NOTIS-WITS JOB FAIR

AMELIA GILL

My grandmother the Latin teacher always said, “Young lady, if you’re going to attend a job fair, make sure it is the first NOTIS-WITS T&I job fair on Saturday, September 18, in Shoreline, Washington.” And of course she was right. I don’t know if a two-hour T&I job fair is supposed to be warm and fuzzy, but it was a pleasure to attend this one, and not just because of the fine weather on the way to and from the bus.

Bright, Saturday afternoon sunshine was no hindrance to a great turnout of translators and interpreters at the Shoreline job fair; NOTIS office manager, Anita Krattinger and board member Carol Leibowitz counted sixty-nine attendees. Multilingual and specialized agencies sent representatives and materials, as did both the King County District and Superior Courts. (Their information on Washington State courtroom terminology and procedure was gratefully snatched up by this native Pennsylvanian who spent the last five years living under Germany’s judicial system!) The NOTIS Slavic Special Interest Group also used the job fair as a forum to plan workshops and regular meetings for their Russian and American business professionals.

The ATA presence was quite noticeable in terms of publications and representation from the national board. “Washington State in some respects is at the forefront in foreign language interpretation and translation, but our profession is still somewhat fragmented,” said ATA President-elect Ann Macfarlane. “We felt that many freelancers would welcome the chance to meet with agency representatives face to face. We are also delighted that WITS collaborated with us because they are the specialists in court interpretation.”

As always, thanks and praise go out to the volunteers: Ken Wagner, Ray Roman, Jean Leblon, Lilly May Bayley and Ines Bojlesen, a Portuguese translator from Portland who arrived early, helped set up and clean up. Deya Nolan was the force behind the thoughtful and delicious table of refreshments that magically appeared to feed the throng!

Currently, consideration is being given to the region’s next T&I job fair, which will probably be larger than its predecessor. A fact that would please my grandmother.

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NOTIS NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Laura M. R. Bammer [Spanish], Françoise Duvernay [French], Richard B. Gabbert [Japanese], Amelia R. Gill [German], Chisako Hisamatsu [Japanese], Michele La Roche-Weber [German], Satu Mikkola [Finnish], Heather A. Murchison, Ph.D. [Portuguese], B. Louise Nick [German], Jonas Nicotra [Portuguese, French], Ute Maria Petersen [German, Spanish, French], Sadao Sasaki [Japanese], Nathalie B. Scharf [French], Lotte Schmitz [German, French], Pablo Sepulveda [Spanish], Alexander Tsvetkov [Russian], Thomas White [Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French].

CORPORATE MEMBER

Bruce International, Inc.

WELCOME BACK

It was a delight to have Lilly May Bayley back again greeting and registering members at our most recent NOTIS meeting. Stay well. NOTIS appreciates you.

ATA OFFICERS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Congratulations to Courtney Searls-Ridge who was elected Secretary of the ATA at the Annual Conference in St. Louis. Congratulations as well to Ann Macfarlane who after a two-year warm-up as President-elect was officially handed the gavel of President of the ATA.

THINK MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

We'll be sending out reminders for renewal at the end of the year, but you can save us postage and time by renewing early. Membership rates remain the same for 2000: $35/yr. for Individual and Institutional members, and $50/yr. for Corporate members. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your address and phone number when you renew.

PLEASE VISIT

DID YOU KNOW that the NOTIS Web site is updated weekly? Come see what's changed! www.NOTISnet.org

MOVING?

