

**NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY**

**THE NOTIS STORY  
NOTIS THEN AND NOW**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of NOTIS and NOTIS News. The two dozen or so current members who have been with NOTIS since the very beginning will remember the NOTIS inaugural meeting in June of 1988, which was attended by about 100 translators and interpreters from Washington and Oregon, but the seed for NOTIS was planted long before that. We thought our members might enjoy reading the following excerpts from an article which appeared on Feb. 1, 1988 in an "informal newsletter to Washington State ATA members" and which served as a catalyst in the founding of our professional society later that year.

**Why Organize?  
by Judy Langley**

"It is 7 p.m. You're working on a rush translation due the next morning. You stumble on a term you cannot translate. It is crucial to the text, and you can't go on translating without it. However, your experience and your home library of references are of no avail. You would like to consult a colleague, but you don't know whom to call."

"This scenario, although not commonplace, probably occurs often enough to bear out the familiar assumption that most translators work in isolation from others in their profession, possibly even unaware of the languages and subject specialties of other local translators. Knowing other professionals in our field to consult about a terminology problem obviously is just one reason why joining a local translators and interpreters group would

prove beneficial.

"....There undoubtedly is much we can learn from one another. All it takes is the willingness to attend meetings, participate in the group's activities, lend a hand with its projects, in short, demonstrate our commitment to our chosen profession by sharing with like-minded colleagues...."

At the time that newsletter appeared early in 1988, a handful of local ATA members had been getting together informally to discuss how they and other area ATA members could be of assistance to the ATA in its preparations for the ATA Conference in Seattle later that year. Fortunately for the chain of events, long-time ATA member Judy Langley, who had recently moved to Seattle, joined the informal committee, and the idea came about of promoting the establishment of a local group simultaneously with promoting the ATA Conference. Her above-cited article also included the practical suggestion that since the ATA would be holding its 29th Annual Conference in Seattle that year, professional interpreters and translators of this area were being presented with a timely opportunity and compelling reason to organize at that particular time. She pointed out that they could be "a visible, vocal force at the Conference," a force that other (non-ATA affiliated) translators and interpreters, as well as representatives of the Seattle area business, media, government and educational communities, could not fail to notice.

That same informal newsletter included an invitation to area ATA members to attend a cocktail party which ATA was going to host in

Seattle on March 4, 1988. At that party, a number of individuals agreed to help out with Conference chores and also showed an interest in promoting a local organization. On March 24 a steering committee was formed by eleven of those ATA members, who would lay the groundwork for the establishment of a local or regional professional society. This committee, chaired by Judy, who a short time later became the first president of NOTIS, was to decide on a name, prepare bylaws, form committees, establish membership levels, etc. Last but not least, it was to plan and publicize an inaugural meeting. The result of several hectic months of work by steering committee members was the successful inaugural meeting on June 4, 1988,

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and Interpreters Society  
(NOTIS)**

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**Membership in NOTIS**

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

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**NOTIS** is a Washington State non-profit organization.

**NOTIS NOTES**

**WELCOME TO  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Richard Amerman, Marilyse Benyakar, Elena Bridges, Luck V.L. Bui, Patricia A. Chamuler, Henry J. Christoffers, Eleanor C. Elster, Brandi Gary, Steven R. Kronenberg, Gergana May, Rita Meher, Pascale B. Michel, Dov C. Prombaum, Meg Savlov, Veronique Savoye, Nicola S. Searle, Jay Stover, Tsuyoshi Takano, James A. Vail, Eliane Zambroski.**

**WELCOME TO  
NEW CORPORATE  
MEMBER**

**Fjord Press, Inc.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Elsa Brodin** on becoming a grandmother with the birth of Maya, born 5-19-98, 10:51 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. and measuring 19".

**PLEASE VISIT**

**DID YOU KNOW** that the NOTIS Web site is updated weekly? Come see what's changed! [www.NOTISnet.org](http://www.NOTISnet.org).

