

LILT™ NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last message as LILT President. Having served on the LILT Executive Board for eight years, I am proud to say being an officer has been a great adventure and a wonderful learning experience. I am fortunate to have worked with knowledgeable and dedicated people on the Executive Board who have invested a great part of their lives into making LILT the organization it is today. They are truly the backbone and inspiration of this organization.

I led a team of committed officers who were dedicated to the purposes of LILT: 1st Vice President **Richard Zawislak**, 2nd Vice President, **Elizabeth Burgalassi**, Secretary **Krystal Asher**, Treasurer **Ron Taub**, and Member-at-Large **Matthew Drucker**.

So many dedicated volunteers stepped forward to help us continue our mission. Without the following people LILT would have never been able to continue the many programs it has conducted thus far:

I thank **Dr. Patricia Lennon-Murphy**, Poster Contest Committee Chairperson, **Doug Moore**, Drop Off Coordinator, **María José Lloréns**, Awards Coordinator, **George Salamon**, Poster Contest Volunteer, and Drop Off Volunteers: **Donna Bennett**, **Bruno Bernardino**, **Lillian Carey**, **Matthew Drucker**, **Marisa McCord**, **Josephine Maietta**, **Mirtalita Matos**, **Christina Quartararo**, **Nino Rodriguez** and **Dr. David Rose**.

Despite mounting obligations at work, **Bob Tenaglia** has chaired the Student Foreign Language Competition Committee since 2002. I remain indebted to **Bob**, **Dan Saitta**, Assistant, **Sean Doherty**, Judge Recruitment Coordinator, **Dana Cavanagh**, Entries Submissions Coordinator, and **Ron Taub**, Medal Distribution Coordinator. Also I would like to thank the Levittown School District for allowing LILT to use Division Avenue HS, and to **Michele Ortiz** who, at the eleventh hour, helped make the necessary arrangements.

I have been fortunate to have had some exceptional past presidents on whom I have counted with total confidence. There are not enough words to thank **Nancy Russo-Rumore** and **Richard Gentile** for their support and wisdom. I also couldn't have managed without them from Berlin. My heartfelt appreciation goes

to **Joan Militscher**, Chair of the Nominations Committee, whose advice has always been positive and forward looking, and who worked hard to find leaders to take over the LILT mantle in 2014-2016. Behind the scenes, **Rich Hance**, Webmaster, and **Arlene Mege**, Data Technician, made things flow smoothly for LILT.

From many of you I have heard how much you value the work of the people mentioned above. It is rewarding to know we have answered many of your professional needs.

To all who have, during these past two years, volunteered to give workshops for either our Professional Development Workshops Program or the Annual Conferences, I, along with the LILT Executive Board, highly value your professionalism and thank you for your willingness to share with your colleagues, and to give back to your profession. An enthusiastic thank you to our 2014 Workshop Presenters: **Dr. Carmen Campos**, **Jennifer Colonna**, **Alicia Cuadra**, **Katerina Daly**, **Matthew Drucker**, **Dr. Jennifer Eddy**, **Kelly George**, **Rebecca Gordon**, **Brigitte Kahn**, **Sousana Katsafaros**, **Janice Kincaid**, **Dr. Patricia Lennon-Murphy**, **Céline Milin**, **Robert Owen**, **Christine Reilly** and **Denise Schleith**.

I am, and will be forever grateful to all of those mentioned above. If I have forgotten to mention anyone, please forgive me. The success of the past two years has not been the product of mere luck, but rather perseverance and hard work. All of us should be proud of the work we have done.

I was deeply impressed by the prevalence of community service, volunteering and the spirit of giving back that I observed when I came to this country twenty years ago. These unique qualities compelled me to join in, get involved and serve. This is a unique quality of this country, and one I deeply admire. I felt compelled to join in, get involved, and serve. I served LILT to the best of my ability, and had the good fortune to count on a group of knowledgeable and committed individuals. I faced a few challenges, especially Hurricane Sandy forcing us to cancel our 2012 Annual Conference. Leadership is not easy, but nothing worth doing is. At this very moment LILT's future is at stake. We were unable

to compile a full slate of candidates to lead LILT in 2014-2016. Since LILT, as required by its constitution, cannot function without officers, the Executive Board voted to suspend all activities for one year, beginning June 30, 2014 until June 30, 2015. Unexpectedly, 2014-2015 will turn into a year of hiatus, not the celebration of LILT's 35th anniversary we had anticipated.

It is unfortunate many of our most talented and promising members only envision serving LILT at an ideal, personal juncture, when they have more time or less obligations. Reality is much more complicated than that. The time to step up is today! LILT needs you now!

