



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

Volume 43, Number 1

WWW.LILTFL.ORG

Cheryl Sosa, Editor

csosa@liltfl.org

Message from the President

I hope you all had a wonderful break with friends and family, able to spend time together with those you love, rest and recharge. Your Executive Board continues to work hard behind the scenes getting ready for many upcoming LILT events. Speaking of the Executive Board, this is an election year for LILT, so please look for communications regarding nominations and voting.

Looking back on the last year, we have so many great memories to highlight, including our Poster Contest, Student World Language Competition, Fall General Membership Meeting, and a return to an in-person Annual Conference. Thank you to all of the volunteers and Executive Board members that have made these events possible, and successful! There was so much great energy at the Fall General Membership Meeting and the Annual Conference. **William Anderson** delivered inspiring keynote remarks, reminding us all of the importance of building bridges in our relationships with our students, colleagues, and communities. We also thank NYSAFLT's **Mike Mitchell** for opening remarks that remind us all of the value and importance of professional organizations in our field. Thank you to our Conference Co-Chairs **Christina Margiore** and **Madel Soriano-Massella** that worked tirelessly to ensure a successful conference for all of the attendees.



. I also extend gratitude to all of our presenters, as we received *amazing* feedback about the high quality of professional development that our attendees were able to take away from the conference. For this, we can thank our Presenter Coordinator **Isabel Simoes**. The variety of raffle prizes and vendors are all credited to our Vendor Coordinator **Alexandra Gallo**. Again, I thank these volunteers and the Executive Board for their creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork, which together left us all inspired and recharged! Thank you to those of you that attended the conference, for your time, energy, and continued participation in LILT events. By now, all those that requested CTLE hours for their attendance should have received those. Please email president@liltfl.org if you have not received your CTLE certificate.

If you have not done so already, please go ahead and renew your membership. We are still navigating our new platform for membership, so please do not hesitate to email president@liltfl.org if you are having any trouble. LILT is proud to have served its members for over 40 years, since 1980. We continue to advocate for World Language and ENL programs, offer professional development and networking opportunities for teachers, share job openings, celebrations of students, teachers, and administrators all around. Encourage your colleagues to join, as they and their students only serve to benefit from the many advantages of membership. We are only as strong as our membership, and there is always an opportunity to join us and help carry on LILT's 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.* Thank you to **Barbara Lazcano** for sending our bi-weekly emails with timely opportunities and information.

We are looking for volunteers in a few leadership positions including:

- 2023 Annual Conference Presenter Coordinator
 - o *Thank you to Isabel Simoes for your service*
 - o 2023 Judges for Poster ContestEmail cpace@liltfl.org if you are interested
 - o 2023 Judges for Student World Language Competition
- Email
- abrowne@liltfl.org
- if you are interested



In 2023, we see the return once again of annual events including the Winter Workshops, Poster Contest, Student World Language Competition, LILT Plaques, student scholarships, teaching awards and grants, and the Spring General Membership Meeting. All of our events are updated frequently on our website, liltfl.org under the “Events” tab. Remember, LILT is here for World Language and ENL teachers, alike. I am pleased to share that many of our events will now be free for members, including the Winter Workshops, Poster Contest, and Student World Language Competition. This is a new benefit of membership! In the few short months since 2023 began, we have already sponsored **EdCamp WL** in February 2023 and **NECTFL 2023**.

Please mark your calendars for the following LILT events this year:

1. **Professional Development Winter Workshops**: ongoing, January-April. Look for the most up to date offerings on our website.
2. **Student World Language Competition** Deadline for submissions: March 31, 2023.. Topics include: Written Original Poetry, Written Original Essay, International Vocal Music Video, International Dance Video, Poetry Recitation/ASL Poetry Recitation, Authentic Speaking Task/ASL Production Video.
3. **Poster Contest** Theme: Fall in Love with Learning Languages. Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2023 electronically and May 1, 2023 for drop offs of the posters. *All posters should be dropped off, as they are displayed at the Annual Conference.*
4. Order **LILT plaques** to recognize and celebrate outstanding students. Deadline for orders: March 31, 2023. *Note, our plaques will offer a new look in 2023.*
5. Nominate a colleague or supporter that goes above and beyond for the **LILT Friend of World Languages Award**. Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2023.
6. Nominate a colleague for the **Kathleen Ann Lyons Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award**. Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2023.
7. Nominate a student for the **Lucille DiPietro Lambert Memorial Award for Excellence in World Language Studies**. Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2023.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."

