

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 24 No.3, Summer 2010

Letter from the WITS President

WITS: My Organization and Yours Too

By Barbara Robinson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 NOTIS Notes
- 3 WITS Notes
- 3 Cultural Corner
- 4 Letter from the NOTIS President
- 5 The Emperor is Naked
- 6 Advocacy Notes
- 7 The Ethics Corner
- 8 Meeting Our Members
- 9 The Research Route
- 11 Picnic
- 12 Board Meetings Calendar
- 13 Events Calendar

I hope everyone is enjoying our cooler-than-usual summer; at least in Seattle we have had some gorgeous hot weather in early July.

Summer is a busy time for everyone: Kids out of school, summer vacation and family reunion plans, weddings and other events and celebrations we need to go to. WITS's energetic board has also lined up some fun activities for you.

I am thrilled to see that our July 24 workshop and annual meeting was a huge success. We had more than 70 members and potential members registered and we filled the room to its capacity. My sincere thanks go to our Program Committee Chair, Alicia Lanzner, members Kenny Barger and Louise Morehead, and all the volunteers who helped on the day of the event. Katrin Johnson from AOC drove from Olympia to come and support our annual meeting.

The joint summer picnic with our sister organization NOTIS will be August 7 at Carkeek Park (950 NW Carkeek Park Road, Seattle, WA 98177). Bring your favorite dish and come get immersed in the community of interpreters. We will network, sunbathe, eat, play and then eat some more. If you have a guitar, a flute or a hula-hoop or frisbee, bring them along.

Our committees are working hard during the summer. Advocacy Committee chair Kenny Barger and I attended the DSHS — Interpreter meeting in Tumwater. See Kenny's article for details. Outreach Committee chair Julie Bryan has mobilized volunteers to help with this year's WASCLA summit in Shoreline. Our Membership Committee has kept at the recruitment of new members while maintaining the existing membership.

As a members-only, self-governing, non-profit organization, we are here to serve our members. It is essential to understand what members want so we can cater committee activities to real needs. Please get in touch with our board members or me with your suggestions, complaints and comments. Let us know what's on your mind and how we can serve you better.

Having occupied the president's seat for four month now, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with some very fine interpreters, and had a great time volunteering together. It is very rewarding to me. It is too selfish to keep this fun to myself, so I want to invite you all: Join us to have fun while making WITS a better organization.

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A chapter of the

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WITShasaWeb page which can be visited at www.witsnet.org.

NOTIS Notes

New Members

Kathy Byrd	Spanish > English
Jacqueline Candell	English < Spanish
M. Luisa Gracia Camon	Spanish < English
Trung Le	English < Vietnamese
Ross Miller	English > Spanish
Paul D. Natkin	Russian < English
	German > English
Amanda Olson	German > English
Heike Rodriguez	English < German
	French < English
	French > German
Cindy Steedman	Spanish
Suzanne Tierney	Spanish

WITS Notes

New Members

Maria Luisa Gracia-Camon	Spanish
Yolanda Lopez	Spanish
Faiza Sultan	Kurdish, Arabic
Suzanne Tierney	Spanish
Doreen Wai	Cantonese

Cultural Corner

By Laura A. Wideburg

I took my son for a week's vacation in Montana and we headed through Yellowstone as far east as Little Bighorn/Greasy Grass National Monument, where one of the major cultural clashes in North America came to a deadly end when the Oglala, Brulé and Minneconjou Sioux Nations together with the Northern Cheyenne Nation surrounded and defeated George Armstrong Custer and members of the Crow Nation on the Crow Nation's reservation land near the Little Bighorn River.

As one of the Park Rangers told the story, the major conflict was one of two collapsing economies. The Sioux and Cheyenne economies were based on the American bison (buffalo), which was being systematically killed off by settlers. Meanwhile, the settlers coming west were moving due to the post Civil War economic collapse which was at least as severe as the one we are in now. Young men who could not find jobs after the war, from North and South, as well as immigrants from Germany and Ireland were hoping to find a new start in life. The Calvary offered them a chance. What was surprising to me was finding out that at least half of Custer's Calvary unit did not speak English. The recent immigrants were using the armed forces as a chance to become citizens, not unlike the practice today.