**NEW NIB**

The update to the NOTIS InfoBase will be at the end of June.

Look for it on our home page (<http://www.NOTISnet.org>).

**NOTIS WEB  
AND EMAIL**

Due to the untimely demise of our Internet Service Provider, our Web site and email have been off line for a couple of weeks. As we go to press, we are working to rectify the situation, and anticipate that everything will be working better than before by the time you read this. We apologize for any inconvenience!

## THANK YOU

**Mary Brown** for serving on the Board of Directors of NOTIS and as chairperson of the Publicity Committee and co-chair of the Program Committee. Good luck and best wishes on your California ventures.

## MOVING?

Please let us know your **new address and phone numbers** so we can keep your membership record and *Directory* information current. Remember, the electronic *Directory* updates quarterly and we want potential clients to be able to **find you!**

## MISCELLANEOUS

NOTIS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Elsa Brodin, Abigail Clay, Jean Leblon, Jochen Liesche, Ann Macfarlane, Alex Mosalsky, Katalin Pearman, Michelle Privat Obermeyer, Courtney Searls-Ridge, Kendrick Wagner, Caitilin Walsh, Pieter Zilinsky.**

## New Page

The Cascadia Page is now on our Web site! [www.NOTISnet.org/Cascadia/Cascadia.htm](http://www.NOTISnet.org/Cascadia/Cascadia.htm).

## Editor's Note: OMISSIONS

In the last issue of *NOTIS News* we did not give full credit for reprinting the Web Wise article, "Language Resources on the World Wide Web." It originally appeared in *The CHICATA News*, Newsletter of the Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association, Vol. 10 No. 4, Fall 1997.

**Alicia Marshall**, Editor, gave NOTIS permission to reprint this valuable item. **Frank Dietz**, Ph.D., the author, web site coordinator and member of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association, also generously gave his consent to reprint his work. Cooperation such as this strengthens the efforts of professional translators and interpreters nationwide. Thanks again Alicia and Frank.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## NOTIS Meeting

Freelance Translators meet Translation  
Companies:  
A match made in heaven... ?

How do translation bureaus screen translators from among the piles of unsolicited resumes they receive each month? How can translators find out if a bureau is reputable? What are the responsibilities of the translator? Of the bureau? What can translation bureaus and freelancers do to maintain good relationships with each other?

To help you answer such questions the Translation and Interpretation Institute, Bellevue Community College, and NOTIS join in inviting NOTIS and WITS members to a presentation on Agency/Freelancer relationships by Eve Lindemuth Bodeux. Eve is the Manager of Worldwide Translator Relations at Language Management International in Englewood, Colorado. She is a frequent speaker at ATA conferences and at translation and interpretation training programs around the US, and she has worked as a recruiter of translators for four years.

**Wednesday, June 10, 6:30-9:00 pm**, in Room G102 (gym building) at the Main Campus of Bellevue Community College.

ATA  
Accreditation Examination

A special sitting will be available during the Cascadia Conference, in September, for those members of ATA who wish to take one examination in a language pair. You must be a member of ATA at least one month prior to the examination date. For application forms and information contact **Jean Leblon** (425) 778-9889. Watch for details.

ATA  
Annual Conference

The American Translators Association will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Hilton Head, SC, November 5 - 9. For information call 888-990-3282, the ATA "Document on Request" line. The information you need will be faxed to you free of charge.

# HEY, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

ABIGAIL CLAY

On March 12, Carol McIntosh and Darlene Robbins told a group of around 25 NOTIS members and friends how to mind our own business. McIntosh and Robbins are neither advice columnists nor preachers. Robbins is the Director of Entrepreneurial Development and McIntosh is a counselor on the staff at the Small Business Administration in Seattle.

In the first part of a presentation entitled "Tap the Resources of the Small Business Administration," we learned about the wealth of information available to small business owners. In the second part, Ms. Robbins gave a multimedia presentation on business plans and their importance for getting financing, implementing strategy, marketing the business and keeping track of the dollars (or francs or marks or yen) that you earn.

