be the first step in a boost for foreign language study in New York State. It is fitting this bill be introduced in the Year of Languages 2005. Foreign language teachers throughout the state should be prepared to write letters to their legislators asking them to support this bill (#S7422B, the Assembly bill is still pending).

More information about NYS AFLT can be found on its website, www.nysaflft.org.

WORLD LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Bruno Bernardino, LILT secretary, participated in an exciting experience last summer at the World Leadership Congress in Washington, DC. The congress was sponsored by Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY). HOBY's vision is *to motivate and empower individuals to make a positive difference within our global society through understanding and action based on effective and compassionate leadership.*



Bruno participated as a facilitator to 14 distinguished students from California, Canada, The People's Republic of China, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Mexico, New York, Ohio, Virginia, Taiwan and Wisconsin. Bruno was inspired by these young people who had intelligent

discussions and opinions on some of the world's most serious problems (cultural awareness – tolerance vs. acceptance, world health, uniting the world through media, defending liberty – pursuing justice, and the economics of hunger) while they developed true team spirit and leadership qualities. Students also had the opportunity to personally talk with each other and discover new and vastly different cultures. 359 Americans and 112 international students participated. A major highlight of last year's congress was the arrival of Iraqi ambassadors. Students also heard from Mohammed al-Rehaief, the man who saved Private Jessica Lynch during an event at the Women's War Memorial.

If you have students whom you think would be interested in this multicultural, multilingual leadership experience, please visit the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership website, www.hoby.org. The 2005 World Leadership Congress will be held in July at The George Washington University, Washington DC.

**WILL YOU BE A TEACHER
OF AP ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE?**

The College Board has announced a series of workshops in anticipation of the new AP Italian Language & Culture Exam for 2006. The first local "pilot" workshop is free but limited to only 20 participants and will be held:

February 2, 2005
8:30 AM-3:30 PM
College Board
45 Columbus Ave., NYC
Contact: Saul Garcia
(212) 373-8731

For registration form go to:
www.apcentral.collegeboard.com/italian

After January 15, 2005 go to:
<http://apps.apcentral.collegeboard.com/EventSearchParams.jsp>

This will show information in regard to another local workshop to be held at Pace University on March 11, 2005.

NECTFL will hold a workshop in conjunction with the Northeast Conference:

March 31, 2005
Marriott Marquis Hotel
For information and registration, go to:
<http://www.dickinson.edu/nectfl/workshops05.html>

Summer Institutes

July 11-15, 2005
Fordham University
113 West 60th St., Rm. 1008
New York, New York
Contact: Tanya Warren
(212) 636-7235

August 1-5
Manhattan College
4513 Manhattan College Parkway
Riverdale, NY 10471
Contact: Dr. Pam Kerrigan
(718) 862-7209
apinstitute@manhattan.edu

AP PROGRAM, COLLEGE BOARD NEWS

The College Board has also posted the following information:

AP Central is the official online home for all AP and Pre-AP professionals, and will soon become the primary source of information regarding the AP Italian course, exam, curricular resources, and professional development opportunities for teachers. If you have not yet become an AP Central member, please visit <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com> and register today. Registration is free and

2005 MEMBERSHIP

If 2005 appears after your name on the address label, your membership is up to date. If not, it's time to renew your 2005 membership.

takes only a few minutes. During registration, be sure to select AP Italian Language and Culture in the Personalization section, as well as a format for receiving email news (newsletters will alert you to new teaching materials and course information on a periodic basis).

If you have already registered with AP Central, please update your Personal Profile to reflect your interest in AP Italian Language and Culture. You can update your Personal Profile by selecting the link on the AP Central home page or by visiting <http://apps.apcentral.collegeboard.com/MyProfileNav.jsp>. You can also update your news preference for receiving email newsletters on the same page.

Please forward this message to other advocates of AP Italian Language and Culture.

**ACTFL AND THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES NEWS
Foreign Languages Campaign Launched**

With a national poll showing that nearly half the country believes that public schools do not offer enough foreign language courses, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages recently announced a 12-month campaign to improve public awareness of the value of such courses. Keith Cothrun, a secondary school teacher of German and president of the council, pointed to a Roper poll revealing that nearly half of Americans said they dealt at least once a week with someone whose first language was not English. The poll also showed that half of the respondents wanted more funding for foreign language instruction in school. The council will undertake activities, called the Year of Languages, through 2005. The first event will take place January 10-11 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where educators, business leaders, and policy makers will discuss the importance of foreign language study in public schools. For more information, go to www.actfl.org and www.yearoflanguages.org.