The National Monument has memorials to both the Calvary men and to the Native American warriors who died on that terrible day. Two of our tour guides were descendants of men from the Crow and Cheyenne Nations who fought on opposing sides during the conflict. It is now a place of reflection and a place to think about our human fragility in the force of economic whirlwinds and armed force as a desperate attempt in face of cultural conflict. As the Park Ranger said, the Sioux-Cheyenne alliance won the battle but lost the war. The area looks peaceful now as the wind blows over the prairie grasses and the markers set over the spots of land where warriors from both sides fell. But I can't help feeling sad and melancholy as I contemplate the human condition.

We translators and interpreters have a vital function in these times. Our communities rely on us to ease the conflict that culture clashes cause. For all we know, our efforts are helping prevent a future bloodbath. Keep that in mind as you go about your daily work.

Letter from the NOTIS President

By Faiza Sultan

Happy summer!

As you all know, Dr. Laura Wideburg stepped down as the president of NOTIS in April of 2010. She was one of our best NOTIS presidents, and she devoted almost two years of her time to serving in this important position. It is hard for everyone to see her leave the presidency and editorship of *The Northwest Linguist*.

It was not an easy situation for any of us, especially for me, since I had been the vice president for only two days! I ended up serving as acting president and called for an emergency meeting. We all worked together to have an emergency meeting; Kathryn German was elected as the new vice president, and Toby Kawahigashi was elected as the new secretary.

I am honored to be the acting president for the rest of Dr. Wideburg's term. I am blessed to work with wonderful people on our Board of Directors, our office manager, and membership coordinator. They are committed and willing to find time in their very busy schedules to serve on the board.

We do need more board members to join us this year, and for that reason, I am extending my invitation to

all NOTIS members to suggest candidates who can join us in this wonderful organization as members of the Board of Directors. Candidates can send a letter or résumé to our office manager and member of the nominating committee, Jonas Nicotra, at officemanager@notisnet.org

Also, I would like to congratulate the new WITS President, Mrs. Barbara Ye Robinson, and I wish her a successful term.

The Outreach Committee is working very hard on the new NOTIS website. We are very excited about the initial plan for the new website. The new features will make the website more user-friendly and useful for the members!

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or ideas that you have regarding our organization: faiza@translation4all.com

I look forward to serving you in 2010!



Faiza Sultan

...*The Emperor Wears No Clothes* (Continued from page 5) ○○○

three months later, the language referral agency pays the interpreter, who receives only 45% of DSHS's payment. With this jewel of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the DSHS/HRSA (Health & Recovery Services Administration) won the 2006 Council of State Governments Innovations Awards. Public administration never ceases to amaze us!

In 2009, serendipity and happenstance intervened. The Washington Federation of State Employees, Council 28 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, decided to take the interpreters' plight under their wing. Thus the Interpreters United unionization movement began. Many union meetings, lobbying sessions and public hearings later, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6726 was passed, granting DSHS spoken language paid interpreters the right to unionize as independent contractors. The bill becomes effective on June 10,

2010, and 30 days later the WFSE/Interpreters United will be able to call for elections to form a union. Meanwhile, the Governor has instructed the Office of Financial Management and DSHS to come up with alternatives to the current brokerage system. Healthcare providers, language referral agencies, and interpreters alike wonder out loud what the future will bring. Regardless of the changes, one thing is for certain: everybody is now aware that the Emperor wears no clothes.

Disclosure: The data regarding the DSHS brokerage system can be found in "Evaluation of the Current System of Providing Language Access for Medicaid Patients in Washington State" written by Cynthia E. Roat, MPH. Report for the Washington Federation of State Employees, January 2010.

Milena Calderari-Waldron is a Spanish ⇄ English Interpreter, WA Court and DSHS Medical & Social Services Certified

The Emperor Wears No Clothes

By Milena Calderari-Waldron

Olympia, WA State's Capitol building, Winter 2010. The facts were out in the open. Legislators, Democrats and Republicans alike, squirmed uncomfortably in their seats, embarrassed at the waste of taxpayers' money. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) spends 16 million dollars of state and federal funds per year for medical interpreting alone. DSHS routinely contracts with the least skilled interpreters, providing the worst interpreting quality while incurring 41% of the administrative costs and causing 14% of the environmental pollution, euphemistically called mileage reimbursement. In 2001, the average interpreter rate for a DSHS paid appointment was \$35/hr, while in 2010, it is a meager \$22.50/hr. Highly skilled interpreters have fled en masse to the court system, which pays \$50/hr with a 2 hour minimum. This effectively translates into \$100 per appointment. Market rules being what they are, criminals always get better interpreters than patients. Way to go, Washington!

