



NEWSLETTER

January 2022

WWW.LILTFL.ORG

Cheryl Sosa, Editor

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csosa@liltfl.org

President's Message



Happy Lunar New Year! Get ready for the Year of the Tiger!

In Chinese culture, the tiger is the symbol of bravery, wisdom and strength. As we move into our third year of the pandemic and education in this new way, teachers continue to demonstrate these qualities of bravery, wisdom and strength. I believe our teachers are brave as they continue to teach day in and day out, tackling the obstacles and challenges that they face each day, approaching them wiser and stronger than ever before. Teachers have been resilient, patient, and innovative as school continues to present new challenges all around us, yet school continues. I am so proud to be in a profession in which relationships continue to be the foundation of what we do.

As the newly appointed Acting President of LILT, I would like to thank JoAnne Orlando for her service, leadership, and steadfast commitment to LILT over many years. JoAnne is a dedicated professional, and we wish her all the best in this next chapter. I would also like to recognize and remember our dear friend, Mr. John Carlino. John was a champion of world languages at all levels, advocating and leading locally and regionally in our field. He will be sorely missed, as I know many of our members and I were fortunate to have made personal connections with him over the years. We will miss you, John.

If we have not made acquaintances, please allow me to introduce myself and share my experience. I 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*. I am currently the coordinator for Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at North Shore High School. In this role, I supervise courses in French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish at the AP and IB levels. I also support ENL students in advanced courses in all subjects. I have presented at local and national conferences, including Long Island Language Teachers, the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Northeast Conference on the Teaching of

Foreign Languages, International Society for Technology in Education, and have moderated presentations at the St. John's University Leadership Symposium. I am a member of ASCD,

AATI, NECTFL, and LILT. I 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. I was named the National Italian American Foundation Teacher of the Year in 2011. Outside of school, I love to travel the world and see new places. I look forward to engaging with all of you and seeing you at a LILT event soon.

I have served as the LILT Executive Board Secretary and Second Vice President, during which LILT established a mission statement and hosted two annual conferences. It is with both pleasure and humility that I step into this role, as I remain committed to the prosperity of LILT and providing what our membership needs. Our Board remains committed to serving its members and our Mission: Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. is a dedicated group of educators that is committed to providing opportunities to develop content knowledge, pedagogical, and professional skills, for the membership and its students. As we enter into our 42nd year of service, we continue to listen to the voices of our members and provide ample opportunities for teachers to participate in professional development, and for the world language and ENL students to be celebrated. We also look forward to continuing partnerships with local and regional organizations to better serve you. Please continue to take advantage of all that LILT has to offer, and reach out to our Executive Board to communicate ways that the organization can support you further. There are ample opportunities to get involved with LILT and be a part of the magic behind the scenes as well; be on the lookout for emails from us about more information. We are always looking for volunteers to help us, so please let us know if you are interested!

When you log on to www.liltfl.org you will see our newly designed website, be able to renew your membership, and learn about upcoming events. We have transitioned to a new membership platform and appreciated your patience in this process. These include our annual Student World Language Competition, Poster Contest, scholarships, grants, and plaques. Online registration for the Student World Language Competition (deadline March 14, 2022) and Poster Contest (deadline March 30, 2022) are now open, and submissions will be completed digitally. The theme of this year's Poster Contest is World Languages: Building Bridges to Understanding. Share these opportunities with your students and encourage them to participate in one of the many that are available, as this is a great way to highlight students' abilities and be recognized by a professional organization. Our scholarships and grants are available to teachers with all levels of experience, including the Kathleen Ann Lyons Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award, Richard Gentile Teacher Incentive Grant, LILT Friend of World Languages Award, Lucille DiPietro Lambert Award for Excellence in World Language Studies, and a stipend for new members to attend our Annual Conference. More information about deadlines and how to apply are all available on our website.

Stay tuned for more information about our annual conference, which will be held Saturday, November 5, 2022. If all goes as planned, we will be returning to an in person format this year. We thank Christina Margiore and Madel Soriano-Mazzella for chairing the 2021 Annual Conference online. We also thank and look forward to working with our vendors that have remained partners with us over the years.