An international videoconference will be held with participants from education, government and business to focus on the issues surrounding language policies that will promote the agenda of language for all Americans. You can tune in from your local site to view the videoconference and to participate free of charge. Mark your calendars: Monday, January 10, 9AM - 5PM and

Tuesday, January 11, 9AM - Noon. For further information please go to: <http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageid=3509>

ON A LIGHTER SIDE

Two translators were on a cruise. One day they found each other by chance and began chatting:

"Can you swim," asked one.

"No," said the other, "but I can shout for help in nine other languages."

SPOTLIGHT ON LILT'S FOUNDING MEMBERS ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In early 1980 a meeting was called by Frank Marino and Dr. Joseph Tursi, inviting concerned foreign language teachers to discuss foreign language study on Long Island. At that meeting four teachers were drafted to consider forming a language organization for Long Island; Lucille Lambert and Richard Gentile tell their story. The rest is history as LILT celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2005.

Lucille DiPietro Lambert (BA French, Marymount College; MA French, Columbia University; graduate work in French at the University of McGill (Montreal) and Laval University (Quebec City) spent her entire teaching career at the Burrs' Lane Junior High, receiving the Humanitarian Award from its PTA, and West Hollow Middle School (Dix Hills). She also taught French in their elementary enrichment program. During the early years of Lucille's retirement she was the Supervisor for Student Teachers at Dowling College and was often a guest lecturer in its methodology classes. NYSAFLT honored Lucille by awarding her the Ruth E. Wasley Award for distinguished teaching.

Looking back affectionately at our humble beginnings 25 years ago, my impressions of LILT's steering committee are gently colored with thoughts and remembrances of long, labor intensive, wonderful days. There we were, young teachers, rich in enthusiasm and energy, less rich in direction, planning and organization – soon to be remedied.

Brought together in May 1980, Dr. Joseph Tursi and Frank Marino facilitated discussion and the feasibility of a regional organization. How could we refuse? Of course, it helped we were drafted, concluding the need indeed existed and we were obligated to address it.

We were at once reluctant and proud to be at the inception of an organization, which would span our careers. Spurred by our belief in its potential growth, we went about to define our venture, Richard Gentile, Kay Lyons, Jim Rivera and I, working together as a steering committee for 2 years. Kay Lyons, a cherished friend and honored colleague, who gave invaluable support, creative leadership, steadfast loyalty and encouragement, passed away at an early age. She would be proud of our endeavors on this 25th anniversary, and we are forever grateful for her many contributions. Jim Rivera left LILT early as he focused on his administrative career.

Our hope was to create a forum in which all teachers of all languages, at all levels, from all parts of Long Island, would respond and feel welcome. I recall, one wintry day, early in our steering committee days, we held a meeting at Riverhead High School. We had agreed no teacher should feel isolated. The stalwart committee addressed 4 or 5 teachers and 1 supervisor... this, after

having blitzed the area with flyers and phone calls. Successful? Debatable, but surely united and resolute in purpose and commitment.

Following months of investigating other regional organizations, working-planning sessions, committee meetings on programs, constitution and legislation, LILT's first general meeting was held in November 1980. We recognized our obligations to one another to grow professionally, to educate and be educated in this dynamic forum called LILT. To this end, we together have addressed the needs, interests, goals and issues of the region and New York State for 25 years. In advancing our position, representing the highest level of expertise and professionalism, we have successfully promoted the public image and status of second language instruction.

I have been privileged to be part of this valiant continuum and applaud our many shared accomplishments. To the officers, executive board members, chairs and co-chairs, and participants who followed, a debt of gratitude for your work and vision. May the next 25 years make us even stronger and better. With your dedicated leadership, energy and innovation, you, our young and newer colleagues, will ensure LILT's pledge to serve our second language community – a legacy in the making. Congratulations.

Lucille served as LILT's first president and it has honored her dedication and professionalism to LILT by naming its student award in her honor.