The beginnings, however, had been very promising. In the 1980's, the State of Washington, through DSHS, was sued for non-compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. As a result of these class action lawsuits, DSHS created its interpreter certification program, today housed at the DSHS/LTC Unit (Language Testing and Certification Unit). With enlightened and advanced WAC Rules, this new certifying body should have become an example to be followed by the rest of the nation. Starting in 1992, DSHS certified interpreters for medical and social services in earnest. Also pursuant to Title VI, DSHS was responsible for providing and paying interpreters only for those services directly provided by DSHS. When DSHS demanded that healthcare providers pay interpreters for LEP Medicaid recipients, healthcare providers refused and threatened to drop all Medicaid recipients. DSHS caved in to this blackmail and decided to foot the bill. Washington State became the first state to subsidize LEP Medicaid recipients for interpretive services rendered by a third party, the healthcare providers. The future of interpreting in Washington couldn't look brighter.

So how did it all go so wrong? It took several ingredients for this cauldron of malaise to boil. It turns out that the DSHS exams, especially the medical one, are much too easy to pass. With the zeal of a Weimar Repub-

lic money printing machine, DSHS certified interpreters every year, month after month, reaching an astonishing 8,000 interpreters by 2009. Soon the job market was inundated with third-rate interpreters ready to accept low rates and lousy working conditions. The DSHS LTC refused to manage its interpreter program, never publishing or updating their list of interpreters, and resulting in a bloated list of deceased, out-of-state and inactive interpreters with worthless contact information. With no continuing education credits or training required to maintain their credentials, already low-skilled interpreters remained forever ignorant. Low-skilled professionals came hand in hand with questionable and sometimes outright fraudulent business practices. Healthcare providers and interpreters colluded in manipulating schedules and patients to their advantage, while language referral agencies went to war against each other. Non-management by the DSHS LTC meant that WAC Rules went ignored and no disciplinary actions were taken against unethical or criminal interpreters.

Faced with violations of independent contractor regulations, rampant misconduct, and skyrocketing costs, DSHS had a brilliant idea. Instead of healthcare providers contracting directly with interpreters and/or language referral agencies, DSHS would install a gatekeeper with software capable of scheduling and paying for the 19,000 interpreter appointments per month. So they tapped the transportation brokers in charge of scheduling taxis for Medicaid recipients. After all, requesting a taxi or an interpreter was pretty much the same thing from a business model point of view, was it not? Thus was born the DSHS OTIS or Office of Transportation and Interpreter Services, the creator of the "12-Step Interpreter Brokerage System." So now, when a doctor needs an interpreter, the healthcare provider contacts the broker, the broker contacts a language referral agency, the language referral agency finds an interpreter, the language referral agency confirms the appointment with the broker, the broker confirms with the healthcare provider, the healthcare provider confirms with the patient, the interpreter goes to the appointment and invoices the language referral agency, the language referral agency invoices the broker, the broker invoices DSHS OTIS, DSHS OTIS pays the broker, the broker pays the language referral agency, and

Continues on page 4 ○○○

Advocacy Notes

By Kenneth Barger

You may already know that Claudia A'Zar has retired from her position as WITS Advocacy Chair. She was the first to hold this position, and she held it for over five years. During that time, she led many efforts to improve conditions for interpreters. These included, among many other things, the effort to support House Bill 1658, which in 2007 became law in Washington and served as the basis for the AOC's partial reimbursement program for interpreter services in Washington courts. Advocacy also worked hard to promote hiring of properly credentialed interpreters, and the committee expressed interpreters' opposition to several different efforts to cut the minimum rate for interpreters. In addition, Advocacy has collaborated with WITS Outreach on presentations to attorneys, social workers, and many others. In short, WITS Advocacy's activities have been numerous and varied during Claudia's time at the helm.