The SBA acknowledged that translators and interpreters are language experts and don't necessarily want to spend a lot of time on business systems and planning. Then they presented us with some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that to run a business efficiently and to reach our potential we have to attend to such things as developing an accounting system, devising a growth and marketing strategy, and keeping on the right side of the (tax) law. The good news is that the SBA is there to help with all of these chores.

The resources at the SBA come in three categories: print, electronic/video and human. The Seattle Business Enterprise Center—a part of the SBA's offices—focuses mostly on the first two categories, although the counselors there are more than happy to help with any questions. This description taken from the SBA's Resource Guide says it all: "It's a bustling center of activity where a small business owner can move from work station to work station to create a business plan, research potential markets in a foreign country, discuss management issues with an experienced counselor, and peruse hundreds of business publications."

To help navigate the seemingly hundreds of books and other publications on such topics as writing a business plan, the BEC has a computerized catalogue with easy look-up

features. An entrepreneur can access marketing and statistical data on CD-ROM, use software business templates and even test his or her fitness as an entrepreneur (like it or not, that's what we are!) with "Harry, the interactive business video." In the video an accountant (the aforementioned Harry) will "accompany" you as you plan a business and he will assess your decisions along the way (possibly advising you to file for bankruptcy or, if you do well, depositing your proceeds in an imaginary bank account). Needless to say, many of us were relieved that Harry had been turned off by the time we got there for the tour of the BEC.

Always interested in how others view our professions, we took a quick look at the library's publications to see where translators and interpreters stand. Well, at least translators can take comfort from the fact that there was a section on setting up a translation business in the SBA's business planning guides. A scan of a list of occupations found our professions under the heading of "miscellaneous services." Some of us were amused to read some of the other professions in this esteemed category: bicycle assembly services, handwriting analysis, human skeleton preparation, ice surface maintenance, baby-shoe bronzing and aquatic weed maintenance!

Not comfortable going to a video for advice? The SBA also has a well-regarded program called the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), which offers free one-on-one counseling on almost any aspect of running a business. There are over 35 locations where you can meet with a SCORE volunteer in Western Washington, so you don't have to go too far from home to get tips on your business. In fact you don't have to leave home at all if you want to use SCORE's online counseling program. Email your question to SCORE and a volunteer will mail you back (URLs and phone numbers at the end of this article). You can also go to one of the SBA Small Business Development Centers (located primarily in community colleges) around western Washington for advice.

Other human resources are available in the form of workshops in their snazzy multi-

media presentation room (the corporate sponsors have provided every bell and whistle), or at the monthly women's breakfasts sponsored by the Women's Business Center, an office of the SBA. Workshops and breakfasts are very reasonably priced (with discounts for multiple sessions), and follow-up appointments with SCORE volunteers are encouraged.

The second part of the evening focused on business plans. It started with an inquiry about how many of us in the room had a business plan. Only one or two hands were raised, so we proved to be well-qualified to attend this session. Ms. Robbins was pretty convincing about why a one-person business needs a business plan. Even if you don't plan on applying for a loan (the reason most business plans are written), you can use your business plan to assess your potential for success and as a working model for your growth.

Ms. Robbins broke down the parts of a business plan into the following sections: *table of contents, executive summary, company description, products and services, marketing plan, management and organization plan, financial plan and appendices*. She then gave a detailed description of each section, with special emphasis on marketing and financial plans.

The *executive summary* is a short description of your entire plan and should include a statement on your company, sources and use of capital and why you will be successful.

The *company description* is more general, with a discussion of the profession you are in, the work you do, the status of the market (expanding? shrinking?) and maybe the toughest nut to crack: how you will gain market opportunity.

The *products and services* section is your chance to eloquently describe what it is we do as translators and interpreters and how you offer a unique and desirable service (Do you offer proofreading and translation? Are you the only interpreter of Czech in the region?).