Please let us know your new address and phone number(s) 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!
DEPARTURE - EDITOR'S NOTE

After seven years of service as editor and contributor to the progressive evolution of NOTIS News I have decided that NOTIS, as it moves into a new century, should have a new guide for its quarterly publication. I have enjoyed the stimulation and challenges that this responsibility offered me and trust that all members of NOTIS, as well as our colleagues, with whom we have a publications exchange relationship, have regularly discovered something of value on our pages. I wish to thank several NOTIS members who have through the years shown concern and provided aid in the production of NOTIS News. Courtney Sears-Ridge (my recruiter), Caitlin Walsh (advisor and electronic guide), Ann Macfarlane (fountainhead of essential information), Michael Broschat (computer redesigner), Michael Wahlster (our original pagemaker), Anngret Keller-Davies (our enduring and well-tempered pagemaker), Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich (electronic editor), Jean Leblon (always alert to traditional needs), Jochen Liesche (the timely treasurer), Nancy Thiele (for quick study excellent prose), Abby Clay (for new helping hands), and Willy Evans (the first editor, founding member and archivist). A thank you to the editorial board, all the writers, proofreaders: Ann Macfarlane, Katalin Pearman, Michelle Privat Obermeyer, Laura Garcia and ancillary service providers: Rosa Allen and especially to production assistant, Ursula Zilinsky, for her constant attention to timeliness, order and details. And, finally, a thank you to all the members whose regular support brings NOTIS News to life four times a year.

Pieter Zilinsky

MISCELLANEOUS

TWO LINES: A journal of translation
Fires, the 1999 issue of world literature from TWO LINES is available at $11.00 plus postage ($2 within USA, $2.50 Canada or Mexico, $4 international) by check or money order. Other titles are available. Contact: TWO LINES, P.O. Box 641978, San Francisco, CA 94164-1978. editors@twolines.com or www.twolines.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTIS Annual Meeting & Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Shoreline Center, Horizon Room.
Come meet the people who help NOTIS help you, revisit colleagues and make new contacts at the Annual Meeting. An important vote regarding the future status of NOTIS with regard to the ATA will take place at this meeting. Confidential ballots will be mailed to all members and can be submitted by mail or in person. The business of the society will be examined, after which we shall enjoy refreshments. Your contribution will be of value if you attend.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-5 to NE 175th St. Exit (=Exit #176). Turn WEST on 175th; go two blocks, turn RIGHT on Meridian Ave.; continue to N. 185th, turn RIGHT, then continue to 1st Ave. NE and turn LEFT. Shoreline Center is on the right. Use the southernmost parking lot next to the Senior Center.

ATA Accreditation Workshop
NOTIS will again offer an Accreditation Workshop in preparation for the annual April American Translators Association Examination. The workshop will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2000, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (come early, if possible) in room 216 Denny Hall, on the University of Washington campus. Presented by NOTIS, this workshop will help you prepare for all the “major and minor dos and don’ts” of the exam. Registration deadline: Saturday, January 15.
Cost before deadline: $15 for members of NOTIS, WITS, SOMI; $20 for non-members. Cost after deadline (if places are available): $25 for all.
To register and for other information and advanced handouts: call Jean Leblon at (425) 778-9889. If there is no answer, please leave a message with a very clear mention of your name, spelled out, and telephone number(s) where and when you can be reached.

SLAVIC SIG
The Slavic SIG will meet on Saturday, February 26, 2000. Time and place to be announced.

ATA Exam Sitting
The ATA examination will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2000, 12:30-4:00 p.m. (exam begins at 1:00 p.m; come 1/2 hr. early), in room 019 Architecture Hall, University of Washington. To register and for other information: call ATA at (703) 683-6100. Registration deadline: April 15, 2000. Membership in ATA by March 25 is required. Confirm with ATA and inquire about cost.

Come see what's changed! www.NOTISnet.org

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Y2K RESOURCES ONLINE
FRANK DIETZ

(Reprinted from the AATIA Letter, September, 1999, with permission.)

Unless you spent the last few years under that proverbial rock, you should have heard about the Y2K issue, a.k.a. the “Millennium Bug”—the fact that in the Stone Age of the computer era programmers used two digits to mark the year, so that two-digit codes won’t be able to distinguish between the year 2000 and the year 1900. The predictions of its effects range from “no big deal” to apocalyptic gloom.