Upon her retirement from this position, I offered to follow in her footsteps. I certainly hope to be as effective as she was. And I invite WITS members to contact me to let me know what areas they would like Advocacy to focus on.

Our most recent activity was to attend the interpreter feedback meeting held by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in Tumwater on July 13. WITS President Barbara Robinson and I carpooled to Tumwater with Nancy Leveson, another WITS member and Spanish court interpreter. WITS members may recall having received my email requesting feedback on the DSHS language services program and brokers. Many members responded, and spoke almost unanimously against middlemen in general and brokers in particular. The other key points that were brought up repeatedly in this feedback were the need for a more meaningful certification for medical and social interpreters and the need for a continuing education requirement. This valuable, detailed feedback allowed me and Barbara to express the views of the WITS membership.

The meeting was set up as a feedback session, and we were alerted ahead of time that no decisions would be made at the meeting. About fifty interpreters attended, and there were six DSHS folks there. In a moderated discussion that lasted four hours, interpreters of many languages, experience levels, and from many parts of the

state offered excellent feedback. This is the first time DSHS has held such an event, and one may assume that it is the first time DSHS has received such clear and forceful feedback on their interpreting program. I was encouraged to see that most of the interpreters were on the same page regarding the key issues. The feedback of the interpreters present was very much in line with what WITS members told me in their emails. The DSHS representatives were mostly receptive to this feedback, with a couple of notable exceptions. More such sessions will be held in the near future. We shall see what comes of all this.

It should be noted that this meeting came about largely due to pressure brought to bear by Interpreters United, the group that is currently working to create a union for DSHS interpreters. While WITS has not taken, and should not take, a position in favor of or against unionization per se, at times we share common goals. This may present some opportunities for collaboration, taking care not to lose our own voice as an organization primarily focused on bettering the status of court interpreting in Washington.

I will close for now by reiterating my invitation for you to let me know what you would like to see WITS Advocacy work on. My contact information is found on page 2 of this newsletter, as is that of our president, board members, and other officers.



WITS 2010 Annual Meeting

The Ethics Corner

When Interpretations are Interrupted by Objections

By Katrin Johnson and Susana Stettri Sawrey

At a recent training on how to effectively work with court interpreters, a judge asked the following question: “During a jury trial, what should I do when a non-English speaking witness states something aloud in court which is to be excluded from testimony? When interpreters begin to interpret the information and we ask them to stop, they often respond that they are bound by the Code of Conduct to provide a complete interpretation.”

Perhaps this question can be best illustrated in a script. For the following, pretend that the state’s witness is speaking in a language other than English, and that the judge has ruled that the prosecution may make no reference to the defendant’s membership in a gang:

Pros. Attorney: *How long have you known the defendant?*

Interpreter: *How long have you known the defendant?*

Pros. Witness: *I’ve known him for five years, ever since he joined the gang.*

Interpreter: *I’ve known him for five years, ever since he joined...*

Defense: *Objection! Sidebar, Your Honor.* (Sidebar conversation at the bench, outside the hearing of the jury). *Your Honor, according to your ruling, the interpreter should be instructed not to complete the sentence as it will likely make reference to the gang membership.*

Judge: (Aloud) *Objection sustained. The interpreter is instructed to not interpret the remainder of that answer.*

The Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters states “a language interpreter shall interpret or translate the material thoroughly and precisely, adding or omitting nothing.” By not providing an interpretation for “the gang,” has the interpreter violated the Code? What does the interpreter do with the un-interpreted information?

In jury trials it is very common that attorneys are instructed to avoid making reference to information that may be unfairly prejudicial against a party. Similarly, they are responsible for instructing their witnesses to do the same. Gang membership is a common example of this, as jury members may believe that a person is more likely to

commit a crime, regardless of the evidence, because of the defendant’s status as a gang member.

If this witness were an English speaker, the defense attorney would have likely made the same objection after the words “... he joined.” And in such a situation, the English speaking witness would have been instructed to stop answering the question. This keeps the prejudicial information away from the jurors’ ears. From the legal standpoint, it is reasonable to similarly interrupt the interpreter, and instruct the interpreter not to complete the statement.

