



## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

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

Cheryl Sosa, Editor

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### President's Message

Dear members,

In these first few months as President of Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. I have been so thankful for your dedication and commitment to our organization. Together, we are able to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of our students, further the abilities of our teachers through professional development and collaboration, and bring awareness to all of the wonderful opportunities that present themselves across Long Island in World Languages and English as a New Language. I hope you all celebrated National Foreign Language Week in festive ways in each of your schools. I hope that your students fared well and felt successful in their NYSESLAT, NYSITELL, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, FLACS A and FLACS B exams. Hopefully many of your students are being awarded the Seal of Biliteracy and recognized for their language studies and honor society memberships in graduation ceremonies around Long Island. We would love you to share with us your favorite resources or celebratory memories or such as these on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter (see below for all accounts/handles) or as contributions in our newsletter or Annual Conference. Everyone really has something to offer!



*Teachers are those who use themselves as bridges, over which they invite their students to cross; then joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.*

**Nikos  
Kazantzakis**



*Teachers are expected to reach unattainable goals with inadequate tools. The miracle is that most time they accomplish this impossible task.*

**Haim Ginott**

We have received beautiful posters from many of our members, representing students across all grade levels. Thank you to Paula Luzzi for continuing to serve as our chair of this event. The theme this year was *Building Bridges to Understanding*. Opportunities such as the Poster Contest are a great way to provide a creative outlet for students, bring recognition to your department, and have a little fun! Thank you to our volunteer judges, and congratulations to the winners! Winners were announced in an email blast, are included in this edition of the newsletter, and are posted on our website. These winners also received a LILT certificate, delivered to their teacher.

Additionally, we have had many submissions from a number of languages and grade levels for our Student World Language Competition, organized by Samantha Thomas and Alexandra Browne. Thank you to our judges that volunteer their time to celebrate these student achievements. Winners were announced in an email blast, are included in this edition of the newsletter, and are posted on our website. These winners also received a LILT certificate, delivered to their teacher.

Again, congratulations to our students and teachers on their outstanding work!

Student recognition plaques were completed and distributed in early May, ensuring arrival before any award nights. Many students across Long Island were awarded plaques, presented by their teachers. These plaques are another opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of our students, as they remain in World Language programs into their Senior year of high school. As we keep costs in consideration, which we know are consistently rising, while wanting to recognize as many students as possible, we seek to maintain something that is affordable yet still worthy of the great efforts of our students and teachers. Stay tuned for a possible new plaque in 2023!

Thank you to our teachers and directors that have supported these events with your submissions. We take into great consideration the needs of our members in pricing, submission details, and what we ask of you in your participation, while ensuring quality and integrity. Next year, we hope to have even more participation- even if every LILT member had just ONE poster or submission, we would be able to have hundreds of our students recognized and celebrated! The Poster Contest and Student World Language Competition are great ways for teachers to get involved in the organization as well. We are always looking for another hand to help judge the amazing student work!

While we may have seemed “quiet” in the recent months, I can assure you that the Executive Board has been working diligently to keep LILT strong and growing. We have worked with many great member volunteers across the island to keep our events on the forefront, and put great effort into the return of an **in person Annual Conference on Saturday November 5, 2022 at North Shore Middle School**. This promises to be a great conference, as we all are eager to return to the in person format, in a newly renovated school! As we seek to serve *all* of our members and students, we remind you that our organization serves both World Language and ENL teachers.

Opportunities to get further involved in LILT are:

- Newsletter submissions, or ideas for what to include in future newsletters
- Tag us! Share resources and opportunities with us on social media platforms:

Facebook: Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. - LILT

Instagram: @liltflinc

Twitter: @LILTFLTEACHERS

- Presenting workshops in our Annual Conference (November 5, 2022) or Winter Workshops (2023)
- The 2022 Annual Conference will be held at North Shore Middle School, Saturday, November 5th, 2022, in person. Submit a proposal on our website!