Erma Bombeck



8. Apply for the **Richard Gentile LILT Teacher Incentive Grant** to support a special project you would like to carry out to support your students. Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2023.

9. Apply for a **LILT Stipend** to attend a professional conference other than LILT's. Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2023.

10. Spring General Membership Meeting: June 6, 2023 at NoaMar in Babylon. *Awards & recognition occur at this ticketed event, look for the flyer in this newsletter.*

11. Call for nominations Spring 2023

12. Elections Spring 2023

13. Fall General Membership Meeting TBD

14. LILT Annual Conference: November 2023

Again, details regarding the above events are available on our website, under the "Events" tab.

These events are a great way to promote what goes on in your classroom and the accomplishments of you and your students- to be celebrated! We hope to see you at a LILT event soon!

In this issue, you will have an opportunity to learn more about some of the fond memories yet sad losses we have had in LILT leadership and retirees in the field. As a colleague said to me, "Long Island had giants in the field". We have so many great predecessors to thank for where World Language and ENL programs are today, in New York State. Many of them hailed from Long Island, and I am proud to say that they were part of LILT, some of them even being our founding members.

Thank you to our retirees that continue to be dedicated to LILT and our profession, as they have worked together to share fond memories and condolences of some of these members. We truly have those before us to thank for the strength of our field, but it is important to remember that it is up to all of us to continue to keep that flame lit and carry on the strength through advocacy and participation.

Kerri Titone, Ed. D.

President, LILT



Message from the editor

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I can promise you that women working together—linked, informed and educated—can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.

Isabel Allende

LILT is an organization composed of language teachers devoted to our profession and is only as strong as its members. I was a first time member in the 90s under the leadership of Marie Brett. Marie was also at the time my chairperson. She encouraged our department to get involved and expand our comfort zone by attending conferences and serving as judges in the many competitions LILT offered. As time passed and I seemed to have less time to devote to these opportunities, my membership lapsed, only returning to LILT in the past decade. As what I like to call a 'well seasoned' educator, I felt it was important not only to learn but to share my experiences with colleagues, to give back to my profession which I love so well. It challenged me to grow and also afforded me the opportunity to meet like minded professionals. On that note, I would like to encourage all educators to challenge themselves and become more involved with LILT. Publishing a newsletter has been and continues to be, a bit of a struggle for me, as I rely on members to submit articles that are in short supply. I once again invite you to share with our members your experiences, successes, and opinions about what's happening in World Language and ENL education and in your classrooms.

LILT will be holding elections in the spring as the current terms come to completion in June. Please consider running for an office. Open seats will be President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large. All offices are two-year terms, beginning July 1st, 2023. Information will be posted on the LILT website as it becomes available. We are only as good as our members, so please consider taking on a more active role.

In this issue we recognize four LILT educators that have passed. All four of these educators were OGs as they say, the real deal, passionate about our profession and about LILT. In the spirit of their dedication, I urge you to become an active member of LILT. Consider submitting an item for the newsletter, hosting a workshop, running for one of the many openings we have in the organization and make your voice heard. And don't forget, we are also introducing changes to our membership! Included in your membership is access to all our workshops and student contests free of charge. We hope you take advantage of the opportunities LILT offers for your professional growth as well as opportunities to recognize and support your students.