Formulating a *marketing plan* can be a stumbling block for translators and interpreters. There is very little data out there on our professions. However, fleshing out the follow-

*continued on page 7*

## BOOK REVIEW:

### RUNEMAKER, A MARGIT ANDERSSON MYSTERY BY TIINA NUNNALLY! SLEUTHING IN SEATTLE

ANITA KRATTINGER

Translators and interpreters are not exactly the exciting and intriguing people one sees in TV mini-series or reads about in weekly magazines. But if you always had the secret sense that your daily word count and double checking your forensic vocabulary is almost as exciting as a good mystery novel, you should definitely read Tiina Nunnally's **Runemaker**.

Tiina Nunnally is a translator of Scandinavian literature for Seattle's own Fjord Press which publishes many works translated from Danish, Swedish and German. This year, Fjord Press celebrates sixteen years of publishing "only books we love" which turns out to be translations and other books with something to say about encounters between cultures. Their selected backlist of European titles includes jewels such as Rilke's favorite novel, **Niels Lyhne**, translated by Nunnally, and the third bilingual Swedish/English edition of **Love & Solitude: Selected Poems 1916-1923** by Edith Soedergarn. Yet they also publish action novels such as **Stolen Spring**, a tale about a teacher who eats poisoned malt drops, and **The Sardinian Deception**, a thriller set in Basque Spain, in which a Danish TV journalist dies in a café bombing.

**Runemaker** is the first in a series featuring Margit Andersson, a freelance translator in Seattle. Margit discovers a murder related to the 1802 theft of the Golden Horns from Denmark's Royal Art Chamber and gets pulled into the murder investigation by virtue of her rare and extensive knowledge of Scandinavian languages and lore. Of course, this is a work of fiction and any resemblance to actual persons, events, or locales is purely coincidental. But many a translator/interpreter will recognize as a hazard of the profession the ad hoc translation the police investigator requires Margit to do, or the translation she does as a favor, refusing any payment, that gets her tangled up in the murder investigation.

Although some of us, like Margit, might happily spend half an hour tracking down the correct name for a minuscule component in a calibration instrument, not every translator has a basement remodeled into a library with well over the necessary amount of reference books to indulge her perfection mania.

Most action in the novel takes place in Ballard (imagine that!) or West Seattle, where Margit lives, and she spends a considerable amount of time on Highway 99 trying to avoid the maniac drivers on I-5. When a stalker, with a heavy Danish accent, tries to extract information from Margit she becomes ever more closely involved with the Seattle police. She is then able to assist Detective Tristano in his hunt for the stalker. With help from her friend, Barbro, of the Nordic Heritage Museum, she almost deciphers the runes - but then I can't tell you everything!

**Runemaker** is a captivating treasure hunt. It draws from the historical myth of the Golden Horns and offers insights into the arcane world of technical translation. Margit wonders whether "anyone ever fully appreciated what

was actually demanded of a translator," since "so many people fail to realize that translating was not a mere reading or typing job. It was a much more complicated process, requiring an intimate knowledge of two cultures as well as two languages. The translator had to be able to comprehend and then convey the subtlest nuances, which were present in even the driest scientific documents. It was meticulous and time consuming work." That's why **Runemaker** makes an excellent gift for all those non-believers.

In May, the second book in the Margit Andersson series, titled **Fate of Ravens**, is due in bookstores. Our protagonist agrees to an interpreting assignment at Sea-Tac airport and the sudden death of an arriving Scandinavian passenger plunges her into another tense murder investigation. As instructive as she is entertaining, Nunnally weaves strains of the ancient Norse myth of the god Odin and two information-gathering ravens, Huginn (Thought) and Muninn (Memory), into her enlightening tale.