The Y2K Database at http://y2k.y2kbase.com/ lets you check the Y2K compliance of utility companies, airlines, government agencies and many other institutions by linking you to their Y2K compliance information. The Red Cross has a useful site at http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/y2k.html explaining the problem and suggesting preparations. Software for testing and fixing Y2K computer problems can be found at http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Year_2000_Problem/Software/

The Small Business Administration has a very useful site at http://www.sba.gov/y2k/


If all this information depresses you, take a look at some Y2K humor sites, e.g. http://www.cartoon2000.com/ or http://www.leonardsloan.com/about/y2k/index.htm that foresee such hilarious consequences as getting paid for 100 years of unused vacation days by the payroll computer...

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR ENGLISH WRITING
BARBARA RENICK

(Reprinted from the CATI Quarterly, September 1999, as adapted from an article entitled “Computer Resources for Writers” in the June 1999 APG Quarterly, a publication of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and used with permission.)

Grammar books were always a source of frustration during the typewriter era of writing. It often took longer to look up one unclear rule of grammar in a book than it did to write a three-page paper. The Internet gives us many different ways to access information. On the Internet, you can quickly search for a Web page that mentions “grammar” AND “its” AND “it’s” to find the appropriate rule of grammar for the use of these two words. You do not need to know the technical name for this grammar rule as you would to find it in the index or table of contents of a book on grammar.

Having the Internet at hand is like having your own library at your fingertips twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Use a natural-language search engine (such as Ask Jeeves, at www.askjeeves.com) to find grammar help online. Simply type in “Where can I find grammar help?” and Ask Jeeves finds dozens of possible matches covering the subject. These sites often include:
• online tutorials
• hyperlinks to sites with related information
• lists of reference works (books, articles, etc.) on the subject
• information about related e-mail discussion groups (mail lists or newsgroups) or chat areas.

A few Web sites even offer one-on-one help by e-mail or telephone. Anyone with Internet connections can also take online university classes in writing, grammar, or proofreading to improve their writing skills.

For your convenience, links to the following sites can be found at http://zroots.com/writing.htm:
• Business English Exercises
  http://www.better-english.com/exerciselist.html
  Business English grammar, vocabulary, listening and reading tutorials are included at this site.

• Chris’ Wave Resource for Writing
  http://www.humberc.on.ca/~coleman/cw-soft.htm
  This site includes links to shareware programs for MS-DOS and M S-W indows to assist writers; reference material about grammars, handouts, guides, and dictionaries; and W W W links to online writing labs and forums.

continued on next page
• Common Errors in English
http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html
A list from A to Z of words that are often misused.

• Elements of Style
http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/strunk/
The original version of this classic written in 1918 by William Strunk, Jr. is online at this site.

• The English Grammar Clinic
http://www.edunet.com/english/clinic-h.html
The English Grammar Clinic is about the English version of English. This UK site includes resources for students, teachers, and those who just like the official language of the UK.

• Garbl's Online Writing Experts
http://pw1.netcom.com/~garbl1/experts.html
This site makes the following offer: "Hi! If you have a writing, grammar or style question and don't have the time, energy or desire to find an answer in the online writing resources elsewhere in this Web site, send your question to one of the folks below to get personal, anonymous service."

• Grammar Bytes
http://www.chompchomp.com/
This site contains grammar explanations, handouts for teachers and students, and interactive exercises.

• The Grammar Lady
http://www.grammarlady.com/
The stated purpose of this site is to be helpful, to raise consciousness about the rules of grammar, and to remind everyone of ways to have fun with language.

• Guide to Grammar and Style
http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/
This site includes Jack Lynch's notes on grammatical rules, comments on style, and suggestions on usage that he put together for his classes. He includes specific articles on usage and general articles on style.

• Guide to Grammar and Writing
http://webster.commnet.edu/HP/pages/darling/grammar.htm
This helpful site was written/prepared by Professor Charles Darling for English courses at Capital Community-Technical College and for the use of the general public online.