Without leaders LILT cannot carry on. Such is the unhappy situation we are in now. LOTE is under siege today. We don't have the status of STEM. We are losing students, positions, and programs. I hope some committed LILT members are ready to answer the call. If not you, who? And if not now, when?

Sincerely,

Anahí Walton-Schafer

Thank you to Nicole Faherty Dawson for assisting at the Student Foreign Language Competition judging at Levittown HS on March 29th.

Condolences to Ron Taub on the passing of his mother, Irene Taub.

Correction: 2014 LITL Annual Conference online and mail-in registrations were handled by Ron Taub.

EDITORIAL

As one of the founders of LILT who has spent the last 34 consecutive years on the LILT Executive Board in various positions, I find the current state of LILT affairs very dismal. How is it an organization of almost 800 members can't produce sufficient, committed individuals to run our organization? We all lead busy lives, even those in retirement, but if you believe a cause is a priority, you manage to find the time to do what has to be done.

So many of us are blessed teaching what we love most, and in gratitude for these blessings, giving back to the profession is what thankful professionals do, and many LILT members have. Proof of this is the recent judging of the Student Foreign Language Competition on March 29th. The expertise and comradery was inspiring, and many had the opportunity to network, meet, or become reacquainted, with foreign language professionals from all over Long Island. But, LILT needs you to become more committed by offering more of your time and skill. The senior members on the Board cannot lead this organization forever, and it's not healthy for an organization to have Board members in their late 60's, 70's and even 80's still serving in major positions. Although, by all accounts, they have done a wonderful

job, it's time to pass the torch to active teacher members.

Ever mindful of history's lessons, we are now living in very unpleasant times. Inflation is causing everything to be more expensive, including teachers' salaries. School districts are strapped by only being able to raise their budgets by 2%, thus causing positions and courses to be cut.

The overprinting of money causing hyperinflation triggered the downfall of the Weimar Republic, furthered the rise of Hitler as he seized the Sudetenland, and contributed to World War II. Today, eighty years later, we are overprinting money causing prices to rise as we devalue the dollar, Putin has seized Crimea, and will most probably take the eastern Ukraine to establish a land mass to Crimea. Again, if the international community is not vigilant, we could be facing another, major war.

The NYS LOTE Regents has been eliminated, hence taking away foreign language's academic legitimacy. Learning a language will become something it once was, only for the select, above average students. Doing this will eliminate many positions, and perhaps school districts will only offer one language to cut costs.

If you believe you are secure because you have seniority and tenure, and you don't believe many outside influences can threaten your job, then you surely don't need LILT. If, on the other hand, you understand the global picture, and you believe you need a foreign language advocate that will also allow you to showcase your students, your department, and yourself, then you need LILT. And as you need LILT, LILT needs you.

LILT members will have a year to contemplate what LILT means to them, and how it enhances and improves their professional lives. During this year the Past Presidents Committee will review everything LILT does. However, that means you, as a LOTE professional, need to come forward and offer your time. And, if the worst scenario happens where we have a dearth of committed applicants, LILT will cease to exist. Then the only thing I can say to you, those with whom I've served, and to myself, "Thirty-four years wasn't a bad run!"

BILINGUAL SPEAKERS DEVELOPMENTAL FLEXIBILITY

Researchers are learning that the benefits of being bilingual extend well beyond enhanced communication capabilities.

Penn State researchers discovered that as bilingual speakers learn to switch languages seamlessly, they develop a higher level of mental flexibility.

"In the past, bilinguals were looked down upon," said Judith F. Kroll, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Linguistics and Women's Studies. "Not only is bilingualism not bad for you, it may be really good. When you're switching languages all the



Spring General Membership Meeting
Thursday May 29, 2014

The LILT Executive Board cordially invites all LOTE teachers to its annual end-of-year Spring General Membership Meeting. Please join us as we honor retiree Robin Fisher, and the recipients of our awards and scholarships. If you know of any other LILT member who is retiring and may meet constitutional requirements for recognition, please contact Richard Zawislak as soon as possible at (516) 551-7133 or zawislaklilt@gmail.com.

Note: Please have your check postmarked (US Post Office only) no later than May 16, 2014.

DATE: Thursday, May 29, 2014
TIME: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
PLACE: Orlando's Restaurant, 285 Commack Road, Commack, NY (631 462-2999)
COST: \$28.00 [gratuity included]
MENU: Penne alla Vodka *followed by* Garden Salad or Caesar Salad
Choice of: Chicken Francese, Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana, Veal Zingara, Filet of Sole, or Grilled Salmon
Dessert and Coffee

N.B. Cash Bar Available

Gluten and Lactose Free Menu Available:

Gluten Free Pasta, Grilled Chicken, Grilled Vegetables

R.S.V.P.: Wednesday, May 16, 2014
SEND CHECK TO: Richard Zawislak, 91 Dartmouth Street, Valley Stream, NY 11581

DIRECTIONS:

From Jericho Turnpike: Go South on Commack Road .25 of a mile. Orlando's is on the right hand side across from Consumer's Kitchen.