We also have opportunities to join the LILT leadership team. We have a vacancy for our Member-At-Large position. Please reach out to me at [president@liltfl.org](mailto:president@liltfl.org) if you are interested or would like to learn more about this position.

I would also like to recognize some of our old and new Executive Board members, as our leadership team is changing. Welcome our new Second Vice President, Ms. Katina Price. We are excited to have her join the leadership team, as she brings enthusiasm and dedication to World Languages & ENL to the organization. Look for her bio in the newsletter and our website. Welcome, Katina! Thank you to Ms. Wendy Mercado and Ms. Samantha Thomas who have served as part of the LILT leadership team and steering the direction of LILT. Your input and contributions to the organization, especially your time, have been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. All the best to you both as you take on new roles and responsibilities within the World Language field. Congratulations are also in order to retirees. We wish you a healthy and happy beginning to the next chapter in your lives. May you relish in traveling the world *whenever you want to!*

We also sadly learned of the recent passing of Ms. Lucille DiPietro Lambert and Mr. Gene Lowenberg. Lucille was one of LILT's four founding members. In fact, she served as LILT's first president from 1981-1983. Gene taught French for almost 40 years at Mineola Middle School and Chaminade High School. He was LILT's Historian for a number of years and dedicated his time to LILT. Without the dedication and efforts of people like Lucille and Gene, LILT would not exist, nor be where it is today. This passion and dedication is so needed in our field, to support our World Languages and ENL students and teachers. Lucille's legacy will live on through the Lucille DiPietro Lambert Student Award for Excellence in World Language Studies on Long Island. If you would like to share fond memories of Lucille or Gene to include in our next newsletter, please email them to [csosa@liltfl.org](mailto:csosa@liltfl.org).

***Barcelona, a fountain of courtesy, the shelter of strangers, hospice to the poor, land of the valiant, avenger of the offended, reciprocator of firm friendship, a city unique in its location and beauty.'* – Miguel de Cervantes**

On a personal note, I was able to travel abroad for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began, to Portugal, Spain, and Andorra this Spring.

To be on such an adventurous trip with friends again felt like “old times”. It was amazing to be seeing the world once again at places such as the Benagil Cave, the Douro Valley, Picasso Museum, Antonio Gaudí’s Park Güell, and Sagrada Familia. My first sight of the Sagrada Familia truly took my breath away and left me inspired. The food was delicious as well- nothing beats some *pan y tomate* and *tortilla española* en España! Despite the COVID-19 different protocol in each place, and what seemed like 100 QR codes, it was all well worth it. I feel quite fortunate to have traveled, and hope we all feel comfortable to get out there again soon. At the same time, I recognize and send heartfelt sympathy to any of you and your families that may be affected by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The events were just beginning to unfold just as I was heading home, and I was left wondering “how can we help?”



From an educational standpoint, I have found that opportunities to share resources, tools, and materials with teachers, and students around the world have interrupted schooling at this time. There have been many collections, drives, and small yet impactful ways that we can lend a hand and offer support.

Finally, I would like to express how humbled I am by the loyalty of our Executive Board and volunteers, as we seek to serve our membership at all times. Together, we have launched a beautiful new website, a new membership platform (thanks, Wendy!), continued to host our annual events, put together a comprehensive newsletter (thanks, Cheryl!) and developed the details for our Annual Conference. As we navigate some of these new tools, please don’t hesitate to reach out to one of our Board members if you have trouble with access or login. Share your ideas with us, it’s that collaborative and innovative spirit that keeps LILT vibrant! Let this summer be an opportunity to recharge. As you enjoy the summer wherever you decide, consider how you can become more involved in LILT. Our organization is only as strong as the participation of its members, determined by your active participation and energy.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer,  
*Kerri Titone*

***Any reasonable, sentient person who looks at Spain, comes to Spain, eats in Spain, drinks in Spain, they’re going to fall in love. Otherwise, there’s something deeply wrong with you. This is the dream of all the world.’ – Anthony Bourdain***