Finally, please remember that our Executive Board is dedicated to serving our members. What types of activities, events, or opportunities would you like to see available to you? Please feel free to reach out to president@liltfl.org to let me know! Wishing you all a happy and health new year. Hope to see you involved at a LILT event soon!

Kerri Titone, Ed.D.
LILT Acting President





If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

Frederick Douglas

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

Barack Obama

Message from the Editor

To be sure, we are all looking forward to spring with its promise of new life and invigoration. I am also sure we have grown weary of mask wearing, social distancing and reinventing ourselves as educators. Mental health is at the forefront, as it should be, many struggling to stay above water. We worry about the social emotional learning piece for our students, yet we do not always take a breath or get the pat on the back, 'good job' from those we may seek it the most. You are to be applauded for your dedication to your profession, to your students, for your resiliency and to your community. Make sure to take some time to rejuvenate.

LILT has also gone through a transformation of sorts, due to unexpected events. JoAnn Orlando has stepped down as president for personal reasons and Kerri Titone has graciously stepped into the role of Interim President. We are confident under her leadership LILT will continue to grow and serve our members. We congratulate and support her in her new role. We would like to thank JoAnn for her many years of dedicated service to LILT, her leadership and passion have been an integral part of this organization for many years, both as an active member and Executive Board member. She will be dearly missed. On behalf of the Executive Board and our membership, we would like to thank her for her service and wish her and her family the best.

You may have noticed our new logo and website as well. We hope you like the new fresh appearance and more user-friendly features of the website. Change is always difficult, but as an organization we strive to grow and progress to reflect the changing needs and challenges of our membership. We continue to offer professional development opportunities and welcome new ideas and platforms. We are only as effective as our membership and invite all our members to consider becoming more involved in our organization. We offer many opportunities to support and recognize our students as well as teachers with grants and scholarships. Our workshop series provides additional opportunities to learn and share. Please consider sharing your strengths by leading a workshop. This year we are delighted to meet in person once again for our Spring membership meeting as well as our annual conference in November. Details to come, watch for updates on our website.

Cheryl Sosa
Editor





Dear LILT colleagues,

I regret to inform you that effective immediately I will be resigning as president of LILT.

I joined the LILT Executive Board in 2015 and was an integral part of the group of dedicated professionals who reignited LILT after hiatus. From the very beginning of my career as a World Language Teacher, I recognized the importance LILT had in providing a forum, a voice, and a resource for those of us who chose this career. I believed then and I believe now that we must always stand together to advocate to ensure that World Languages remain a relevant part of the K-12 curriculum throughout our state. As a local organization, we can address the unique needs of the students we serve on Long Island and bring their concerns to those responsible for setting policy in our state.

I have learned so much from all the wonderful teachers and administrators that I've worked with during these past 7 years. I am proud of the work LILT has done to bring professional development opportunities to Long Island language teachers as well as the chance to network with colleagues and share ideas. I know that LILT leadership is in capable hands and will continue to meet the needs and expectations of our membership.

Best regards,

Jo Anne Orlando
President LILT

Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Desmond Tutu



L I L T 2022 P O S T E R C O N T E S T

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK!

MARCH 7- 13th, 2022

This year's theme:

"World Languages: Building Bridges to Understanding"

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2022

***Please read the directions carefully to avoid
disqualification of student entries***

**All information, required check-off list and submission form are available on
the LILT website: WWW.LILTFL.ORG**

- 1) Directions for Teachers and Students**
- 2) Submission Electronic Form**
- 3) Poster Contest Check-Off List**

Teachers must be members of LILT

Contact Person:

Paula Luzzi

Poster Contest Chairperson

pluzzi@liltfl.org

Congratulations to Adriana Devers on the publication of her new book!

Valentina Valente, She is my dad, New Children's Book
Addresses Unconditional Love and Family
Diversity in the Latinx Community



Valentina Valente, She is my dad, shares a story about same sex parents, unconditional love and the brave act of speaking up. The title will be released on Amazon, on February 14, 2022, as many observe the date of love and friendship. It is the first of a series of stories that follow the life experiences of 8 year old Valentina.

