

# NOTIS NEWS

VOLUME 13, No. 2 SUMMER 2000



## NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

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## NOTIS NOW ATA CHAPTER: 'WELCOME ABOARD!'

March 9, 2000

Caitilin Walsh  
President  
NOTIS  
PO Box 25301  
Seattle, WA 98125-2201

Dear Caitilin:

It is my great pleasure to inform you that at the recent meeting of ATA's Board of Directors, the Board unanimously accepted the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society's petition for Chapter status. As of Saturday, March 4, 2000, NOTIS is officially an ATA Chapter. Welcome aboard!

Over the years translators and interpreters from the Northwest have made countless contributions to the national association, and I know I speak for the entire board when I say that the ATA is both proud and delighted to count such a dynamic, thoughtful and active group among our Chapters.

Far from content just to have NOTIS as a chapter, I eagerly look forward to working with you to serve the needs of translators and interpreters in your beautiful part of the country. I have already informed ATA headquarters of your change in status, and as soon as possible NOTIS will be listed among the Chapters in all pertinent ATA publications and on its website. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about Chapters issues, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kirk Anderson  
Chair, Chapters Committee  
American Translators Association

### Benefits of Chapter Status:

- Chapters receive 10% dues rebate from ATA
- Chapters are covered by ATA's Directors and Officers liability insurance and by ATA's insurance covering venues for events
- Chapters are entitled to support from ATA for legislative actions
- Chapters receive logistical support from ATA for mailings, meetings, etc.
- Chapters are entitled to a free table at ATA conferences
- Chapters are eligible for ATA seed money for regional conferences
- Chapters have input on ATA Board issues through their vote at the Regional Groups Brainstorming Session
- ATA will advertise Chapters' existence in the *ATA Membership Directory* free of charge
- ATA will advertise Chapters' events free of charge in the *Chronicle*

**Northwest Translators  
and Interpreters Society  
(NOTIS)**

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 Vice-President Abigail Clay  
 Treasurer Jochen Liesche  
 Secretary Carol Leibowitz

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**NOTIS News** is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Please send submissions to Editor **Anita\_Krattinger@compuserve.com**. Submissions become the property of **NOTIS News** and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society, or its Board.

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**NOTIS MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Individual & Institutional \$35.00 a year  
 Corporate \$50.00 a year

For membership information write to **NOTIS**, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2001 or call **NOTIS** Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.  
 E-mail: [info@notisnet.org](mailto:info@notisnet.org)  
 Home Page: [www.notisnet.org](http://www.notisnet.org)

**NOTIS NOTES**

**WELCOME TO  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Letizia Alhaique Caioli** [Italian<>English], **Tomás Barendregt** [Czech<>English, Slovak>English], **Brian Buckner** [German>English], **Mario Enrique Chávez** [English<>Spanish], **Earle Oda** [Japanese>English], **Jürgen Pohl** [English>German], **Hilary A. Williams** [Spanish>English], **Heidi M. Reinhart** [Italian/German/English], **Beverly Corwin**, **Anna Witte**, **Samuel Cardenas**.

**WELCOME TO  
NEW CORPORATE  
MEMBERS**

**Pacific Interpreters**

**NOTIS  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**NOTIS NewsPagemaker:** NOTIS News goes into production four times a year. We are looking for a DTP-savvy layout artist to take over the graphic design of NOTIS News. If you are interested in working with a dynamic group of translators and interpreters, have some ideas for the layout and some time to volunteer, please call the Editor at (425) 747-5240. Experience in Adobe PageMaker a plus.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Maria Cristina Castro**, Editor of the Court Interpreters Association of Oregon (CIAO) Newsletter for her election as Treasurer to the Board of Directors of National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT). If you would like to subscribe to the CIAO Newsletter, please write to her at [mccastro@earthlink.net](mailto:mccastro@earthlink.net).