## Message from the editor

Well, we made it! Summer is here and as Martha and Bette sang so well, *Calling out around the world, are you ready for a brand new beat? Summer's here and the time is right for dancin' in the streets.* I think we are all ready for some summer fun. For many this past school year was even tougher than the year prior. Educators are facing unprecedented challenges. We have been bombarded with messages promoting mental health, perhaps without necessarily feeling supported. We worry about our students, learning loss, colleagues, and families, as well as feeling a pervasive sense of malaise. This summer is perhaps more welcomed than past summers. It is important to take time to recharge and reconnect with the activities and people that bring us joy. As we slowly navigate this new normal, we are excited to dip our toes in the water and return to in person meetings, events, travel, and reconnecting with colleagues and the world.

This edition is a condensed edition, as the board works to redirect our mission to our members. After a successful virtual conference in November, we have reevaluated the efficacy of our activities to better serve you. LILT offers many wonderful opportunities to recognize the talents and accomplishments of our students, educators, and community members. The student submissions for our annual poster conference once again highlighted the remarkable talent of so many of our students. Our annual conference publication will highlight the winner. Our entries for the annual contests were equally amazing, celebrating the academic achievements of our students. The winners are published in this edition. Please consider taking advantage of these opportunities to recognize your students next year.

Our annual conference will be returning to an in-person event on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We encourage our members to consider sharing your expertise by offering a workshop at our conference. Whether your strength is building a successful co-teaching classroom, implementing the revised World Language standards, or growing the Seal of Biliteracy program in your schools, raising graduation rates for our ENL populations, increasing target language use, getting students to love poetry, unpacking authentic texts or strategies to help those new to our noble profession be successful, we need you!

As we begin to travel more freely, the traveling teacher feature in this edition focuses on the 'poble' of Girona, a beautiful village in northern Catalonia, that we have visited several times and have had the chance to return to. My interests drive me to continue to delve into the rich diversity of the Iberian Peninsula and their long arm reaching the cultures of the Americas. I welcome your stories and encourage you to share with our membership your experiences by submitting a feature for publication.

Our fall general membership meeting will return to La Famiglia in Plainview. We hope you will be able to join us as we kick off the new academic year with friends and colleagues.

I wish you a restful, refreshing respite!

Happy Summer!

Cheryl Sosa

Editor



## The LILT Board of Directors welcomes Katina Price!



Join us in congratulating Katina as she steps into the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. As LILT continues to grow and face new challenges, Katina's enthusiasm and dedication to our profession ensures the organization is in good hands.

Katina currently serves as Chairperson of World Languages at Elmont Memorial High School in the Sewanhaka Central School District. Her professional experiences include more than ten years teaching FLES and Spanish, most recently in Commack, as well as serving as the program coordinator for the Advanced Placement Program and the International Baccalaureate Programme for Commack schools.

Katina earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Spanish Education from Hofstra University and a master's degree from St. Louis University, Madrid Campus. Katina has also earned her Advanced Certificate in School District Leadership at St. John's University.

Katina has been generous with her time and talents presenting workshops at several conferences for LILT, NYSAWLA and the Long Island Technology & Education Summit. Katina is excited to be part of the executive board and we look forward to working with her. We hope you can offer your congratulations in person at our Spring General Membership Meeting in the fall.

*When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel a sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better. Maya Angelou*

# LA FAMIGLIA

ITALIAN KITCHEN • BAR

## Fall General Membership Meeting

**Please Join us in person for our annual**

**Fall General Membership Meeting**

**Celebrate our return to in- person collaboration**

More information will soon be available on our "Events" tab on our website [liltfl.org](http://liltfl.org).





Artwork by Eileen Choi, Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School Teacher. Joanne Zuchich.

**Register  
early & save!**  
Early Bird  
Registration ends  
**September 30th**

Online Registration  
opens  
**September 15th!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



Long Island Language Teachers, Inc.