• Indispensable Writing Resources
http://www.stetson.edu/~rhansen/writing.html
This site includes a broad range of writing and researching advice, links to a number of reference materials online, links to writing labs, links to Web search engines, and links to writing-related Web sites.

• Net Sage Wordware Page
http://www.dezines.com/words/
This is an interactive Web site dedicated to helping you learn advanced English vocabulary words of the sort typically seen on the GRE and other college entrance tests.

• Online Writing Lab
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
The Purdue University Writing Lab has excellent handouts online on a variety of topics of interest to translators, including English as a Second Language.

• Paradigm Online Writing Assistant
http://www.powa.org/
The Paradigm Web site is an interactive guide and handbook to writing for both the inexperienced and experienced writer.

• Pop-up Grammar
http://www.brownlee.org/durk/grammar/
The Pop-up Grammar Project sponsors this English grammar instruction site to assist students in developing essential English grammar skills. This site provides tests of your English grammar ability via interactive grammar quizzes. Pop-up Grammar then evaluates your strengths and weaknesses.

• Proofreading Strategies
http://gopher://gopher.bgsu.edu/00/Departments/write/Proofreading
"No matter how many times you read through a 'finished' paper, you're likely to miss many of your most frequent errors." This site provides advice to help you proofread more effectively.

• Virtual Writing Clinic
http://www.negia.net/~cats/
The Virtual Writing Clinic is a consulting and tutorial service for writers.

• Vocabulary
http://www.vocabulary.com/
A fun site to help you improve your vocabulary.

• Writer's Toolbox
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/6346/
This site has a diverse collection of Internet resources for writers.

• The Writer's Toolbox
http://acss.sun.pstcc.cc.tn.us/~ksnorris/tools.html
Keith Norris is obviously a teacher with a quirky sense of humor. He opens his Web site with the following statement: "I hope the selections below provide some guidance and help, especially if you are a student of mine with a paper due tomorrow a.m."

Barbara Renick is a specialist in genealogical computing and co-author, with Richard S. Wilson, of "The Internet for Genealogists A Beginner's Guide". She lives in Brea, CA, and can be reached at (714) 524-0364 or BarbZR@msn.com
ATA CHAPTERHOOD FOR NOTIS:

PROS AND CONS

NOTIS must redefine its relationship with the American Translators Association (ATA). As of November, the ATA will recognize regional groups on two official levels— as chapters or as affiliates. Currently, there are three levels of association that regional groups can have with the ATA: unaffiliated groups, cooperating groups (NOTIS’s current status), and chapters. NOTIS must decide what sort of relationship we want to have with the ATA in the future. Is it to be chapterhood, affiliate status, or neither?

The NOTIS Board will decide whether to become a chapter based on a vote by the members. The Board recommends in favor of chapter status. The following list of benefits, obligations and viewpoints that could be considered in regard to this question is provided to assist members in determining their vote. The decision will be made on Tuesday, December 7 at the Annual Meeting in the Shoreline Center (6:30 p.m., Horizon Room, followed by the Holiday Party).

PROS:
The benefits of being an affiliate are as follows...

⇒ The ATA will advertise affiliates’ events in the Chronicle on a space-available basis free of charge.
⇒ The ATA will work with affiliates on issues of mutual concern.
⇒ Chapter status would also mean that the ATA would provide:
  a 10% rebate from ATA membership dues when so designated by an ATA member, insurance coverage for venues used by chapters, and liability insurance for chapter directors and officers.

In addition, as a chapter NOTIS would:
⇒ be entitled to support from the ATA for legislative actions,
⇒ receive logistical support from the ATA for mailings, meetings, etc.,
⇒ have its bylaws reviewed free of charge by ATA lawyers,
⇒ be eligible for seed money for regional conferences,
⇒ get a free table at ATA conferences, and
⇒ have input on ATA Board issues through its vote at the Regional Groups’ Brainstorming Session.