*Tiina Nunnally, Runemaker, 1996, paperback, \$12.00, ISBN 0-940242-77-X;*

*Fate of Ravens, 1998, paperback, \$12.00, ISBN 0-940242-80-X.*  
Fjord Press, P.O. Box 16349,  
Seattle, WA 98116. (206) 935-7376.

NOTIS

#### **P.S. Attention Budding Novelists**

If, for a change of pace from those dreary technical translations, you have written or thought about writing a novel, visit [www.fjordpress.com/fjord](http://www.fjordpress.com/fjord) and check out their guidelines and application form for the first annual **Fjord Discoveries First Novel Award**. The winner receives \$1000 in cash and possible publication by Fjord Press. Deadline is October 15, 1998.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAITILIN WALSH

Ann Macfarlane's piece on "Where Were You Ten Years Ago?" in the last *NOTIS News* spurred me to my own reminiscing. Ten years ago, I was a graduate student in the midst of planning our wedding. Today, I'm working with a committee planning the Fifth Biennial Cascadia Conference.

While our wedding was a considerably smaller shindig than the upcoming Cascadia meeting, there are certainly some parallels to be drawn. We have to make lots of logistical arrangements, we need to let people know about it, we need to keep lists of who is planning to attend, and we have to figure out what to feed them.

Thankfully, there are differences too; while I only got one shot at The Big Day, we get a chance to organize a Cascadia conference every two years, so we can't help but get better and better at it. We do hope you're planning to join us at Cascadia '98, and promise we'll do our best to ensure that a good time is had by all. In other news, we have a decision coming up in regard to our relationship with the American Translators Association. As you may already be aware, the ATA Board has voted to eliminate the category of Cooperating Group, leaving us with a choice of the status of Chapter or Affiliated Group. I expect to be hearing more details from ATA Headquarters in the coming months, and will be asking you, the members, for your input and opinions in order to guide your board in making this choice.

And finally, a heads-up. Our treasurer, Jochen Liesche, has been working diligently on preparing a policy and procedural document encompassing all aspects of the NOTIS treasury. One of the points brought up during discussion was the awkwardness of having the officers' terms differ from the calendar year, which is used by the Internal Revenue Service. To rectify this, the board has approved asking for a bylaws amendment changing officers' terms to the calendar year. You will be receiving the full text of the proposal in the third quarter, long before our annual meeting, where you will have a chance to vote on it.

## PINE TREES, PALMETTOS AND PELICANS

ANN G. MACFARLANE  
ATA CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

Plans are well underway for the 39th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association. We will be meeting from November 5 to 8 on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, a resort area whose reality I found to be as charming as its reputation. I hope that many of our NOTIS members will consider making the trek. Although it's an island, Hilton Head is very accessible. There are non-stop flights from Seattle to Charlotte, North Carolina (easy connection to the island on a one-hour commuter flight) and to Savannah, Georgia (45-minute ride by bus). We have exciting plans for valuable pre-conference seminars, varied educational sessions, and a number of new recreational opportunities. When your mind is ready for a break from technology, terminology, and translation or interpretation, you can join in the first-ever ATA tennis tournament, or try for a round of golf on one of the twenty-three famous golf courses on the island. Watch for details and do plan to join us.

### CASCADIA '98

#### Fifth Biennial Conference for Translators and Interpreters

September 18 & 19, 1998, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington

The largest gathering of language professionals in the Northwest has been expanded to include pre-conference activities, including an ATA accreditation examination sitting, a tour of a high-tech business and a welcoming banquet. Sessions include speakers on The Internet Résumé, Terminology Management, Tips for Running a Home Office, Translation Theory, Stress Management, and Video Conferencing, in addition to the opening plenary session and numerous exhibits.

Co-sponsored by NOTIS (Northwest Translators & Interpreters Society), SOMI (Society of Medical Interpreters), STIBC (Society of Translators and Interpreters of B.C.), TTIG (The Translators & Interpreters Guild), and WITS (Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society).