With this book, Devers hopes to spark dialogue within the Latinx community addressing the importance of speaking to children about family diversity and acceptance from a young age. With vibrant retro-cartoon style illustrations, by architect and graphic designer Adam Esquivel, Adámico, this short story will empower young readers and move the adult audience. It is a celebration of family diversity, the LGBTQIA community, and single mothers who consider themselves the father figure for their children, giving a voice to many families that are rarely represented in children's literature.

More about “Valentina Valente, She is my dad”:

- It is the third and latest release from author and educator Adriana Devers.
- Illustrated by architect, graphic designer and multidisciplinary artist Adam Esquivel, Adámico.
- It is bilingual, written and translated by Devers.
- It addresses topics of family diversity, values, self love and acceptance.
- As closure, the book offers the young readers creative opportunities to make a personal connection with the story.

The author is available for interviews.

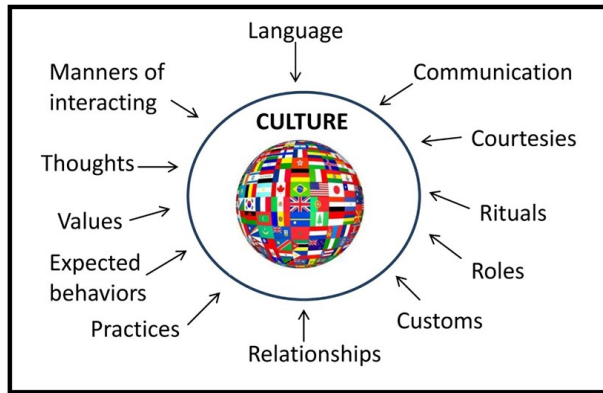
Contact Information:

Author: Adriana Devers cuentosdetriadas@gmail.com (631)697-9478

Illustrator: Adam Esquivel adamicoilustrador@gmail.com (506) 8616-8506



Let's Talk Culture!



As language teachers, we have the unique opportunity to teach students about both complex language structures and about the culture of the people that use them. I don't know about you, but what I love most about being a world language teacher is talking about culture. Don't get me wrong, I love hearing my students speak in Italian and seeing their faces light up with pride

when they are able to interpret a challenging text, but let's be honest, when's the last time you heard a student say 'yay compound verb tenses!!'?

I've heard it many times over 'culture is great!..for the upper levels'. If learning another language allows us to connect with so many more people, then why are we holding off on such a crucial component as cultural understanding? Don't assume your students have basic cultural knowledge already, you will be surprised by how many cultural misconceptions they believe (no, chicken parmesan and fettuccine alfredo are NOT Italian! It is the Leaning Tower of Pisa, not piz-za). From my experience, teaching culture alongside language creates an even more productive learning environment. Motivation and engagement increase as students begin to share experiences and make connections to things they know or experience outside the classroom. This in turn will continue to foster a safe learning environment where students feel encouraged to contribute thoughts and ideas.

You don't need to plan an entire unit around cultural competency; there are plenty of hidden opportunities right in front of us that we just have to open our eyes to. Teaching about adjectives? -- introduce famous people from the target culture. My students love playing 'Guess Who?' when learning descriptive adjectives and I love introducing them to famous Italians. This activity can be a fun way to incorporate culture into ACTFL's Interpersonal Communication Standard. I have also done this activity as a listening comprehension, where I describe the appearance of a famous person on the board and the students have to guess which person I am describing. When designed in this way, the activity can address ACTFL's Interpretive Communication Standard.

Students are complaining ‘why is this language so confusing?’ -- talk about idiomatic expressions in the target language and compare them to commonly used ones in English. Having issues with phone use? -- teach students texting lingo in another language, see if they can decipher messages and use them to communicate with one another! These both tie nicely into ACTFL’s Language Comparisons Standard, the Interpretive Communication Standard and even the Interpersonal Communication Standard depending on how you decide to design your activities.

Teaching pronunciation? -- challenge students with tongue twisters in a foreign language and perhaps make a contest or a speaking task out of it. Depending on how you present the materials, the activity could align with ACTFL’s Language Comparisons or even Cultural Comparisons Standards if you present examples and uses of tongue twisters in English alongside the ones of the target language. There are plenty of resources on YouTube.com with examples of tongue twisters and fun contests in different target languages. If each student learns a different tongue twister (*una scioglilingua* in Italian) and tries to teach it to the class, this activity could address ACTFL’s Presentational Communications Standard.