Richard Gentile (BA French, SUNY Stony Brook; Certificat d'Etudes Française, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland; MA French, St. John's University; graduate work in French, Spanish and English at the Université de Neuchâtel, CW Post, NYU and the Instituto de Cultura Hispánica, Madrid) spent his entire teaching career at Hicksville High School teaching French, Spanish and English. At Hicksville HS he created and taught the college level courses in French (Adelphi University), founded the French Honor Society (AATF) and organized and directed trips to Paris for his advanced students. He also co-authored several French texts for Proficiency Press, co-translated the first English translation of George Sand's autobiography, *Histoire de Ma Vie* (SUNY Press), and is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

***“THE SECRET
OF SUCCESS
IS CONSTANCY
OF PURPOSE”***

Benjamin Disraeli

As Lucille has so elegantly stated, the first few years of LILT were difficult; we didn't know if our steering committee would ever develop into anything more than just that, we had no funds and we weren't too sure in which direction we should be going. There was one, small glimmer of hope, however. I had attended John Webb's presentation at NYSAFLT's annual meeting a few years earlier about his newly formed regional organization. He was excited about what they were doing and his enthusiasm inspired and encouraged all who heard him. When I mentioned this to Kay Lyons later in the day, one of the few people at the conference whom I knew from Long Island, she said to me, "OK, start an organization." I was dumfounded. How would I begin such an organization when I hardly knew any foreign language teachers on Long Island? LILT was soon going to remedy, as Kay would remind us all, that "small and insignificant" problem...

At one of LILT's eventful early meetings Kay Lyons suggested LILT have a newsletter and a language competition; in true LILT tradition she became our first *LILT Newsletter* editor and first competition co-chairperson with Lucille Lambert. Over the years other professional activities evolved: LILT Winter Workshops, LILT Awards, Grant and Stipend, LILT Student Language Plaques, LILT Student Foreign Language Competition, LILT-NYSAFLT Regional Conference, The Poster Contest, and most recently, LILT's website (LILTFL.ORG) which has become our primary means of communicating with our membership in a timely fashion. How LILT has grown professionally and in membership – 691 members as of this December 31st. To those of us who still so vividly remember the early, formative years, when it was doubted such an organization as LILT would ever survive, we are amazed and thrilled. What a glorious way to celebrate LILT's 25th anniversary, the largest membership ever! It's gratifying to those who toiled in the 1980's to find LILT is serving the needs of Long Island's foreign language teachers so well 25 years later. Thank you all, past and present, for your courage, inspiration, dedication and leadership. You have all made a very important and significant difference.

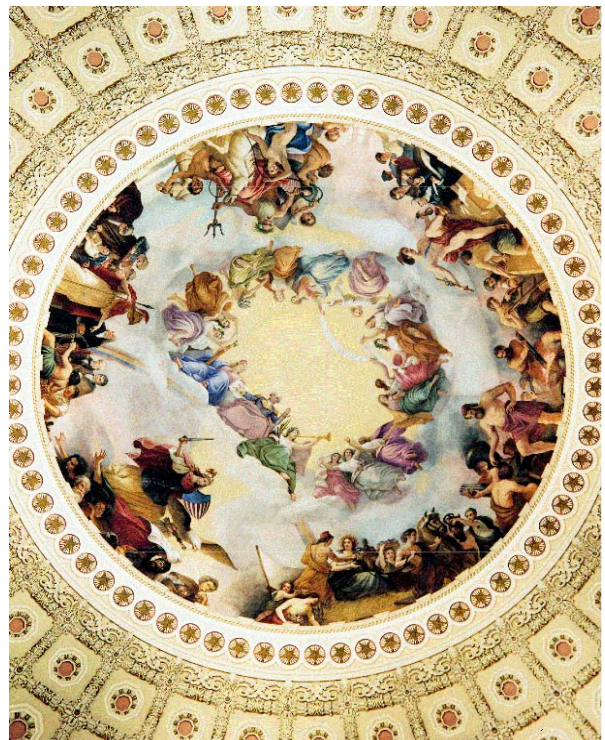
As I celebrate my 25th year of service on LILT's Executive Board, I earnestly wish to see more younger members become active in LILT's management. Some may say it's always the same people running the organization and that is completely true, and it may appear as if this is a small clique of elitists. Nothing could be further from the truth. Why do many teachers continue to work for LILT in retirement? First, they enjoy working with their colleagues, but more importantly, there are very few who step up and let LILT know they are interested in volunteering to work.