What’s an interpreter to do? At this point, arguing the Code of Conduct with the attorneys and the judge, in front of the jury, is not a very good approach. (In fact, it rarely is.) One approach is to simply move on, and interpret the next question. The judge has already instructed the interpreter on the record to discontinue the interpretation. Should anyone ever challenge the interpreter for failing to complete the interpretation, the record will already reflect that the interpreter was instructed not to do so.

Alternatively, a situation may arise where the record isn’t so clear. Let’s say that the defense attorney simply says “objection” and the judge responds with “sustained.” Then the prosecutor jumps into the next question. The interpreter may choose to state on the record, as soon as the opportunity arises, “The interpreter would like to state on the record that he/she was unable to complete the previous statement by the witness.” While this may be received with dirty looks from the judges and attorneys, it is a way to establish a record as to why the interpreter did not complete the interpretation. At the same time, the unfairly prejudicial information is still kept from the jury.

Quite often, the judge does not specifically instruct the interpreter not to complete the interpretation because it is presumed that the interpreter understands that. But the same analysis holds true: the interpreter does not interpret anything after the objection, if the objection was sustained. If an English-speaking witness says something that is not allowed, very often it causes a mistrial

Continues on page 10 ○○○

Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

Katrin Rippel interviews a WITS / NOTIS Member for every issue of *The Northwest Linguist*. Maybe you will be next?

Sailing the Waters of Cultures - Meeting Toby Kawahigashi

“To be impelled or driven forward on a body of water by the action of wind, stream or other power.” This, among various others, is the definition of *Sailing* in the dictionary. After talking to Toby several times at our organization’s events, and again now for this column, I found it was a very appropriate metaphor for his life.

Toby Kawahigashi grew up in Tokyo, Japan. After high school, he attended Tokyo Metropolitan University and completed his Bachelor of Arts in Mechanical Engineering. As he didn’t want to work for a big company, and enter the typical Japanese life of “consistency and predictability”, he returned to the University to study English Linguistics, and completed a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in this field.

Toby came to the United States to continue his studies at the University of Southern California where he obtained his Master of Arts in Theoretical Linguistics in 1982. It was at this time that he decided that it would be nice to raise a family in this country.

Being a linguist wasn’t popular at that time in Japan, so he started teaching English. He was an Assistant Professor at Josai University, Japan, and subsequently became the first Researcher at Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education at the same University, and later at the Research Institute of Telecom-Policies and Economics in Tokyo. From 1988 to 1999, Toby was an Associate Professor of English in the Department of Economics at Senshu University, in Kawasaki, Japan.

Those years made it clear to Toby that he wasn’t going to work and live in Japan for the rest of his life and find peace of mind. According to Toby, Japan’s rigid mentality, the one-way approach to questions for which there were more than one correct answer or answers that might change with time and circumstances, didn’t coincide with his own way of understanding life. In Toby’s viewpoint, the outdated structure of Japanese culture in many areas, such as the expectation that women should teach at the elementary school level and were rarely accepted from college level on, didn’t fit his understanding of what constituted respect for other people. He also

realized that he preferred to do work that was more “tangible in nature” than education and research.

With this in mind, Toby set his sails toward a completely different course. In 1995, he came to Seattle, Washington with his wife and two small children.. This was also the beginning of Toby’s current job with his company HG Translations, Inc. for which he provides technical writing, technical translations, website localization, transcription, voice-over and project management in English and Japanese. He is also running GT Publishing, together with an associate, for which he does the typesetting for most publishable materials.

Why typesetting in addition to his language skills? Toby explained that he encountered a great deal of Japanese typesetting that was of poor quality and believed that it was due to the sudden jump from pencil and pen to computer and keyboard. There wasn’t the gradual conversion to technology as occurred in the United States where people grew up with increasing technology, For the Japanese, it happened rather suddenly, and like most sudden changes in cultures, some of the native cultural elements were consequently lost. Typesetting, though, continues to be an essential part of working with the Japanese language today.

After joining our NOTIS Board this year when there was a sudden lack of Board members, Toby now supports us as Secretary for the organization.