For more information, please contact NOTIS/Cascadia '98, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2201, (206) 382-5642, or email [info@NOTISnet.org](mailto:info@NOTISnet.org). More information and links can be found on the Cascadia '98 Web site:

<http://www.NOTISnet.org/cascadia/cascadia.htm>.

## PREPARE FOR THE GREAT CRASH

MIKE CONNER

Your hard disk is going to crash, and you are probably not ready for it. I used to listen smugly to people who lost a mountain of precious data when their hard disks took sick and died. That couldn't happen to me. I have been computing since the days of DOS 1.0 and never had any serious hardware trouble.

Well, reality arrived when my new 3.1 GB drive started to sound like a lawnmower that had run out of oil. When I shut down the system and rebooted, the screen displayed the dreaded message: hard disk failure.

Last April, in the process of installing the new drive, somehow the tape seal around the drive got peeled back, exposing the innards. This opening invited dust, cat hair, and other impurities into the drive, leading to a total shutdown in October.

I had various backups that prevented my losing more than a week of financial records, but I wasn't very conscientious about backing up documents: it had been over two months since I'd copied my most recent work onto archival floppies. And I hadn't even thought about saving e-mail and fax address books.

There is only one way to prepare for the inevitable day when your hard disk craters: back it up! Some obsessive types do it once a

day, but weekly works for me. In the past the great deterrent has been the disk-swapping routine, which with 3.5" floppies requires constant monitoring and a lot of time. But since I purchased a Zip drive with its 100-MB cartridges, backing up has been much easier. Essentially they function like large-capacity floppies.

You may find a better way to accomplish this, but here's how I do it.

First of all, for archival purposes I made a mirror copy of all my vital data on separate Zip disks: documents on one, financial records on another, and so on. During the week I work on my regular hard drive, either saving my work to the appropriate Zip disk or leaving work in progress in one of several general folders (Windows95 sets up folders called "My Documents" and "My Backups"), which are convenient, if a little silly sounding, for this purpose.

Once a week, Fridays for me, I sort everything out and run the Rescue program contained in Norton Utilities. It not only saves critical operating system files which are needed to start your computer in case of a disaster, you can specify other files you want to back up.

Since it doesn't make sense to back up the entire disk (I do not back up program files –

after a crash they must be reinstalled from the original CDs anyway), I take a time- space-saving selective approach: customized templates, configuration files, address books, word lists, and of course, data files. It's not always easy to identify these, as each program has its own nomenclature. Files ending in .cfg, .adb, and .dct are typical candidates.

Finally, but probably most importantly, I create an emergency startup disk on a 3.5" floppy (Norton does this for me) which includes everything needed to boot the computer from drive A: when all else fails. This is critical, since it's not possible to boot from the damaged hard disk or from a Zip disk. Once the computer is up, I can diagnose the hard disk problem, replace it if all else fails, and run the Restore program that Norton put on it for just this occasion.

One last tip: it does no good to have a backup plan unless you do the backup. Norton Utilities pops up a reminder at the interval you specify. Without such a reminder, it would be too easy to ignore this precaution.

Just remember: the Great Crash is coming to your computer sooner than you think.

*Editor's Note: This article is reprinted by the kind permission of the author, Mike Conner, Editor of **The Letter**, published by the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association. It originally appeared in **The Letter**, January 1998.*

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### ***"Mind Your Own Business.."***

ing categories in your business plan can help you focus your efforts: market opportunity, market definition, competition, strategy, forecasting, and sales and expense projections.

Outlining the *management and organization* of your business will probably be simple. Most of us are sole proprietors and while we may not think of ourselves as CEOs, CFOs, Payables and Receivables Clerks, VPs for Marketing and Chief Sanitation Engineers, we are. Simply writing "Owner" will do the trick in this section for single-person businesses.