To those of you who are still teaching, I urge you to join our illustrious cause and volunteer to make LILT truly yours. You may start with small activities and

involvement, and as you feel more comfortable and confident in dedication and enthusiasm, you can begin to undertake bigger challenges. LILT needs you, cherishes your continuing contributions to foreign language education, and embraces the many new, innovative ideas and teaching techniques you bring to our profession. Lucille and I are LILT's past and present, but you are LILT's future on which our organization will continue to grow and prosper. Our legacy has been made, now it is yours to further develop and embrace.

We all on LILT's Executive Board look forward to welcoming you in active participation this year. We appreciate what you have achieved, and eagerly await what you will be accomplishing... the best is yet to be.

Richard served as LILT's first treasurer and its third president.



CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

"My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty."

2005 marks the bicentennial of the birth of an important Italian immigrant, Constantino Brumidi, who, as a new American citizen, beautified one of the most important buildings in the United States, the U. S. Capitol. Today his paintings continue to inspire visitors, as they have for those who have viewed his works for nearly 150 years. His most famous work, *The Apotheosis of Washington*, beautifies the ceiling of the Capitol Dome in the Rotunda.

TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS

MONTHLY SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES - 2005

JANUARY <i>Language Policy</i>	Contact local senators, legislators to speak at your school. Write an article to publish in your local newspapers and your district newsletter
FEBRUARY <i>International Engagement</i>	Promote acquisition of Pen Pals and E-Pals, invite foreign exchange students, program directors and foreign visitors to your school. Check with the Peace Corps. Invite people who traveled abroad to speak to your students. Work with ESL teachers and their students.
MARCH <i>Connecting Languages to Other Areas</i>	Work with other departments, such as music, social studies and art on joint projects and Foreign Language Week. Contact and connect with businesses on the uses and needs for foreign languages in business. Invite local business owners to tell how foreign languages are used to enhance their business.
APRIL <i>Higher Education</i>	Find college foreign language majors willing to speak about their experiences at college and abroad. Arrange for a college foreign language course at your school. Arrange for high school upper grade level students to visit college foreign language classes. Arrange for a college professor to lecture about culture or a particular author high school students are reading or have read.
MAY <i>Foreign Language Advocacy</i>	Speak at PTA meetings about your foreign language curriculum and the importance and advantages of foreign language study. Develop a student volunteer tutoring program. Hold a parent workshop. Contact the military for speakers regarding the importance of foreign language in the military.
JUNE <i>Adult Learning & Language Usage</i>	Have adults who use foreign languages in their work to speak to student groups. Develop a Foreign language Career Center. Have students teach parents and grandparents expressions in the foreign language your students are studying.
JULY <i>Languages and Communities</i>	Arrange for concerts that highlight international music. Offer to give foreign language lessons and/or speak at local Community Centers. Make libraries aware of the Year of Languages. Create bookmarks in foreign languages. Hold summer children workshops, foreign language camps and community activities. Ask your librarian to make a display of books about other countries and the contributions of those born in those countries and the languages they speak.
AUGUST <i>Parents</i>	Meet with parents at orientation and discuss your foreign language curricula and encourage them to encourage their children to continue and/or start their study of a foreign language. Send out a mailing entitled <i>Why Study Foreign Language?</i> , either teacher made or a brochure from NYSAFLT or MLA (these can be included with the mailing of students' schedules or with a PTA mailing).
SEPTEMBER <i>Heritage Languages</i>	Ask heritage students to teach mini-lessons of their heritage language to other students and faculty. Have heritage students speak to classes about their culture and cuisine. Collaborate with ESL teachers to create a program that celebrates diversity.
OCTOBER <i>Early Language Learning</i>	Promote FLES in various ways: write an article about the advantages of starting foreign languages early for the PTA and/or district newsletter; have upper level students visit local elementary schools and talk about the foreign language program at the high school and teach mini-lessons to the elementary classes; and, arrange for elementary students to visit the middle school foreign language classes.
NOVEMBER <i>Celebrating Accomplishments & Planning Ahead</i>	Spotlight a foreign language teacher in your district newsletter. Ask foreign language students of all levels to write in the target language <i>What I Am Grateful For</i> and publish these in the school newspaper. Plan future additions to your district's foreign language program.
DECEMBER <i>Culture</i>	Have the Foreign Language Club and Language Honor Societies plan a Holiday Dance featuring international, contemporary music and international snacks. Have students do research projects about how holidays are celebrated around the world. Collaborate with the music department to have music from around the world included in its holiday concerts along with a foreign language student who can inform the audience about the composer's life and foreign language. A foreign language student can also volunteer to be the music teacher's resource person regarding the right pronunciation of foreign language lyrics.