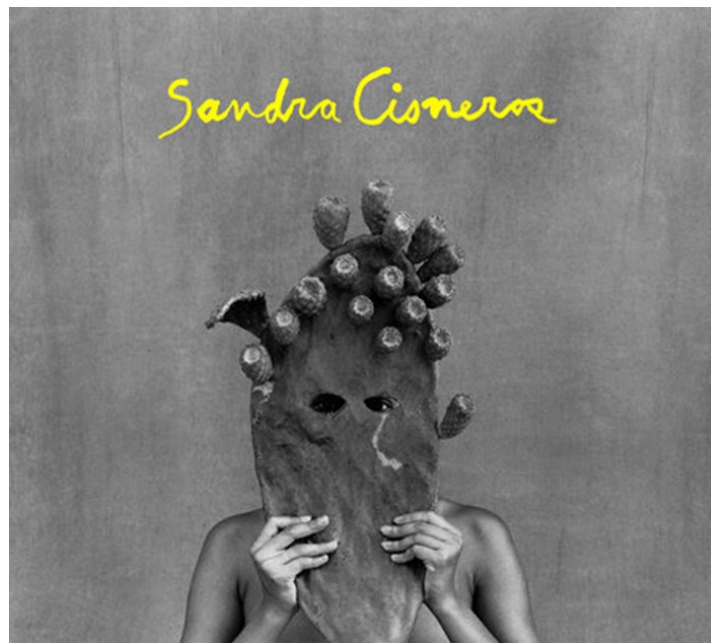
Cheryl Sosa

Editor



Good Reads

March is packed with celebrations. St. Patrick's Day, Foreign Language Week, St. Joseph's Day, Women's Day, Dantedi among them. March is also women's history month. We pause to celebrate, acknowledge and honor the contributions perhaps not acknowledged during the rest of the months or in history books before the dawn of *designated months*. One might interpret this as acknowledging that the role of women is somehow only worthy of thirty-one days of discovery or that history needs a rewrite. As language educators, we probably understand better than most, the importance of perspective and identities and the voice of the otherwise voiceless, the quieted. Women's history month is yet another opportunity to introduce amazing women in our respective cultures and broaden our own library.



MUJER SIN VERGÜENZA POEMAS
Traducción de Lilliana Valenzuela

*My father
speaks to me
like the wings
of a stingray.
My mother
shimmers in
air,
a silver
moth.
I know when
they are
here.
As in life,
different as
ever.
One is water.
The other at-
mosphere.
Cisneros*

Some of my personal favorite authors (who also happen to be women) are Laura Esquivel, Julia Alvarez, Esmeralda Santiago and Sandra Cisneros. Their works delve into defining their identity, be it language, cultural, national, familial, gender... they explore the complexities of identity. I found using excerpts from their works to be wonderful exemplars to address cultural standards in our classrooms.

Last fall the Museo del Barrio presented the debut of Sandra's Cisneros latest collection of poetry, *Woman Without Shame, Una Mujer Sin Vergüenza*, a bilingual compilation of her works. I love the title, always imagining *sinvergüenza* as one word and the disgraceful tone emanating from my abuelita's lips with that accompanying judgmental glance. I had the privilege to attend this debut with two friends, colleagues of like mind in a small theatre full of women. This interview and book signing at the museum was a particular thrill for me. It was inspiring to hear her talk about her personal challenges and her journey overcoming them defining herself as a woman, as a Latina, as a writer. As a product of the same generation, give or take a few years, I was reminded of how far women have come and how important it is to keep fighting the fight, ensuring our sons and daughters have the same rights and access that we had. The poems in this collection are mature in nature and unapologetic. I recommend the read for educators and thoroughly enjoy the code mixing in the works. They may be offensive to some, and frankly without her explanation of their context, their meaning might be unclear. Her presentation of the work inspired me to reread her other works and enjoy a reinterpretation once again. But isn't that the beauty of literature? I highly recommend this collection, it truly celebrates the strength of women and in particular a fierce Latina, *una mujer sin vergüenza*.

*Rage,
rage. Do
not go into
that good
night
wearing
sensible
white or
beige."
Cisneros*

LUCILLE DIPIETRO LAMBERT



LILT and the community of world languages and cultures education has lost the presence of Lucille DiPietro Lambert but not the spirit and legacy of her life and of her work.

At its founding in 1980, hosted by Cliff Fusaro, Chairperson of Amityville Memorial JHS, Lucille served as LILT's first president and continued to serve the organization and the profession with inspiration throughout her life.

Lucille will always be a part of many of us who had the privilege and gift of knowing her and working with her.
May she rest in peace. Anon.