**GO TO  
WWW.NOTISNET.ORG**

[www.notisnet.org](http://www.notisnet.org) has been reorganized and expanded and now offers immeasurable treasures, including links to the Chicago Manual of Style and The Bottom Line by Fire Ant and Worker Bee, who offer advice to translators nationwide in their regular column in the Translation Journal. The new NOTIS web site now offers free for sale classifieds for NOTIS members. Go to [www.notisnet.org](http://www.notisnet.org) and see for yourself.

**Corrigendum**

Unfortunately we misprinted Albert Feldmann's first name in the last issue of NOTIS News. We sincerely apologize for that oversight.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IJET-2000 Kyoto

ATA President and NOTIS Board member **Ann G. Macfarlane** will give a presentation on the current state of the American translation and interpretation industry at the Eleventh International Japanese/English Translation Conference in Kyoto, Japan on May 20-21, 2000. This yearly conference has established itself as the most important event in the world of Japanese/English translation (for more information go to [www.jat.org](http://www.jat.org)). Read her personal impressions in the August issue of NOTIS News.

### LISA Forum Japan

Japan has emerged as the third largest non-US e-commerce market and provides unique challenges in both cultural and technical dimensions. The Localisation Industry Standards Association (LISA) Forum in Yokohama will discuss how industry leaders are implementing Enterprise Globalization und multilingual communication strategies in this key market. The program gives an insider's view of what is being localized on Japanese web sites and how to do it. Business and technical workgroup sessions presented in Japanese and English offer a hands-on opportunity to discuss specifics and exchange ideas. **Yokohama, Japan, June 28-30, 2000.** Registration and detailed agenda are available at [www.lisa.org](http://www.lisa.org).

### Software Localization Workshop

Localization is the process of adapting a software program for a specific international market, which includes translating the user interface, resizing dialog boxes, customizing features and testing results to ensure that the program still works. This workshop gives an introduction to localization and is offered by the Translation & Interpretation Institute in partnership with Bellevue Community College. Instructor is Ulrike Irmeler, German Terminologist at Microsoft, cost is \$175. **Two Saturdays, 7/15 and 7/22, 9 am to 3 pm at Bellevue Community College.** For information call (425) 564-3171.

### Honyaku Potluck Picnic

A potluck picnic for translators, interpreters, other Japanese<->English language pros and their families and significant others will be held on June 10 in Redmond.

Invited are all people with a substantial interest in the Japanese language. Although most people will be from the language professions, others are welcome! Please bring a dish or drink to share with others plus your own mat or lawn chair for sitting outside. Confirm your attendance with Ray Roman, preferably by e-mail to [jblt@seanet.com](mailto:jblt@seanet.com). Please make sure to include the following information: name, address, phone, number of people, food or drink item that you are bringing. **Saturday, June 10, starting around 1 p.m at the Redmond home of Harumi & Lloyd Lints.**

### Slavic Special Interest Group

Join the members of the NOTIS Slavic SIG for a gala celebration of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the apostles to the Slavic countries. We will meet at St. Dimitrius Greek Orthodox Church at 2100 Boyer Avenue, Seattle (not far from Montlake bridge), at 6:30 p.m. on June 24, 2000, to join in the festivities organized by the University of Washington Slavic Department. Make a reservation for the event (\$10) by June 16, 2000 or pay at the door (\$15). There will be singing, dancing, delicious food for sale and general fun. This has been a great event every year, and we hope to see many Slavic SIG members there.

Contact Shosh Westen at (206) 543-6848 at the UW Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures for information about the June 24 celebration. The contact telephone for making a reservation is (206) 543-3839. Contact Larissa Kulinich at (206) 236-0286 for more information about the Slavic SIG. **Saturday, June 24, 6:30pm, at St. Dimitrius Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle.**

### Get set to translate a la Gregory Rabassa...

Hone your translation techniques by participating in the Literary Translation Workshop on November 4th following the NOTIS Annual Meeting. Short literary texts in various source languages will be available at the ATA Conference Recap on October 3rd for you to take home and translate. At the workshop we will gather in language groups for lively discussions of the translation riddles that presented themselves in the text and your unique approach to solving them. Published translations of the actual text you have worked on will be available for comparison. If you are interested in participating, please call or e-mail NOTIS so that we can locate appropriate texts in your language pair.