CONS:
⇒ This change is being pressed "from above" by the ATA and was not necessarily contemplated by the NOTIS membership in the recent past.
⇒ Chapter’s presidents and vice presidents must be voting members of the ATA (i.e., members with “active” status, but not necessarily accredited).
⇒ NOTIS has a tradition of independence and local focus.
⇒ Some NOTIS members, many of whom are members of long-standing and active in NOTIS, do not belong to the ATA and do not wish to be affiliated with the ATA.
⇒ The NOTIS by-laws must be reviewed by ATA attorneys.
⇒ NOTIS has already been able to provide seed money and obtain venue insurance for events (for example, Cascadia) on its own.
⇒ Chapters must (and affiliates are requested to) submit annual reports and yearly financial reports.
⇒ Chapters must (and affiliates are requested to) keep the ATA abreast of any local issues of interest to the national organization.
⇒ Chapters must (and affiliates are requested to) provide support to the ATA if an annual conference is held in their sphere of influence.
⇒ Chapters must (and affiliates are requested to) promote ATA regional activities and ATA annual conferences in the affiliates’ annual newsletter.

NOTIS SLAVIC SIG - MOVING AHEAD

LARISSA KULINICH CHAIR, NOTIS SLAVIC SIG

Another NOTIS Slavic Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting was held on October 16. The speaker was Mr. William T. Robinson, prominent international attorney with many years of experience in the area of Russian-American trade and commercial ventures. The subject matter of his presentation was the current state of and prospects for the development of Russian-American business relationships. The speaker put special emphasis on the role of translators and interpreters. Mr. Robinson’s extensive work in forming business ties between Russian and foreign companies enabled him to provide some very deep and interesting insights.

Speaking about the current state of affairs in Russia, Mr. Robinson emphasized the fact that Russia is currently undergoing pervasive, fundamental changes in its economy and is facing a lot of challenges. By way of comparison, deliberating on the development of China’s economy, the speaker provided a rather revealing number. Over the last few years, ten times more foreign investment has gone to China than to Russia. Mr. Robinson expressed the hope that although many jurisdictional issues are in a state of flux in Russia now, Russia, with its superb human, technical and cultural resources, will continue to be an important player in the international arena in the future. Already Russia is making real progress in building a legal framework to make it possible for both domestic and foreign businesses to operate successfully.

The part of Mr. Robinson’s presentation that dealt with the role of translators and interpreters was also of great interest. First of all, the speaker noted that he had worked with about a hundred interpreters. Referring to his personal experience, he emphasized that a distinction should be made between accurately interpreting language and interpreting cultural content or intent. It is essential that true un-
A discussion followed, centered on issues relating to interpreters’ obligations while providing verbal communications in different settings. One of the points immediately raised was the impact of the Code of Ethics on the performance of any interpreter. This issue was resolved by suggesting that the Code of Ethics must be strictly observed by interpreters who are engaged in the official business of the courts. However, in other settings there may be a negotiation between client and interpreter, prior to the time services are provided, with regards to the degree of the application of the Code, so that important subtleties and nuances relating to cultural aspects will not be lost. This issue provoked a broader discussion regarding the necessity of establishing a new position of consultant on matters related to cultural differences and peculiarities. The task would be to facilitate successful inter-cultural communications. It is interesting to note in this respect that many people acknowledged the existence of this problem owing to their prior personal experiences. Mr. Robinson’s observations just brought the idea to the surface.

Luncheon offered a chance to network and socialize. At the end of the meeting the results of an opinion survey conducted among Slavic SIG members were announced. Meetings should be held about three times a year. These meetings should include both social and professional activities. Presentations may be made either in English or in Russian depending upon personal preferences.

The next meeting of the NOTIS Slavic SIG is planned for February 26, 2000. The venue will be announced later. Part of this meeting will be devoted to the discussion of “difficult to translate” terms relating to various areas.