As a new member of LILT, I attended a June Retirement/Spring LILT Dinner and upon entering, Lucille was there with a great smile and a warm, sincere and hearty greeting. I felt instantly valued and welcome. It seems she never forgot a name and along with her special cordiality, you instantly felt you belonged. Lucille genuinely cared about people and World Language Education. She was a strong leader with experience and foresight. With those personal strengths, Lucille helped build our LILT organization to be one that values all its members and their contributions to the profession.

Nancy Russo-Rumore, LILT Past President, 2004-2006, 2008-2010

I met Lucille DiPietro Lambert at a planning committee meeting for the LI Regional Meeting of NYSAFLT in the early to mid-1970s. When I arrived all the seats seemed to be taken. Thoughts of bolting were fleeting as I noticed a lady moving over to make room for me. That lady was Lucille Lambert. I had no idea that she was one of two co-chairs of the event. She asked me my name and she proceeded to make sure to include me in planning.

A mentor and colleague, we became good friends, attending many language conferences together. I learned so much from Lucille. Each time I saw her at her school, I saw how effortlessly she interacted with students, colleagues and administrators. What awed me was her wonderful camaraderie with secretaries, custodians and cafeteria workers. Lucille knew this was so important. She always said: *School is a family. Many of the staff live in the district and are the parents of our students.* This lesson I learned early on and it did impact my success as a teacher by reaching out to all of these groups during my career.

Lucille served as LI Director of NYSAFLT just before she and likeminded colleagues collaborated in 1980 to form LILT so that all World Language teachers on LI would be offered instructional support and methodology locally. As the annual LILT Trifold she designed proclaims: *"The Secret of Success is Constancy of Purpose"* Benjamin Disraeli . . . Commitment to Service, Teachers and Students." She never lost sight of this intent

as also shown by her fervent efforts to highlight students' achievements through various competitions. In 1995, she retired after 30 years of teaching, and LILT renamed its student scholarship in her honor. With tireless energy she still contributed to the profession by becoming a student teaching supervisor at Dowling College, sharing her expertise with future teachers. By imparting her vast knowledge and experience to them, she impacted the World Language profession for years to come.

Throughout retirement, personal and family illness, our friendship continued. Her stroke in January 2008 left her unable to express herself, yet we found ways to communicate. Our friendship outlived our careers and retirement did not diminish it either. Lucille, I will never forget you. R.I.P.

Adrienne Greenbaum, Past LILT President, 1988-1990, 2006 -2008,

In 1980 Dr. Joseph Tursi and Frank Marino called a meeting of interested foreign language teachers to see if an organization for them on Long Island would be possible and viable. That is when I met Lucille Lambert, and after that very meeting, we two formed a steering committee which eventually became LILT. Lucille Lambert was LILT's first president (1981-1983) and thus became my working relationship with her.

Lucille was the epitome of professionalism, always ready to lead LILT with conviction after gathering ideas from the LILT Executive Board. And Lucille was prepared with many handouts of what we should be doing next. In fact, she became lovingly known as the "bag lady" since she had many ideas on many topics in those bags to be considered for this burgeoning organization. (Ironically, I became the "bag man" when I became LILT's third president!) Lucille remained on LILT's Executive Board for many years afterwards, always contributing in a positive way.

Lucille and her husband, Frank, also became personal friends. Lucille loved to entertain in her beautiful home in Bay Shore and we had several LILT and private gatherings there. After her stroke, she and Frank came to our home for Thanksgiving and it was always an enjoyable afternoon even though she could no longer speak, but we managed to communicate in spite of it all.

My lasting thoughts of Lucille will be her infectious laugh, and always impeccably dressed and coiffed. Since she was a petite lady, she loved her high heels. You would think moving quickly in them would be difficult, but not for Lucille. May she and Frank enjoy their time in heaven dancing away, high heels and all.

Lucille was a formidable foreign language teaching presence on Long Island, and all she contributed to the profession will be remembered for a long time. You will be missed not only as a colleague but as a dear friend. May she rest in peace.