## THE NOTIS WHITE PAPERS THE MASSES TO EDUCATE THE MASSES

CAITILIN WALSH, NOTIS PRESIDENT

I have always been envious of pictures of home offices without clutter. No books, no boxes of envelopes, toner cartridges and diskettes. Where do they keep their dictionary collections? Where do they keep that ugly beige filing cabinet? So, I was feeling understandably virtuous about having finally cleared out my office closet, effectively hiding all but the filing cabinet, which received a coat of spray paint. Karma being what it is, a big box labeled "NOTIS Archives" arrived only days later to lay claim to the empty space.

Well, I just had to open up that box and have a peek inside. A treasure trove, including a bursting folder with every *NOTIS News* that ever was. Deadlines far off, I dove in and found this pearl in the November/December 1989 issue:

### ***Help NOTIS Get Noticed!***

#### ***Wanted: Spotters.***

*Help your Board of Directors "spot" articles or reports in the local media which refer in any misleading way to our profession. Send a copy of the item you discover to the NOTIS P.O. Box as soon as you see it, and your Board will respond to those items by sending appropriate commentary to the relevant publications. NOTIS President Judy Langley has already started the process, and a commentary by her appeared in the Octo-*

*ber 2 [1989] Puget Sound Business Journal. Another letter, on behalf of the NOTIS Board to the P.I., is pending--watch for it! The publication of such commentary or letters helps promote recognition of the profession and will ultimately benefit you, the NOTIS-affiliated translator or interpreter!*

This sounds uncannily like the message from the panel at the ATA conference session on Translators and the Media. You can find a complete transcript of the panel discussion at <http://www accurapid.com/journal/11medib.htm>. The problem, they say, is that translators and interpreters have no image. The bottom line is that we are responsible for our image, and if things need "fixing," we're the ones to do it. Not fixing it hurts all of us, as an uninformed clientele seeks to avoid the perceived expense of doing it right (using under-qualified people or machines, or not translating at all).

I put to you that we as an organization are well placed to take this on. There are over 200 NOTIS members. Collectively, we are all "spotters" on the lookout for misconceptions that need to be corrected. I would venture that almost all of us could dig through our files and find a piece we wrote for a specific client that could be dusted off and used to educate

the masses. If we take turns writing articles and letters to the editor, no one person need feel overburdened. And there is strength in our numbers: One person mentioning something is interesting, two is a striking coincidence and three is beginning to be a syndrome.

Our Web site has been rearranged (like my closet) to accommodate a new "About Translating & Interpreting" section, containing a collection of links to useful client education information. In the coming months, look for a collection of White Papers to appear here. There will be two versions of each: one preformatted on our letterhead, ready to use as is; the other in an editable format, for you to "borrow" passages for a timely letter to the editor. These pieces are rewrites of letters and pieces written for other occasions by NOTIS Board members. If you have written something, we hope you will consider allowing our community to benefit from it. And if you've never written a letter to the editor, we hope this will give you a push in the right direction. It's the least we can do for ourselves.

*Caitlin Walsh is the NOTIS President and Webmistress, and works from French and German to English, specializing in software localization and culinary translations. She can be reached at [cwalsh@nwlink.com](mailto:cwalsh@nwlink.com).*

**NOTIS Board Meeting Monday, May 22, 2000**

**Slavic Special Interest Group Meeting Saturday, June 24, 2000**

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INTERPRETATION IN HEALTH CARE (NCIHC) EQUAL ACCESS FOR PATIENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

MAIA COSTA

**D**uring the past several decades, the influx of immigrants and refugees into the United States and Canada has added significantly to the limited-English-speaking population in those countries. Language and cultural differences between these groups and English-speaking institutions was causing great concern in some sectors about the quality of service being received by limited-English-speaking clients, and led to innovative programs in several areas of the country to provide interpretation services to those clients.