From Points East on Northern State: Take Exit 43 North. Turn left on to Commack Road. Proceed North to Orlando's on the left.

From Points West on Northern State: Take Exit 43 South. At the first light, turn left onto Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. At the second light, turn left onto Commack Road. Proceed North to Orlando's on the left.

From Points West on the Long Island Expressway: Take Exit 52. Make left onto Commack Road. Proceed north for 2 miles to Orlando's on the left.

From Points East on the Long Island Expressway: Take Exit 53. Stay on Service Road. Follow sign for Commack Road. Make right at light onto Commack Road. Proceed north for 2 miles to Orlando's on the left.



Spring General Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 29, 2014

Name(s): _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (School) _____

Total Enclosed (\$28.00 per person, payable to LILT): \$ _____ Gluten Free Menu: _____

MAIL THE ABOVE FORM, AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO LILT, BY MAY 16th TO:
Richard Zawislak, 91 Dartmouth Street, Valley Stream, NY 11581

time it strengthens your mental muscle and your executive function becomes enhanced.”

Fluent bilinguals seem to have both languages active at all times, whether both languages are consciously being used or not.

Researchers believe both languages are active whether either was used only seconds earlier or several days earlier.

The study is reported in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Bilinguals rarely say a word in the unintended language, which suggests that they have the ability to control the parallel activity of both languages and ultimately select the intended language without needing to consciously think about it.

Investigators conducted two separate but related experiments. In the first, 27 Spanish-English bilinguals read 512 sentences, written in either Spanish or English — alternating language every two sentences.

Participants read the sentences silently until they came across a word displayed in red, at which point they were instructed to read the red word out loud, as quickly and accurately as possible. About half of the red words were cognates — words that look and sound similar and have the same meaning in both languages.

“Cognate words were processed more quickly than control words,” said Jason W. Gullifer, a graduate student in psychology, suggesting that both languages are active at the same time.

Participants in the second experiment performed the same tasks as those in the first experiment, but this time were presented one language at a time. The second experiment’s results were similar to the first, suggesting that context does not influence word recognition.

“The context of the experiment didn’t seem to matter,” said Gullifer. “If you look at bilinguals there seems to be some kind of mechanistic control.”

Reprinted from ACTFL’s Smart Brief, September 17, 2013.

Submitted by Nancy Russo-Rumore, Emerita

NEW STUDY SHOWS BRAIN BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM

The largest study so far to ask whether speaking two languages might delay the onset of dementia symptoms in bilingual patients as compared to monolingual patients has reported a robust result. Bilingual patients suffer dementia onset an average of 4.5 years later than those who speak only a single language.

While knowledge of a protective effect of bilingualism isn’t entirely new, the present study significantly advances scientists’ knowledge. Media reports emphasize the size of its cohort: 648 patients from a university hospital’s memory clinic, including 391 who were bilingual. It’s also touted as the first study to reveal

that bilingual people who are illiterate derive the same benefit from speaking two languages as do people who read and write. It also claims to show that the benefit applies not only to Alzheimer’s sufferers but also people with frontotemporal and vascular dementia.

Only when I read the research report myself, though, published in the journal *Neurology* and written by Suvarna Alladi and 7 co-authors, did I realize fully the brilliance of conducting this study in Hyderabad, India. That choice of location, I believe, lends extra credibility to the study’s results.

Here’s why. India, as the researchers note, is a nation of linguistic diversity. In the Hyderabad region, a language called Telugu is spoken by the majority Hindu group, and another called Dakkhini by the minority Muslim population. Hindi and English are also commonly spoken in formal contexts, including at school. Most people who grow up in the region, then, are bilingual, and routinely exposed to at least three languages.

The patients who contributed data to the study, then, are surrounded by multiple languages in everyday life, not primarily as a result of moving from one location to another. This turns out to be an important factor, as the authors explain:

In contrast to previous studies, the bilingual group was drawn from the same environment as the monolingual one and the results were therefore free from the confounding effects of immigration. The bilingual effect on age at dementia onset was shown independently of other potential confounding factors, such as education, sex, occupation, cardiovascular risk factors, and urban vs. rural dwelling, of subjects with dementia.

In other words, thanks in large part to the study’s cultural context, these researchers made great progress zeroing in on bilingualism as the specific reason for the delay in dementia symptoms.