Richard Gentile, Past LILT President, 1984-1986, 2014-2015

JOAN FRANCES MILITSCHER

October 19, 1943 - November 22, 2022



Joan and I met in the 1980's while I was serving on the Long Island Language Teachers (LILT) Executive Board. Joan was a colleague of mine, teaching second languages in the Longwood School District, while I taught Spanish in the Kings Park School District. She was always someone with original ideas, yet respectful of yours. Joan's bright eyes and big smile lit up any room she entered, and it was a natural progression for her to become the President of LILT! The second language field is poorer today due to Joan's passing. She will never be replaced.

Ron Taub, Past LILT President, 2002-2004

I was stunned to hear about Joan's passing. I have known her and Joe for over 35 years as colleagues and dear friends. My heart goes out to Joe who loved, cherished and laughed with her for over 54 years. May he and Jay, Jennifer and family allow their wonderful memories of Joan comfort them as they grieve and sustain them forever. The language teaching profession has lost a loyal advocate who will be sorely missed. Rest In Peace, Joan.

Love, Adrienne Greenbaum, Past LILT President, 1988-1990, 2006-2008

Joan led a purposeful life as a World Language advocate and professional. Her perspectives and experience as a LILT past president enhanced Board discussions and served to improve our work for the good of our members. In addition to working with Joan on the LILT Board, we also worked together as adjuncts at Stony Brook University (2004) training a large number of World Language student teachers, team teaching the Spring seminar, and also observing and critiquing lessons. Joan's vast experience, honesty and non-judgmental style, made her guidance of her student teachers invaluable to their progress and a lasting gift to our Long Island schools.

Nancy L. Russo-Rumore, LILT Past President, 2004-2006, 2008-2010

GENE LOWENBERG

March 14, 1932 - April 30, 2022



A gentleman with infinite patience and fortitude, Gene Lowenberg and his camera at all LILT events captured the growth of the organization through the years. Steadfastly serving as LILT Historian and Board Member, Gene brought cheer, patience and character to LILT. Although driving directions often challenged him, Gene always showed up for all LILT events with a smile. His congenial attitude and kind, thoughtful ways are fondly remembered.

Nancy Russo-Rumore, LILT Past President, 2004-2006, 2008-2010

Gene Lowenberg, devoted member of the LILT Board and our faithful, long time Historian, is fondly remembered. Some words that come to mind describing Gene are always willing to help, always the congenial gentleman, positive, gracious, optimistic, thankful, and always there at the conference registration desk. He could be counted on to show up and do whatever was asked of him. Our roving photographer, Gene snapped many a picture of us and our colleagues enjoying the many planned LILT events, including cruises, and he, being photographed with a cobra around his neck in Marrakesh expecting his wife Betty to take his picture. The rest of us did not know who would faint first!

He had difficulty following driving directions since he lacked any sense of direction. East and west seemed to confound him, yet he made it to all our meetings with a smile on his face! In kind recognition of this lack of aptitude, his LILT retirement gift was a set of extra-large Nassau and Suffolk Hagstrom maps. Gene was delighted saying it was the most perfect gift he could ever receive!

Those of us who spent so much time with this gentle spirit, know that his goodness still remains in our hearts. R.I.P.

Adrienne Greenbaum, Past LILT President, 1988-1990, 2006-2008

Gene Lowenberg was always a quiet presence on LILT's Executive Board, yet when he spoke, we all took notice since his ideas were always well thought out. When you think of Gene, gentleman comes to mind, always kind, considerate, patient, and dedicated to LILT's work. He was always present for LILT's many activities, especially when a helping hand was needed, and was LILT's long time historian taking many pictures of all our events.

Gene grew up in Virginia, the son of a famous surgeon. His father wanted him to become a doctor, but it was not in his nature. His father had met a French surgeon in Paris and Gene went to live with him and his family for several while years attending the Sorbonne. (His father did encourage him to do what made him happy.) Needless to say, Gene's French was impeccable. Afterwards, he studied at Middlebury and New Paltz and added Italian and Spanish to his repertoire.

During all his years of teaching he never missed a day! After retirement, he taught French at Chaminade High School for 10 years. Before teaching classes, he would complete his daily swim in the school's pool; he was much loved by the administration and students. He also became an Auxiliary Nassau County Policeman in retirement, a volunteering job he enjoyed. Perhaps it was because of its military precision he loved it so much. He spent his military duty in Alaska and was a proud Veteran.