Toby has now gone full circle in raising his family here in the United States. His children are grown up now, and his business is successful. Now it’s time for him to set his sails again to explore different waters. He has followed his compassion for other people, through volunteering at the food bank, as a driver for his local church’s daycare program, and in caring for foster dogs.

Through his participation in the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Groups program for 2009 Toby offered the following: “*Let’s Go Sailing!*” Ever think about how many Bible stories take place on the water? This group is for “wanna-be” sailors. Toby has researched sailing lessons through the Center for Wooden Boats and would like to join you in encouragement and support as you develop your sea legs on Lake Union.”

“What a great idea!” I exclaimed.

“Yes,” he replied, “I like sailing. It is environmentally friendly, peaceful and fun.” He plans to set sail again with this group in 2011.

The Research Route

By Kathryn German

Translators and interpreters perform research on a constant basis in order to complete quality translations and to improve their interpreting skills. They continually manage terminology and strive to acquire new vocabulary, and thus have a continual need to access to quality resources, especially when tackling unfamiliar subject areas.

With each issue of *The Northwest Linguist*, this column will provide recommendations for resource books and internet sites organized according to various subject areas. The current Summer Issue will revolve around the general language resources in English. The Fall Issue will center on general language resources in Spanish and resources for both languages in the medical field. Later issues will deal with resources for legal and business research. As a Spanish translator, most of the early recommendations will center on English and Spanish aids, but I hope that as readers, you will send in your own recommendations for other language pairs. As an instructor at the Translation & Interpretation Institute at Bellevue College, I have also been consulting my students about their preferred internet sites in multiple languages. Please send your suggestions to: spanishinseattle@comcast.net

GENERAL ENGLISH RESOURCES

It is ideal to have at least one unabridged English dictionary that is a rich source of information, offering not only multiple meanings, but examples of common usage. Through these examples, not only can one find common collocations for words used in a particular setting, but also the prepositions commonly used with certain verbs, and examples of each word used in context.

Book Resources

A few examples of excellent additions for your library would be the following:

The New Oxford American Dictionary, published by the Oxford University Press, with the most recent publication date you can find. Definitions are quite complete and organized around a core sense of the word, which will be listed as the first definition followed by various subsenses of the word. The logical relationship between the subsense and core sense easily become apparent. In addition, grammar points are included and whenever possible, the syntactic behavior of a word is

indicated (i.e. build [build on]). In some cases collocations typical of the word are highlighted (i.e. bet [your best bet is]). Notes on proper usage are scattered throughout the dictionary. A full English language guide is included at the back of the book. Many editions are also accompanied by a CD-ROM version of the dictionary.

The Thinker's Thesaurus, by Peter E. Meltzer, published by Marion Street Press, was designed to offer more interesting, sophisticated, or unusual options than a standard thesaurus. Literary sources showing words in context have been cited and entries have added examples of proper usage. Meltzer also uses "clarifiers" to provide more exact definitions or to show nuances of meaning. This text is an excellent tool for someone seeking to enrich their vocabulary.

The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus, published by The Oxford University Press, has more than 300,000 synonyms and guides the researcher to just the right word choice by means of useful example sentences. Like *The Thinker's Thesaurus*, this resource groups synonyms into core sets. Phrases and idiomatic expressions are provided at the end of the entry for their principal word. There are approximately 250 word notes written by the editors to give a working writer's perspective on particular words or their usage. Additional notes on easily confused words are offered and expanded definitions elucidate closely related synonyms.

Online Resources

Bartleby.com — *Great Books online*. This tool allows one to search Roget's Thesaurus, Strunk's Style, Robert's Rules of Order, The World Factbook, Gray's Anatomy of the Human Body, and many other references in a variety of areas. <http://www.bartleby.com/>

Cambridge Dictionary of American English — This site provides basic meaning and examples of usage and also includes a Dictionary of American Idioms. <http://dictionaries.cambridge.org/>

Merriam-Webster's Online Search — The Merriam-Webster site includes a basic dictionary that offers definitions, but not examples of usage. The site also offers a Medical Dictionary, a Thesaurus, and a Spanish-English dictionary. The full unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionary is also available by subscription for an annual