Even if you don't create a full-fledged business plan, a *financial plan* is a vital part of any business success. Keeping records, tracking costs and then assessing those costs will help you keep your business afloat, or

even going strong. How much do I need to make in a year to survive? Am I charging enough? Do I have enough reserves to tide me over during dry spells? By answering these questions you can honestly assess how your business stands. We didn't have time to cover the *appendices* but I'm sure there is a book at the BEC that could tell us why we cannot take the appendices out of our business plans.

The overall response to the SBA and the presentations seemed very positive. The impressive array of resources, technology and expertise at the Business Enterprise Center banished any notions we might have had that translators and interpreters have nothing learn from business professionals. We might even

pick up a thing or two from an interactive video.

SBA phone number: (206) 553-7310

SCORE Desk phone number: (206) 553-7320

SBA Seattle District Office site:  
[www.sba.gov/regions/states/wa/seat.html](http://www.sba.gov/regions/states/wa/seat.html)

SCORE web site: [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

SCORE email web site:  
[www.scn.org/civic/score-online/](http://www.scn.org/civic/score-online/)

Small Business Development Center web site:  
[www.sbd.c.wsu.edu](http://www.sbd.c.wsu.edu)

Online Women's Business Center site:  
[www.onlinewbc.org](http://www.onlinewbc.org)

(The above numbers and sites are as of October 1997 and subject to change.)

## BROKERAGE COMING SOON?

REBECCA ELDER, COORDINATOR, THE LANGUAGE BANK AT TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE

I have been working my way through the grapevine regarding DSHS plans to implement a statewide brokerage system for all MAA/social service interpreters. What I've been hearing is that the brokerage system may be nearer than most of us are aware of — possibly by the end of this year. It seems that DSHS has been working quietly to iron out implementation and legal issues and hasn't been broadcasting its plans to contract very soon with Merino and LLC for all its interpreting needs.

So, has anybody else been doing work to try to get more information before any bombs are dropped? What are you finding out? What does this mean for interpreters? For agencies? Should we be fighting this — or

could it be a good thing for interpreters and clients? This is a big change coming and I'm surprised at how little seems to be known about it.

I'm new to this field (coordinator here since January) so maybe I'm missing something — maybe this isn't a big deal.... But I have the feeling that it is.

Feel free to call me here at (253) 593-6101, or if you're calling from Seattle, dial 682-9112. I'd like to be able to tell Language Bank interpreters what's coming and to offer a space where interpreters can get together and talk about this and make plans if need be.

We all need more information about this brokerage issue.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Readers of NOTIS News will be familiar with the Department of Social and Human Services brokerage issue, which has been mentioned from time to time in our pages since 1995. A pilot project using two agencies as contractors or "brokers" for interpretation has been under way in the Yakima area since November 1, 1997.

In early May, 1998, a DSHS official informed Ms. Elder of the Language Bank at Tacoma Community House that the Office of Provider Services, Medical Assistance Administration (MAA), is not satisfied with the progress of the pilot project. It appears that there are problems pertaining to the ability of the contractors to provide qualified interpreters when and where they are needed. The official states that MAA was currently not planning to participate until access issues were worked out.

## NOTIS PICNIC AND 5K FUN RUN/WALK

Put your dictionaries aside, rest your hard drives a moment and come enjoy an afternoon of fun and relaxation with your colleagues at the NOTIS picnic on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at Magnolia Park. After a one-year hiatus, the picnic is back! Bring a potluck dish to share, your family, a friend, but most importantly, bring yourself!

And for those of you who are interested in an exhilarating escape from the confines of your desk, or who, perhaps, have been concerned that the summer will fly by before you have a chance to run outside and catch a legitimate ray of fleeting Seattle sunshine, we propose the first annual "Run from your computer" 5k Run/Walk. The fun run/walk will take place on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> before the picnic begins. You should finish in plenty of time to refuel and relax at the picnic afterwards.

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate everything from course routing and water stop management to official timing and publicity for this new event. Please contact Michelle Privat Obermeyer at (206) 706-1418 if you are interested in lending a hand.