**2022 LILT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Co-sponsored by NYSAFLT



**Saturday, November 5th**

Visit [www.Liltfl.org](http://www.Liltfl.org)



Keynote Speaker

William Anderson

Massapequa School District &  
Hofstra University

Workshops

Vendors

Networking

Raffles





## The Traveling Teacher

### Girona, home of La Cocollona

As language educators I think we are particularly drawn to stories and histories of many cultures. We derive a distinct pleasure from learning the origin of idiomatic expressions, the prayers and superstitions of our cultures, the rituals, the dances and music of the many villages that practice them. As travel begins again for

many of us, we are once again invited to take time to explore places that are not the big cities and listen to the locals. One of my favorites is Girona, a village in Catalunya.

I first learned about Girona when I was planning a trip for students and was looking for a nice rest stop for lunch between Pau in southern France and Barcelona. Intrigued by its history I decided this was a must for us to see. Taking a nighttime tour of the city with a local guide in Spanish or Catalan can be a particularly enjoyable experience. We had

the pleasure of hearing intriguing stories and local lore by someone who was both a part of and proud of the stories. We got a perspective that authentic and personal. Once more reason to study languages!

Girona is now a beautiful medieval town between Barcelona and the French border. Once a city of great importance to the Romans, connecting the northeast of Iberia to Narbonne in Gaul, it suffered for decades under Franco from polluted waters and industrialization. Today you can walk through the old city and see Catalan flags hanging from almost every window and balcony, proud of their language, heritage, and history. However, the discussion about Catalan independence is a topic for another time, not the topic of this feature.



Like many regions in Spain, the people of Catalunya enjoy a rich history of story telling and legends passed down from generation to generation, each storyteller sprinkling his /her own spin on the stories. It is really remarkable how so many of these legends, stories, have endured throughout the Spanish speaking communities, each adding a local flavor to them.

Girona enjoys a rich cultural history. Communities pre-date the romans, but it is during Roman occupation that the region is established as Gerunda and is considered strategically valuable. Like every respectable Spanish village, Girona has many Christian martyrs. One important to the regions's history is St. Feliu. It was during the later days of Roman occupation that he met his fate. St. Feliu became the first martyr of Girona in 307 AD. Originally from North Africa, he converted to Christianity before it was officially adopted by the Romans. He traveled the peninsula preaching Christianity which of course got him in hot water, literally. The story tells of unimaginable suffering, enduring several excruciating tortures at the hands of the romans. He was first tied to a team of horses and dragged around the town. Miraculously, he wounds healed immediately only to expose him to another form of torture. He was later thrown from a cliff at Els Guixols into the sea with a mill wheel tied to his neck, expecting if he survived the expulsion from the cliff, he would surely drown. Once again divine intervention rescued him, only to invite another fatal torture. The devout catholic was flayed, his skin peeled away with iron hooks. Only a few years later, Emperor Constantine accepted Christianity, and shortly after declared it the official religion of the Roman Empire. St. Feliu is an important figure in the region's identity, reflected in many of the names of streets and shops throughout the city. His tomb lies in the Basilica de Sant Feliu, close to the Cathedral.



Another important catholic to Girona's history, St. Narcis, is its patron saint. The legend of St Narcis goes something like this. Narcis was a preacher, bishop and companion of St. Feliu, martyred shortly fafter



Feliu. In 1285 his tomb was desecrated during an attack by Phillippe the Bold of France's soldiers. However, when the tomb was broken open, swarms of flies gushed out of the tomb, attacking and biting the soldiers and their horses, killing more than 20,000 soldiers along with their horses. The French returned in 1653 and again in 1808 when, as the story goes, the flies drove them away yet again. No question as to why the fly is a popular symbol of the city and St. Narcis is the patron saint. His day is celebrated on October 29<sup>th</sup>, when, according to local lore, is the last time flies are around until the following year.