Members of the Slavic SIG are welcome to join in: contributions will be greatly appreciated.

continued from page 3

“Upcoming Events”

**Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop**
TIP-Lab and El placer de traducir offer an extensive workshop in Spanish translation from February to July, 2000. Translations will be reviewed by a professional translator in Argentina and returned with revisions and annotated comments. **Registration deadline: Friday, January 21, 2000.** For further information, call (evenings only) or E-mail or fax at any time: Alicia Marshall (847)869-4889 (tel and fax), E-mail:AliciaMashall@compuserve.com

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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.

**Learn about our program - free**

Presenters: Courtney Sears-Ridge/Susana Stettri Sawrey/Rene Siegenthaler

6 - 7:30 pm, one Tuesday - December 14

BC C Factoria Center, Room: See directory at T Building.

**CREDIT COURSES**

**Introduction to Translation and Interpreting (INTRP 101)**

An introduction for those considering a career in translation or interpreting as well as for technical information managers, medical providers and others who work with translators. This course offers an overview of both professional fields and defines the skills necessary to work successfully in either profession.

Presenters: Martha Cohen/Anne Quan

6 - 9 pm, ten Thursdays, January 6 - March 9

Main Campus, Building C, Room C208

Fee: $300 - Three credits

**Fundamental Translation Skills (TRANS 103)**

Individuals with advanced language skills and no formal training in the process of translation learn basic techniques as well as the process of translation.

Presenters: Courtney Sears-Ridge

6 - 9 pm, ten Mondays, January 3 - March 20

Main Campus, Bldg.N, Room N206

Fee: $300 - Three credits

**Technology for T & I (INTRP 104)**

Electronic editing, graphics, proofing tools, use of computers, fax/modems, email and Internet use for translators and interpreters with beginning, intermediate, or advanced computer skills.

Other advanced tools and localization and machine translation will be reviewed.

Presenters: Ulrike Irlmer

6 - 9 pm, ten Mondays, January 3 - March 20

Main Campus, Building N, Room N206

Fee: $300 - Three credits

**Fundamental Translation Skills (TRANS 103)**

Individuals with advanced language skills and no formal training in the process of translation learn basic techniques as well as the process of translation.

Presenters: Susana Stettri Sawrey/Michelle Privat O’bermeier

6 - 9 pm, ten Tuesdays, January 4 - March 7

Main Campus Building C, Room C155

Fee: $300 - Three credits

**NON-CREDIT COURSES**

**The Essential Skill-Building Workshop for Consecutive Interpreters**

Aimed at increasing concentration, retention, and note-taking skills, essential for successful consecutive interpreting.

Presenters: Cristina Perez-Lopez

9:30 am - 4 pm, Saturday, February 5

BC C Factoria Center, Room: See directory at T Building, Fee: $39

**Medical Interpreting Skill-Building Seminar**

An introduction to different modes of interpreting terminology building, note taking, and ethical issues of medical interpreting. Memory exercises and practice time are included.

Presenters: Cristina Perez-Lopez

9:30 am - 4 pm, Saturday, March 4

BC C Factoria Center, Room: See directory at T Building, Fee: $39

**Localization Workshop**

Required text: A Practical Guide to Software Localization. Hands-on translation of on-line software source files will be used to illustrate principles of localization.

To register call: (425) 641-2263.

Presenters: Ulrike Irlmer/Tsukako Kawahigashi

9 am - 3 pm, two Saturdays, March 4 & 11

Location-tba. Fee: $175.

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.
## Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Time &amp; Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>NOTIS Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Annual Review &amp; Holiday Party</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Shoreline Community Center</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation Workshop</td>
<td>Overview, strategies, tips</td>
<td>1 - 4 p.m. 216 Denny Hall, University of Washington</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Slavic SIG</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
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<td>Register early, bring necessary materials</td>
<td>12:30 - 4 p.m. 019 Architecture Hall, University of Washington</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
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