...The ATA Spanish Division (Continued from page 5) ○○○

fee of \$29.95 per year. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

The Free Dictionary by Farlex — The Farlex website permits searches in a basic dictionary and thesaurus, a medical dictionary, a legal dictionary, a financial dictionary, an acronym dictionary, an idiom dictionary, and an encyclopedia. There are few examples of usage, but because of the total number of resources, the results are expansive and indicate how specific meaning change in the context of specific subject matter areas. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>

One Look Dictionary — This website indexes 1,052 dictionaries to access a current total of 18,373,069 terms. A random search of the word “divergence” produced results from 48 resources, including 22 general dictionaries, 10 business dictionaries, 2 computing glossaries, 3 medical dictionaries, 6 science dictionaries, and 5 technical dictionaries. Among the general dictionaries accessed by the system are: the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, the Macmillan Dictionary, the Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary, Encarta®, Dictionary.com, All Words.com, the Look Way Up Dictionary, and the UltraLingua Dictionary. A reverse dictionary if available on a separate tab it is possible to customize the display of resources according to your own particular needs. <http://www.onelook.com/>

YourDictionary — YourDictionary has a comprehensive library of English language tools including

the Webster’s New College Dictionary, the American Heritage Dictionary, Roget’s Thesaurus, an Abbreviations and Acronyms Dictionary, a Business, Finance and Investment Dictionary, a Dictionary of Idioms, Medical and Science Definitions, and others. A browser window can be added directly to your iGoogle page or browser window. <http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

English Acronyms and Abbreviations

The Acronym Finder — This resource has 900,000 acronyms and abbreviations which may be searched alphabetically or in a window. <http://www.acronymfinder.com/>

The Simiril Internet Acronym Finder — <http://acronyms.silmaril.ie/cgi-bin/uncgi/acronyms>

English Style Guides

The Economist — Research Tools Style Guide — This is the style guide that all journalists contributing to The Economist must use. There are quick links by topic to abbreviations, figures, hyphens, italics, plurals, common spelling problems and punctuation items. <http://www.economist.com/research/styleguide/>

The Chicago Manual of Style — This site contains the full text of the Chicago Manual of Style, as well as a Question and Answer Section and a Quick Guide to Citations. <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

Kathryn German is the Vice President of NOTIS, the editor of *The Northwest Linguist*, a voting member of the ATA and member of the T & I Institute’s Advisory Board. She currently works full-time as the Senior Spanish Translator for Quorum Review, an institutional review board of clinical trials, and also co-teaches the Introduction to Translation & Interpretation course at the T & I Institute.

...The Ethics Corner (Continued from page 7) ○○○

at great cost to the court and the parties. Similarly, if the interpreter were to interpret that, it would have the same deleterious effect, but the court would be much more upset with the interpreter than with the English-speaking witness.

If the interpreter already knew that the gang reference was to be excluded, should the interpreter have stopped interpreting on his/her own? Of course not. It is not the interpreter’s role to decide which information is or is not admissible. The interpreter should continue to give a complete and accurate interpretation, unless instructed by the judge not to.



The International Language

By John Ruoff



NOTIS & WITS Picnic 2010

You're Invited!

DATE: Saturday, August 7th

TIME: 11:00am to 3:00pm

NO NEED TO RSVP, JUST SHOW UP!

WHERE: Carkeek Park , Picnic Shelter 2

950 NW Carkeek Park Rd, Seattle, WA 98177

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/CarkeekPark/directions.htm>

From I-5

- Take Exit 173 to Northgate Way and turn west
- Cross Meridian
- Northgate Way becomes NW 105th Street
- Cross Aurora Ave. N (Highway 99)
- Turn right on Greenwood Ave N.
- Turn left on NW 110th St (look for the crosswalk lights above the street).
- After 6 blocks, NW 110th Street becomes NW Carkeek Park Rd
- NW Carkeek Park Rd. winds down into the valley for 1/2 mile to the park entrance.
- Turn left at Pipers Canyon Road. Follow the road to the shelter

Picnic:

Bring a favorite dish to share—something from your country of origin or your second culture. We will provide beverages and utensils. Friends, family, and pets are welcome to this informal event.

Bring a game (Frisbees, Hula, jump ropes, etc) to share if you have one!