If you are looking to incorporate culture into your daily lessons to create a stand-alone unit without losing class time, find out when cultural appreciation month is for your target culture and create mini lessons around it. For Italian American Month, I replaced our usual Do Nows with a slide of notes about a famous Italian. I teach the students about a different historical figure for the first five minutes of class every day for a month, culminating in a quiz at the end of the month. In addition to this, each student completes a research project on a famous Italian-American of their choosing. This project lends itself nicely to the ACTFL’s Presentational Communication standard when done as a slideshow. Giving students more options or control over their learning greatly increases their engagement as well!

These are just a few examples of things I have done in my classroom, which have received positive responses from students. These activities are extremely flexible and can lend themselves quite nicely to various ACTFL standards, depending on how you design them. The more fun you have in creating the lessons, the more engaged the students will be! Have fun trying out these ideas or developing your own and your students are sure to enjoy them.

Samantha Thomas

LILT Member at Large



Winter Workshop Series

Call For Proposals

Present a **1 hour, 2 hour** or **workshop series** in person or virtually!
For more information and to submit a proposal visit www.liltfl.org

Membership requested topics

Strategies and Differentiation for ELLs in the WL Classroom
Language Proficiency / Proficiency Based Learning
Integrating Technology and Digital Tools
Best Practices for Recovery and Remediation
Strategies for Teaching AP and/or IB Courses
Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA)
Project Based Language Learning

Core Practices

Interactive Tasks / Games FLES Spanish / Chinese Demo Lessons
Differentiated Instruction TPRS / CI



Talent Wanted:

ENL Teacher Forum

WL Teacher Forum

Administrators Session New NYS WL Standards , American Sign Language ,
Native and Heritage Learners

Come share your expertise with like minded colleagues!



**Join us for our annual
Student World Language Competition!**

All registrations and submissions will be ONLINE

We will begin accepting registrations and submissions

JANUARY 1, WWW.LILTFL.ORG

All registrations and submissions due by:

Monday April 1, 2022



***Awards:** First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention
in each category



STUDENT WORLD LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2022

Written Categories: Theme: *Wellness & Wellbeing*

- Original Essay
- Original Poetry

Video Categories:

- International Vocal Music and ASL Song Interpretation
- International Dance
- Poetry Recitation
- Authentic Speaking Task: *Wellness & Wellbeing*

Directions:

- *Submitting teacher must be a current member of LILT*
- Teacher registration fee - \$10 for up to 5 entries / \$15 for 6 - 10 entries (maximum)
- All entries will be submitted online
- Deadline to register and submit - *Monday April 1, 2022*

Category Divisions for World Language, ENL and ASL:

- A - Elementary grades K to 5
- B - Grades 6 -12
 - Levels 1 and 2
 - Levels 3 and 4
- College/AP/IB/Honors
- Native Speaker division in each category

Note: All Dance Video Submissions will be judged together

All Entries must Be Age / Level Appropriate.
**Please refer to specific directions for each category on the LILT website.*

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW AND UPDATE YOUR LILT MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR!

Member Rates for Events and Activities

Student Poster Contest*

Student World Language Competition*

Student Award Plaques

Professional Development Workshop Series

Fall and Spring Membership Dinners

Grants and Awards for Teachers and Students

Your Professional Network and Voice on Long Island!

VISIT LILTFL.ORG TO RENEW AND UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE
ONLINE

***(Help us keep you connected! Click "Membership" on website
then LILT Personal Profile to update change of name, school, address, phone)***

WWW.LILTFL.ORG





Do you have good news to share? A story or publication?

Perhaps successful tips for colleagues?

Want to get more involved with our professional organization?

Look for new features in our next edition as well as returning features. Consider writing an article for our readers. We welcome your voice. Simply send me your suggestions and contributions to csosa@liltfl.org. I look forward to hearing from you!





LILT would like to extend condolences to the family and many friends of John Carlino. John was a passionate advocate for all language learners. His support for LILT was unwavering as was his tireless dedication to promoting language education. His love and passion will be sorely missed, and it is our hope that his service will inspire all of us to do better and make our voices heard.