What exactly is it about the ability to speak in two languages that seems to provide this protective effect? Alladi and co-authors explain:

The constant need in a bilingual person to selectively activate one language and suppress the other is thought to lead to a better development of executive functions and attentional tasks with cognitive advantages being best documented in attentional control, inhibition, and conflict resolution.

Intriguingly, when a patient speaks three (or more) languages, no extra benefits accrue neurologically. Speaking a single language beyond one’s native tongue is enough to do the trick.

So, now, my almost-monolingual brain is jealous.

I do know some conversational French, and I squeaked by speaking and comprehending enough Swahili to be polite and interactive while living in Kenya. But I’ve regretted not working up to full fluency in a second

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

May	3	NYS AFLT Colloquium, Albany, NY
May	17	Dante Award and Scholarship Luncheon, AATI LI, West Hempstead
May	29	LILT Spring Membership Meeting, Orlando's Restaurant, Commack, 4-7 PM
May	30	AATSP <i>Entrega de Premios</i> , Jericho HS
Jun.	6	FLACS Meeting, East Meadow
Jul.	8-11	AATSP Annual Conference, Panama City, Panama
Jul.	19-22	AATF National Convention, New Orleans, LA
Aug.	5-8	NYS AFLT Summer Institute, Oneonta, NY
Oct.	10-11	NYS AFLT Conference, Rochester, NY
Nov.	21-23	ACTFL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (This also includes AATG, AATI)

language. (As the "Learn to Speak Italian" tapes strewn around my house demonstrate, I haven't given up on this goal.)

The sounds of multiple languages swirling around me when I visit New York or Paris are enchanting, and I enjoy discussing with bilinguals the claims that switching between languages allows different personality traits to emerge within a single individual.

Being bilingual opens up new worlds of global connection and understanding, and almost certainly allows some degree of flexibility in personal expression, too.

Now we know, more concretely and convincingly than before, that there's a brain benefit to bilingualism, too.

Article written by Barbara J. King. Reprinted from 13.7 Cosmos & Culture, November 14, 2013.

Submitted by Anahí Walton-Schafer, Northport HS

ON A LIGHTER SIDE

With the lightning growth of technology, it's been almost inevitable changes should occur. Still the French stick to certain peculiarities and refuse to adapt.

For instance, the whole world says *fax*, but the French insist upon *télécopie*. Every other country uses the term *e-mail*, but the French prefer to stay with *courriel*. I know of no country except France that doesn't refer to *software* -- they insist on *logiciel*. And yet, they don't seem to acknowledge the hundreds of French terms in our English language, *coup d'état*, *carte blanche*, *bureau*, *rouge*... it would take hundreds of pages to list them all.

qui vive (*kee VEEV*) *noun*

Alert, lookout. (Used in the phrase "on the *qui vive*".)

From French *qui vive*, literally, "Who lives?" implying "Long lives who?" or "Whose side are you on?" It was

used by a sentry to challenge someone approaching the gate. A proper response might be *Vive le roi!* (Long live the King!) or *La France!*

lese majesty or *lèse majesté* (*leez MAJ-uh-stee*) *noun*

1. An offense against a sovereign power.
2. An attack against someone's dignity or against a custom or institution held sacred.

From French *lèse-majesté*, from Latin *crimen laesae maiestatis* (the crime of injured majesty).

frisson (*free-SON*) *noun*

A sudden, brief moment of excitement or fear; thrill, shudder.

From French *frisson* (shiver), from Old French *frison*, from Late Latin *friction-*, from Latin *frictio* (friction), from Latin *frigere* (to be cold).

carte blanche (*kart blanch, kart blansh*) *noun*

Unrestricted authority.

From French *carte blanche* (blank card or blank document).

dégringolade (*day-grang-guh-LAYD*) *noun*

A rapid decline, deterioration, or collapse (of a situation).

From French, from *dégringoler* (to tumble down, fall sharply), from Middle French *desgringueler*, from *des-* (de-) + *gringueler* (to tumble), from Middle Dutch *crinkelen* (to curl).

belles-lettres (*bel-LET-ruh*) *noun*

Literary works valued for their aesthetic qualities rather than information or instruction.

From French *belles* (fine) + *lettres* (letters, literature).

The great humorist Mark Twain once said, *In Paris they simply stared when I spoke to them in French; I never did succeed in making those idiots understand their language.*

Reprinted from various e-mail editions of WordSmith.com. Submitted by the Editor.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948)

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel Laureate

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored. Aldous Huxley (1894-1963), English writer

Thanks to Nancy Russo-Rumore and Anahí Walton-Schafer for proofreading this edition.



Richard Gentile
LILT Newsletter Editor
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**LILT WILL BE ON HIATUS,
JUNE 30, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015.**

NO DUES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.