Another popular myth about the city is the one about Charlemagne's chair. The original 11<sup>th</sup> century chair is located in the cathedral in Girona, with a copy of it in the local museum. Legend has it that if a couple sits together in the chair they will be married within a year. However if a man sits on the chair solo, he will remain so for life. That is to say he will never marry. Families who wanted sons to take the vow of priesthood would have one of their male children sit on the chair to ensure they would have a priest in the family. It is also said that seminarians were asked to sit in the chair to drive away evil thoughts and keep them pure in spirit. Ironically, Charlemagne was never in Girona and one might question his commitment to chaste behavior, as he fathered eighteen children, with several different women. Good to be the king!



Another funny legend is the one about Cocollona. A convent located on the Onyar river housed a particularly 'naughty' group of nuns. They had a reputation for leading an unholy life. When a novice enters the convent with disapproving whining, the naughty nuns lock her up in the basement so they could continue galivanting without reproach. She stayed locked in the basement for years and after some time develops scales and eventually she turns into a crocodile. But because of the purity of her soul, she soon began to grow butterfly wings on her back, transforming her into Cocollona. Cocollona, half crocodile, *cocodrill*, crocodile and half butterfly, *pampallona*, in Catalan. It is said that after she died she could be seen swimming over the Onyar river, close to the convent. The legend says that she can still be seen by those super sensitive only on the nights with a full moon.



Girona had a thriving Jewish community prior to the 1300's and the zeal of the Inquisition. The story of La Tolrana is that of a Jewish woman whose body was found decapitated near the Gironella tower, where Jews sought refuge when they were attacked by farmers, encouraged by Christian clergy. Inhabitants of the Jewish quarter, el Call, who refused to convert, were repeatedly attacked, their homes sacked. Only those who were able to hide or agreed to be baptized and convert were saved. La Tolrana was presented before church officials in the company of her converted rabbi, where she refused to convert to Christianity or stay married to her husband Fancsec, who had recently converted. For 500 years, it is believed that Tolrana's ghost haunts the Old Quarter of Girona and sings sadly in an unidentifiable language. When we were told these tales I couldn't help thinking of the stories of La Malinche and La Llorona moaning around town in so many places in Latin America.

Girona was also the birthplace of the Inquisitor General Nicolau Eymerich, who authored the document *Directorium Inquistitorium*, an instructional guide for torturing, capturing and burning witches alive. Sadly a practice that survived colonization in the Americas. This might be enough to be roaming the city moaning. Post Franco, Girona, like many cities in Spain, have reclaimed their grace and polish. The Jewish community in Girona is recovering its history and restoring the Jewish quarter to honor its historical and cultural contributions.

Yet another tale I think we can all appreciate after the pandemic is the one about El Tarlà. El Tarlà is a puppet like figure that is traditionally hung from the balconies on *El Carrer de l'Argenteria* during spring celebrations. It seems that during the years of the plagues, this particular street of silversmiths was blocked off, quarantined, and its residents were quite bored. A local, named El Tarlà, dressed up as a jester and entertained the neighborhood with acrobatics and pranks. Once the dangers of the plague passed, the locals expressing their fondness for the man, created a doll in his likeness. Today he is sported as a symbol of fun and partying in Girona and you can see him hanging from balconies all over the city.



There are many other interesting and fun legends from this city. There is one that tells the story of the origin of a local pastry, *xiuxo*, or *En Banyeta* who is immortalized in stone as a devilish usurer, but one that cannot be overlooked is *el cul de la lleona* of Girona. This is pretty simple and promises the same message as the Trevi fountain or the bull in Milan. Being lifted up to kiss the butt of the lion ensures your return to Girona. This one is a really fun one, especially with teenagers.