These initial efforts, resulting in programs in such places as Boston (MA), Minneapolis (MN), Stanford (CA), and Seattle (WA), were led by pioneering individuals who, though sporadically in contact with each other, were largely working alone on a local level. There was, however, a growing desire among the leaders of these programs to establish closer ties with others in the field of medical and social service interpreting, with the goal of establishing some kind of national group to wrestle with issues of role, standards, training and certification.

According to Cindy Roat, one of the founding members of the NCIHC and the Council's Co-Chair, of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program at PacMed Clinics in Seattle, this is an exciting time for medical interpretation. Consciousness is growing about the need for communication, collaboration, national standardization and funding for training programs across the country. The Office of Refugee Settlement recently set aside monies for training interpreters at each state.

The NCIHC began as an informal working group in 1994 in an attempt to start a national dialogue about issues in medical interpreting. The group met yearly until it

was formally established in 1998. It is composed of leaders from around the country who work as medical interpreters, interpreter service coordinators and trainers, clinicians, health care providers, policymakers, advocates and researchers. In June 1999 a Board of Directors, of which Cindy is Co-chair, was officially formed, and it has been focusing on developing the Council both administratively and programmatically.

The NCIHC's mission is "to promote culturally competent professional medical interpretation as a means to support equal access to health care for individuals with limited-English proficiency."

Their goals include:

- \* defining and supporting standards of quality health care for limited-English-proficient (LEP) individuals;
- \* supporting standards and a code of ethics for interpreters in healthcare;
- \* monitoring the development of policies, research, and model practices;
- \* sponsoring a dialogue of diverse voices and interests on related issues.

In order to achieve the above mentioned goals, the NCIHC has created four working committees. The Outreach and Membership Committee is developing a multidisciplinary membership that is geographically, ethnically and socially diverse. The Standards, Training and Certification Committee is working to produce a set of interpretation standards, guidelines for interpreter assessment and a report on the design and content of interpreter training. The Policy and Research Committee is tracking and responding to initiatives affecting interpreters and/or limited-English-speaking individuals while promoting dialogue regarding research related to lan-

guage barriers and health care. The Organizational Development Committee is establishing procedures and processes for the NCIHC.

Anyone who might be interested in getting involved in one of these committees is encouraged to contact either Cindy Roat (cindy@pacmed.org) or Julia Puebla Fortier (rcchc@aol.com), the Council's other Co-chair, of Resources for Cross Cultural Care in Washington, DC.

The NCIHC also sponsors an e-mail discussion group called NCIHC-list. Here, participants can raise issues, ask questions, share information and resources, and network with each other around topics related to health care interpretation and access to health-care services for limited-English-proficient persons. NCIHC-list is open to anyone with an interest in these issues. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to: NCIHC-list@diversityRx.org. In the subject line, type SUBSCRIBE. In the area for text, type SUBSCRIBE.

Cindy Roat and the Board of Directors now have their work cut out for them. They hope to shape and expand the organization, defining its work, reaching out to potential members and producing position papers relevant to medical interpretation. This is a tall order, but one that will leave the country with an organized vehicle for discussing issues, setting policy, giving guidance and networking among the many individuals who are working so hard on behalf of limited-English-proficient patients everywhere.

*Maia Costa does freelance German>English translation, as well as working parttime as a translator/editor for German Language Services. She can be reached at mcmw@wa.freei.net*

## Myth and Reality of Machine Translation - Will Computers Take Your Job?

*President Clinton's remarks during his State of the Union address prompted this practitioner of "human translation" to set the record straight:*

January 31, 2000

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thanks to the historic economic expansion you have presided over in your years in office, there has never been a better time to be a translator or an interpreter. The market for language services is booming and the number of translators and interpreters is increasing every day. Membership in our professional association, the American Translators Association, has doubled since 1992 to over 7000 members.