I shall miss Gene and his enduring patience, always remembering his kindnesses and smile during our many years of LILT Executive Board meetings. May he rest in peace.

Richard Gentile, Past LILT President, 1984-1986, 2014-2015

LILT would like to inform its membership that two LILT members who contributed greatly and enthusiastically to LILT through the years have recently passed: Rosemary Haigh and Joan Marino.



LILT POSTER CONTEST

2023 Theme

Fall in Love with Learning

Languages:

Getting students, teachers, and communities to love school again.

Deadlines: Electronic submissions: March 15, 2023

Project Drop-off: May 1, 2023

Project Drop off locations:

North Shore HS: Ana Aguiar-Mady aaguarmady@liltfl.org

Connetquot HS: Cheryl Sosa csosa@liltfl.org

For further information please visit our website



NEW: There will be **no charge** for LILT members !

Contact: Carolyn Pace cpace@liltfl.org



2023



Student World Language Competition

FREE FOR LILT MEMBERS



All registrations and submissions will be ONLINE

We will begin accepting registrations and submissions
February 1 - WWW.LILTFL.ORG

All registrations and submissions due by:
Friday, March 31st 2023



***AWARDS: FIRST, SECOND, THIRD PLACE AND HONORABLE MENTION IN EACH CATEGORY**

****SEE BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL COMPETITION DETAILS****
STUDENT WORLD LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2023

STUDENT WORLD LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2023

THEME: IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS IN LIFE

Written Categories:

Original Essay
Original Poetry



Video Categories:

International Vocal Music and ASL Song Interpretation
International Dance
Poetry Recitation
Authentic Speaking Task: Important Relationships in Life



Directions:

Submitting teacher must be a current member of LILT
There is NO entry or submission fee this year!
All entries will be submitted online
Deadline to register and submit - Wednesday, March 1st, 2023

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

C - College/AP/IB/Honors

Native Speaker division in each category

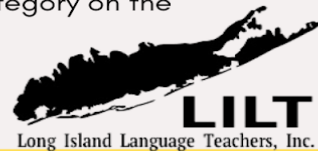
Note: All Dance Video Submissions will be judged together

All Entries must Be Age / Level Appropriate.

Please refer to specific directions for each category on the LILT website.



SCAN TO VISIT THE LILT WEBSITE!





LILT AWARDS, GRANT, & STIPEND

Long Island Language Teachers is pleased to present the forms below for
LILT's Awards, Grant, & Stipend.

Please note the deadline of May 1st for submissions.

Awards, Grant, & Stipend are as follows:

- LILT Friend of World Languages Award
- Kathleen Ann Lyons Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award
- Lucille DiPietro Lambert Memorial Award for Excellence in World Language Studies
- Richard Gentile Teacher Incentive Grant

Stipend to Attend LILT Annual Conference for New Members



LILT Student Language Plaques 2023

LILT EXCELLENCE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARD PLAQUES

Long Island Language Teachers, Inc. (LILT) is proud to offer plaques for purchase by your school district to recognize Long Island students who have demonstrated excellence in foreign language study. One plaque is to be awarded to one student per language who:

- a)** is currently enrolled in the most advanced language course in your school
- b)** demonstrated the most outstanding performance in world language studies
- c)** is selected by you or the appropriate school personnel.

Teacher of the student must be a current member of LILT to order.

** Deadline to submit plaque orders is March 31st, 2023.**

Plaques are available for:

- Junior High School or Middle School graduating students and/or
- Senior High School graduating students



LILT NEEDS YOU!

LILT will be holding elections this spring. Consider running for an office and make your voice heard! On the spring slate will be President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large. Information will be posted shortly regarding requirements for holding the office as well as a description of responsibilities of each.





Save the Date!

Spring General Membership Meeting

Please Join us in person for our annual

Spring General Membership Meeting

Celebrate our scholarship and award recipients

Honor our retirees

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, June 6th , 4:30 to 7:30 pm at Noamar Market in Babylon Village. More information will be found soon on our "Events" tab on our website,

www.liltfl.org

Please be sure to email Vanessa Sosa if there are retirees you wish to recognize at vsosa@liltfl.org