Incorporating these legends into our lessons is a great way to share, compare and contrast cultural perspective while infusing some history and local language. Girona is certainly worth the visit, either in person or virtually. It is full of stories and quaint alleyways, a tranquil river walk and amazing food, marrying French and Spanish cuisines. There is much to bring home to our students from this magical place. It is a beautiful town with friendly people and amazing food, worth repeating. Hopefully the legend is correct and the *cul* kissing will deliver its promise.

## La Coca Catalana



La noche de San Juan, Midsummer's Eve, celebrated June 23 to 24 all over Spain with fireworks, bonfires and celebratory cleansings, it's a big deal in all of Catalunya. One of the many Catalan traditional foods for this



celebration is *la coca*. This is made with a flat bread dough, similar to pizza, with a variety of toppings. It can be sweet or savory and has as many variations as there are bakers. Bon Profit!





Congratulations to our students and teachers!

We would like to congratulate all of our students and teachers that submitted entries for the 2022 Student World Language Competition. There were many great entries across languages, and we thank all students and teachers for their efforts.

#### Written Original Essay

#### Spanish

##### 1st Place

School	Student Name	Division
Evergreen Charter School	Sydney Smart	A- Grades K-5
Evergreen Charter School	Joshua Cepeda	Native Speaker A- Grades K-5
Evergreen Charter School	Joylin Boswell	Native Speaker B1- Grades 6-12 Level 1 and Level 2
Evergreen Charter School	Suzeth Reyes	Native Speaker B2- Grades 6-12 - Level 3 and Level 4

##### 2nd Place

Evergreen Charter School	Sayda Galdamez	Native Speaker B2- Grades 6-12 - Level 3 and Level 4
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#### ENL

Evergreen Charter School	Olmin Discua	B1 - Middle School/Junior High Entering level
ENL Evergreen Charter School	Marcio Rodriguez	C1 - High School - Entering level



### Spanish: Written Original Poetry

STATUS	School Student	Name	Division
1st Place	Evergreen Charter School	Basti Gonsalez	Native Speaker B1- Grades 6-12 Level 1 and Level 2
2nd Place	Evergreen Charter School	Richard HenriquezDuarte	Native Speaker B1- Grades 6-12 Level 1 and Level 2
3rd Place	Evergreen Charter School	Michael Reyes	Native Speaker B1- Grades 6-12 Level 1 and Level 2
1st Place	Evergreen Charter School	Susan Lopez	Native Speaker B2- Grades 6-12 Level 3 and Level 4
2nd Place	Evergreen Charter School	Valerie Castro	Native Speaker B2- Grades 6-12 Level 3 and Level 4
1st Place	Three Village CSD	Alexie Lugris	C- College/AP/IB
2nd Place	Three Village CSD	Mikaeel Zohair	C- College/AP/IB
3rd Place	Three Village CSD	Ava Tam	C- College/AP/IB





## Poster Contest Winners

STUDENT'S NAME	CATEGORY	PLACE	SCHOOL	TEACHER
Julia Molinelli	4-6	1st	Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Elizabeth Anez
Claudia Weiss Sade	4-6	2nd	Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Elizabeth Anez
Joseph-Bennett Sophia Zhu	4-6	3rd	Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Elizabeth Anez
Hajoong Kim	4-6	HM	Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Elizabeth Anez

STUDENT'S NAME	CATEGORY	PLACE	SCHOOL	TEACHER
Ginny Jimenez	7-9	1st	William T. Rogers Middle School	Julie Weilgart
Madison Thonas	7-9	2nd	Elmont Memorial High School	Katina Price
Olivia Mirador	7-9	3rd	Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Amber Browning
Emanating Tehseen	7-9	Honorable Mention	Elmont Memorial High School	Mitzi Young
Reagan Marcus Christian Balkcom			Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School	Alex Calimopoulos Amber Browning



## 2022 Professional Calendar

**August 1-5, NYSAFLT Summer Institute, Virtual**

**October 21-22 NYSAFLT Annual Conference, Rochester, NY**

**November 5, LILT Annual Conference, North Shore Middle School**

**November 18-20, ACTFL Convention, Boston, MA.**