After listening to your State of the Union address on Thursday, our members have asked me respectfully to point out to you that while technology has produced many marvels, machines that "translate as fast as you can speak" are still a long way off. As you know from your work with interpreters in high-level meetings and negotiations, it takes experience, knowledge, native ability and training to interpret foreign languages correctly. Despite the increasing compactness and cleverness of all the computing devices now on the market, human speech remains something that can be interpreted correctly only by human beings.

Machines to translate speech instantaneously have been predicted for over fifty years, and yet the need for human translators and interpreters is at an all-time high. Nothing can replace the truly accurate, nuanced job that a trained human translator produces, and yet, the American public is largely unaware of this fact. Our work is an essential part of the success of American society. The American public needs to know what a tricky, challenging and high-level task every translator and interpreter engages in when he or she sets to work. Please speak to this reality. Please don't build false hopes by talking of machines that are still, unfortunately, in the realm of fantasy-land-where they will remain for the indefinite future.

Sincerely yours,

Ann G. Macfarlane  
President  
American Translators Association

**More information** about machine translation and translation memory tools can be found at [www.lisa.org](http://www.lisa.org). The Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA) has just published the first localization industry primer, which shows how this exploding industry is making globalization happen. The primer is a 35-page reference guide encompassing key international business elements, the localization process and the best business practices to achieve success. It provides information on memory translation tools and machine translation applications, a history of the evolution of this industry and it speaks to future trends and technologies. An executive summary and an order form for the primer can be found at [www.usa-lisa.org](http://www.usa-lisa.org).

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NOTIS

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## NAJIT Brain Twister of the Month

NAJIT reserves a page on their Web site for posting challenging legal translation problems. You can translate the Brain Twister of the Month into the language of your choice and post your solution or submit some other choice piece of legalese, by e-mailing it to [webmaster@najit.org](mailto:webmaster@najit.org).

**INCONTESTABILITY:** This Policy shall be incontestable, except for non-payment of premiums, after two years from its date of issue. No statements made by any person insured under this Policy relating to his insurability shall be used in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which such statement was made after such insurance has been in force prior to the contest for a period of two years during such person's lifetime nor unless it is contained in a written instrument signed by him.  
*Submitted by Janis Palma.*

**DEL CARÁCTER INIMPUGNABLE.** Esta Póliza será inimpugnable dentro de un plazo de dos años, contados a partir de su fecha de expedición, salvo en el defecto de pago de primas. Ninguna declaración que hiciera nadie asegurado al amparo de esta Póliza se empleará para impugnar la vigencia del seguro sobre el cual se hiciera dicha declaración después que el seguro hubiere estado en vigor durante los dos años inmediatos anteriores a la impugnación, dentro del transcurso de la vida de dicha persona, a no ser que constare en un instrumento por escrito que él firmare.

Translator's note: Any use of "impugnar" could appropriately be replaced with that of "contestar," inasmuch as this word is not a false cognate of its English counterpart. See *Diccionario de la Academia*, (1992) *contestar* pp. 390 2.

*Submitted by Tony Rivas.* To find a translation of the same paragraph into Czech go to [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

## Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation

Intensive three-week course: July 10 - July 28, 2000  
at the University of Arizona

The Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation is the longest running court interpreter training program in the United States. The Institute, now in its 17th year, is an intensive three-week course designed to help beginning and intermediate court interpreters develop their interpretation abilities and to help advanced or working interpreters hone their skills. Advanced, intensive program alternatives are available for experienced federal- and state-certified interpreters.

Toward this objective, the majority of curriculum time is spent in the language laboratory and small group workshops, working on simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and sight translation techniques and strategies. To supplement the didactic experience, lectures on law and ethics offer a conceptual framework and develop background knowledge for interpreters working in a court or other practice settings. The lectures are designed to improve vocabulary and to develop specialized vocabulary, retention skills, note taking, and self-instruction techniques.