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

2005

Jan. 14	FLACS Luncheon, Milleridge Inn, 12 Noon	Apr. 9	LILT Student Competition judging
Feb. 13	Last day to see <i>Fernando Botero: Works on Paper</i> , Nassau County Museum of Art	Apr. 15	LILT Awards, Grant and Stipend - United States postmark date deadline
Feb. 13	Last day to see <i>Latin Visions: A collector's Insight</i> , Nassau County Museum of Art	Apr. 15	AATI General Membership Meeting, Hauppauge HS, 7 PM
Feb. 20-Apr. 17	<i>Picasso</i> , Nassau County Museum of Art	Apr. 16	LILT private showing of <i>Picasso</i> , Nassau County Museum of Art, lunch at the The Culinary Arts Institute, New York Institute of Technology de Seversky Conference Center
March	LILT Winter Workshops begin	Apr. 19	AATSP Sabelotodo and Sepalotodo Team Competitions (Date is tentative.)
Mar. 1	LILT Student Language Competition - United States postmark date deadline	May 12	AATG Awards Presentation Dinner honoring students and retirees, Larkfield Manor
Mar. 2	AATSP National Spanish Exam (snow date, March 9 th)	May 14	AATI Annual Award & Scholarship Luncheon, Pompeii Restaurant, West Hempstead
Mar. TBA	AATF National, <i>Le Grand Concours</i>	June 16	NYS Regents Exams begin
Mar. 5	AATG 16 th Annual Sprachfest, Commack Middle School	July 8-Aug. 1	AATSP Annual Meeting, New York City
Mar. 7-11	World Language Week	July 7-10	AATF Annual Convention, Québec City
Mar. 15	AATF National Contest	Nov. 18-20	ACTFL & AATG Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
Mar. 16	AATF Suffolk National Contest snow date		
Mar. 20	FLACS-Scope Conference		
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Northeast Conference, New York City		
April	LILT Winter Workshops end		
Apr. 8	AATI Annual Poetry Contest, Stony Brook University		

LA SEMAINE DU FRANÇAIS AT CENTEREACH HIGH SCHOOL

THE FRENCH CAFÉ

Le Café Français concluded French week celebrations at Centereach High School, which was also the talk of many administrators of the Middle Country Central School District. Other invited guests were students from Newfield High School, the district's other high school. The French Honor Society transformed the high school's library into a beautiful French café. Through food (*croque-monsieur*, *gateaux au chocolat*, *quiches*, *croissants*, *petits gateaux* and a myriad of French cheeses), games (*Jacques Dit...*, *French Monopoly*, *French card games*) and the French film *Chocolat*, students and staff became immersed in French culture for the day. The upper level French students participated the entire day and assisted in the coordination of the whole event while other class levels participated during their regular class periods. Faculty, staff and administrators assisted in the presentation of all the wonderful student-made dishes served *à la française*.

The event was organized by Bruno Bernardino, French teacher and LILT secretary, and French Honor Society officers Laura Gurick and Lisa Granshaw. *C'était une journée magnifique!*



BLOGGING

Blogging is a relatively new Internet phenomenon which *whatis.TechTarget.com* defines as: *On the Internet, a blog (short for weblog) is a personal journal that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs generally represent the personality of the author or reflect the purpose of the Web site that hosts the blog. Topics sometimes include brief philosophical musings, commentary on Internet and other social issues, and links to other sites the author favors. The essential characteristics of the blog are its journal form, typically a new entry each day, and its informal style.*

The author of a blog is often referred to as a blogger. Many blogs syndicate their content to subscribers.

Bruno Bernardino, LILT secretary, began blogging with his upper level students. They loved the idea so much they have created their own blogs which they continuously update, demonstrating a high level of enthusiasm for French. They often make entries in French, and although they contain standard errors, Bruno is thrilled they are using French for daily communication, oftentimes outside the classroom. Bruno is still feeling his way but is confident this is another important teaching tool. You can visit his blog site at *Chsfrench.blogspot.com*. The general blog website which will aid you is: *blogspot.com*