### 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. For information call: (206) 281-9612. To register call: (425) 641-2263

#### Summer Schedule

Introduction to  
Translation and Interpreting  
(INTRP 101)

R6750

T/Th 6-9 pm 6/30-7/30

Rm B256N

Basic Translation Skills  
(TRANS 103)

R6751

M/W 6-9 pm 6/29-7/29

Rm C167

Technology for  
Translators and Interpreters  
(INTRP 104)

R6752

M/F 6-9 pm 7/20-8/24

Rm J129 and ASR

Adv. Translation Skills I  
-German (TRANS 109)

R6753

T/F 6-9 pm 6/30-8/4

Rm B257N

Adv. Translation Skills II  
-German (TRANS 110)

R6753

T/F 6-9 pm 8/7-9/4

Rm B257N

Adv. Translation Skills I  
-Japanese (TRANS 109)

6755

T/Th 6-9 pm 6/30-7/30

Rm B257S

Adv. Translation Skills I  
-Japanese (TRANS 110)

6756

T/Th 6-9 pm 8/4-9/3

Rm B257S



*continued from page 1*

### ***“The NOTIS Story”***

at which about two dozen individuals joined NOTIS immediately, followed by many more later that year.

The rest of the story is known: NOTIS, which began as a steering committee with eleven members, now has more than 200 members, including 21 corporate and 3 institutional members. NOTIS News, which started out with just four pages produced on a simple word processor and printed on a daisy-wheel printer, has expanded to 12 pages and is produced on state-of-the-art desktop-publishing equipment. The *NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters*, which was first published in 1989 in printed form only and distributed to a select number of local businesses, is now available not only in print, but also electronically as *NIB—the NOTIS InfoBase*—and *NOTIS News* is available on NOTIS’s own Web site as well.

NOTIS, like any organization, could not exist without the hard work of its volunteer board of directors. A special acknowledgment is due not only to our first president, Judy Langley, but also to several other founders and past presidents. One of the founders, Jean Leblon, has been on the board since the very beginning, serving various terms as president, secretary and treasurer. He still serves on the board as a director, and he coordinates the annual ATA practice test and accreditation test. Another founder and past president, Susana Stettri Sawrey, has played an important role in local and Washington State interpreter training, and she has also been president of our sister society WITS (Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society) for several terms. Yet another past president, Courtney Searls-Ridge, developed a modest translator training program for NOTIS at Bellevue Community College. Later, Courtney and Susana teamed up with the Washington Academy of Languages in Seattle to start the more structured Trans-

lation and Interpretation Institute, which began as a division of the Academy in 1994 and recently moved its operations entirely to Bellevue Community College. The Washington Academy of Languages, a charter corporate member of NOTIS, itself played a vital role in that Chaouky Kaboul, a director of the Academy and himself a founding individual member of NOTIS, was our first membership chair. Our current president, Caitilin Walsh, who was the NOTIS membership chair for a number of years, created the remarkable *NOTIS InfoBase*, the first—and as far as we know the only—downloadable electronic information base for translators’ services in the country. Last but not least, our immediate past president, Ann Macfarlane, now is president-elect of the ATA.

Congratulations to NOTIS on its 10th anniversary. May she have a long life and flourishing career ahead!

# CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Wednesday June 10	Translation Company & Freelancer relationships	Eve Lindemuth Bodeux Manager Worldwide Translator Relations Language Management International	6:30 - 9:00 pm Bellevue CC, Main Campus Room G102, Gym. building
Saturday July 11	NOTIS Picnic and "Run from your Computer" 5k fun run/walk	NOTIS members and friends annual picnic and first annual fun run/walk	11:00 - 3:00 pm Magnolia Park
September 18 - 19	Cascadia Biennial Conference	NOTIS, SOMI, STBIC, TTIG, WITS	Meydenbauer Center Bellevue, Washington
November 5 - 9	ATA Annual Conference	39th annual event with an intensive program	Hilton Head South Carolina

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