The Haury Institute faculty is comprised of experienced court interpreters and translators, ranging in experience from staff court interpreters to freelance court and conference interpreters. Their specialties range from legal procedure, immigration, drug enforcement and terminology to regionalisms, medical interpreting, and more. Agnese Haury is an international philanthropist who has supported the training of court interpreters to protect the rights of limited- and non-English-speaking people in the United States judicial system since the first Institute in 1983. Dr. Roseann Dueñas González, Director of the National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy, named the Institute in Haury's honor in 1996.

### Course Description

Participants are given a pre-test (written and oral) on the first day of class, and based upon these results are put into groups (beginning, intermediate or advanced). If a participant's test results indicate that he or she is not at the language level required to participate in the Institute, the participant is advised that he or she may take the course on an audit basis to improve his or her basic skills.

On the final day of class, a post-test covering the same concepts as the pre-test is given to the participants to measure their increase in language ability resulting from the course. Post-test results have shown improvements ranging from 5 to 80%. All graduates of the institute reported an expanded Spanish and English language ability regardless of whether or not they aspired to be court interpreters.

For more information please contact the Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation, University of Arizona, Modern Languages Building, Room 445, P.O.Box 210067, Tucson, AZ 85721-0067, Tel. (520) 621-3615, E-mail: ncitp@u.arizona.edu or go to w3.arizona.edu.

### Translation and Interpretation Institute

The T&I Institute offers a certificate program for linguistically-skilled people of diverse educational backgrounds who wish to pursue a career in translating and interpreting. Courses are offered at Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA.

#### SUMMER 2000 (JUNE 19 - AUGUST 3)

- ◆ Introduction to Translation & Interpreting (INTRP 101)  
6 - 9 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays
- ◆ Fundamental Translation Skills (Trans 103)  
6 - 9 pm, Wednesdays
- ◆ Technology for Translators & Interpreters (INTRP 104)  
6 - 9 pm, Mondays/Wednesdays
- ◆ Ethics & Business Practices (INTRP 106)  
6 - 9 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays
- ◆ Adv. Translation Skills I&II  
Languages dependent upon enrollment

#### NONCREDIT COURSES

- ◆ Essential Skill-Building Seminar for Consecutive Interpreters
- ◆ Localization Workshop
- ◆ Skill-Building Seminar for Medical Interpreters
- ◆ How to Prepare a Polished Translation

#### FALL 2000 (SEPT 18 - DEC 8)

- ◆ Introduction to Translation & Interpreting (INTRP 101)
- ◆ Fundamental Interpreting Skills (INTRP 102)
- ◆ Vocabulary Acquisition & Terminology Research (INTRP 105)
- ◆ Adv. Translation Skills I&II  
Languages dependent upon enrollment

#### NONCREDIT COURSES

- ◆ Medical Interpreting Skill-Building Seminar

To request a brochure call 425-649-3171. To register for Institute courses, you must first register as a BCC student by calling 425-641-2222. International students please call International Student Services first at 425-649-3118. For information about specific course content call the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252. All classes and workshops are subject to change or cancellation by The T&I Institute or BCC. In most cases, advanced language-specific classes will run with three or more students. Please notify the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252 as soon as you can estimate in which quarter you expect to be ready for your advanced classes. In some cases, classes cancelled because of low enrollment will mean that you are not able to finish the certificate program as quickly as you anticipate.

# CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Monday May 22	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS Voicemail
Saturday June 24	Slavic Special Interest Group	Reservations Required	St. Dimitrius Greek Orthodox Church
Wednesday June 14	Financial Planning for Freelancers	All members welcome	University of Washington
Saturday August 12	NOTIS Annual Picnic & 5k Fun Run/Walk	All members are welcome	Magnolia Park
September 20-23	41 <sup>st</sup> Annual ATA Conference	<a href="http://www.ATANet.org">www.ATANet.org</a>	Orlando, Florida
Tuesday October 3	ATA Recap	All members are welcome	Seattle Public Library Downtown
Saturday November 4	Annual Meeting and Literary Translation Workshop	All members are welcome	University of Washington Room TBA

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