NOTIS BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

By Kathryn German

Would you like to participate more actively in the translation and interpretation community of the Pacific Northwest? Would you like to share your ideas and offer your support to make our community even stronger? We are actively seeking new Board Members for The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society. Board Members currently volunteer for various committees, such as Community Outreach, Programs, Membership, the Newsletter, and Medical Special Interest Group. Board meetings are held approximately 10 times a year, in rotating locations, in addition to annual events, such as the Holiday Party and Summer Picnic. Interested applicants should be current members of NOTIS, or willing to join the organization, and should send their résumés to Jonas Nicotra at officemanager@notisnet.org.

COMING SOON—A NEW NOTIS WEBSITE!

NOTIS is currently in the process of completely revamping their website for a fresh, new look. There will be many new resources for translators, interpreters, and institutional members on the site, and the site will be intuitive and easy to use. Among other improvements, NOTIS members will be able to renew their memberships online, and log on to their directory listing to make changes in real time. The next issue of *The Northwest Linguist* will include a more detailed description of the new website and its expected date of completion.

NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:


Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
WITS	September 16, Thursday at 7:30pm	TBA	hua@goamcan.com
NOTIS	September 17, Friday at 6:30pm	Director Morehead	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	October 18, Monday at 6:30pm	President Sultan	info@notisnet.org

All Board Meetings are open to the membership of their respective organizations.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
July - December, 2010	TIP-Lab 22nd Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop	call/fax Alicia Marshall (847)869-4889 aliciamarshall@comcast.net www.tip-lab.org	Seattle, WA
August 7, 2010	Joint NOTIS/WITS Annual Picnic	11am-3pm, info@notisnet.org	Carkeek Park, Picnic shelter 2 950 NW Carkeek Park Rd, Seattle, WA 98177
August 13-14, 2010	Texas Assn of Healthcare Interpreters & Translators (TAHIT) 4 th Annual TAHIT Symposium on Language Access	http://www.tahit.us/	Houston, TX
August 28, 2010	Wordfast Level I	10am-5pm Tuition: \$85 Sign-up: (425)564-2263 Info: http://www.campusce.net/bc/course/course.aspx?C=10567	Bellevue College North Campus Bellevue, WA
September 3-5, 2010	2010 IMIA International Conference on Medical Interpreting	http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/2010conference.asp	Boston, MA
September 10-13, 2010	Tennessee Assn. of Professional Interpreters & Translators TAPIT Annual Conference	http://www.tapit.org/	Nashville, TN
September 11, 2010	Midwest Association of Translators & Interpreters (MATI) 7 th Annual Conference	http://www.matiata.org/	Milwaukee, WI
September 25, 2010	International Translation Day	TBA	TBA
September 25, 2010	Upper Midwest Translators & Interpreters Assn. (UMTIA) 2010 Annual Conference	http://www.umtia.org/	Saint Paul, MN
September 25-26, 2010	Atlanta Association of Interpreters & Translators (AAIT) AAIT 4 th Annual Conference Towards Excellence in Multilingual Communication	http://www.aait.org/	Atlanta, GA
October 2, 2010	Introduction to Localization	10am-3:30pm Tuition: \$49 Sign-up: 425.564.2263 Info: http://www.campusce.net/bc/course/course.aspx?C=12167	Bellevue College North Campus
October 2, 2010	Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network (MiTin) Conference on Professional Interpretation	http://mitin.org/conference/	Novi, MI
October 6-8, 2010	Localization World Conference and Exhibits	http://www.localizationworld.com/	Seattle, WA
October 8-10, 2010	California Federation of Interpreters (CFI) 8 th Annual Continuing Education Conference Putting It All Together	http://www.calinterpreters.org/	Santa Monica, CA

...Calendar (continued from page 13)

Date	Event	Details	Location
October 15-16, 2010	2010 WASCLA Summit	www.wascla.org	Shoreline Conference Center 18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155
October 20-24, 2010	American Literary Translators (ALTA) 2010 Annual Conference	http://www.utdallas.edu/alta	Philadelphia, PA
October 27-30, 2010	 51 st Annual Conference of The American Translators Association	http://www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/annual_conference.php	Hyatt Regency Hotel Denver, CO

For more international, national, and local events, please see: www.notisnet.org, www.witsnet.org, www.atanet.org

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