

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

January 2007



Valenzuela awarded word artistry prize

LILIANA VALENZUELA IS THE 2006 RECIPIENT of the Alicia Gordon Award for Word Artistry in Translation for her translation into Spanish of *¡Caramba! A Tale Told in Turns of the Card* by Nina Marie Martínez. Kirk Anderson, who chaired the selection committee, presented the award on behalf of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation at the annual meeting of the American Translators Association on November 2, 2006 in New Orleans. ★

January 13 member meeting

Explore I-net calls, video conferencing

JOIN US AT OUR FIRST MEETING of 2007 and learn how to phone clients (or friends and family) and interface with fellow translators all over the world absolutely free of charge. AATIA member Frank Dietz will headline the program with a presentation on Skype, software that enables users to make telephone calls and conduct videoconferences using the Internet.

The program will also feature another popular "Mentoring Moment," with Tony Beckwith interviewing outgoing and incoming AATIA presidents Esther Díaz and Michael Blumenthal about their careers in the fields of translation and interpretation. "This will be a chance for the audience to ask the questions we weren't able to get to during most of the sessions presented this year," says Beckwith. "It could turn out to be the most interesting Moment so far!"

Special international refreshments and musical entertainment by the Therapy Sisters, AATIA's own Maurine McLean and her partner, Lisa Rogers, will make this a meeting not to be missed. ★

ATA energy conference set for Houston

The American Translators Association will hold its "Energy Conference" on May 4-6, 2007 in Houston, Texas. This three-day conference will target practicing translators and interpreters seeking advanced-level training in the energy field. A combination of non-language-specific sessions presented in English and language-specific sessions will be offered. ★



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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Advertise in THE AATIA LETTER

THE AATIA LETTER offers a great opportunity to advertise your translation- and interpretation-related products and services. The online version of this bimonthly newsletter reaches a global audience through free downloads at www.aatia.org. And at rates like these, you can't afford to miss out on this opportunity.

Ad copy and payment must be received by deadline on the 15th of the month preceding issue date.

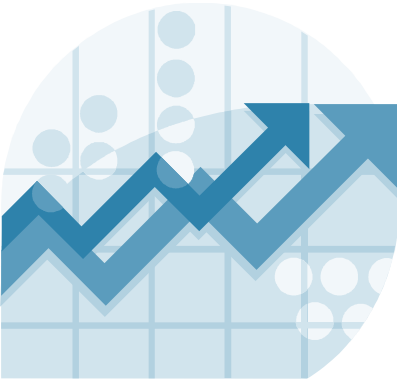
To obtain more information and to **place your ad** contact Advertising Manager ads@aatia.org.

Newsletter Ad Rates*

Full page	\$125
Half page	85
Quarter page	45
Business card	25

*10% discount to members

December board meeting



AATIA membership reaches 222

AT THE FINAL BOARD MEETING of 2006 Director of Membership Gisela Greenlee informed the board that there are 222 members.

Other highlights:

- Frank Dietz and Ted Wozniak have volunteered to offer two workshops—"Building your own website" and "Business aspects of translation and interpreting" respectively.
- AATIA will purchase a bold listing under Translators in the business section of *Mi Avenida*, a Spanish edition of the Austin yellow pages.
- A special election will be conducted for Director of Communications in January. ★

ACC T/I classes to resume in February

BSKL 8087 **Basic Translation Skills** will be offered Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

BSKL 8088 **Basic Interpreting Skills** will be offered Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Esther Diaz mediaz@austin.rr.com ★

AATIA President's Annual Report

AATIA HAD ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR in 2006, the year it was approved as an Affiliate Group of ATA and as a Continuing Education provider for Licensed Court Interpreters.

Board Members for 2006 were:

President—Esther Diaz

Secretary—Susana Roca-Smith

Director of Communications—Cristina Pinto-Bailey

Director of Finance—Al Favela

Director of Membership—Gisela Greenlee

Director of Professional Development—Otilia Sanchez/Laura Vlasman

We introduced a new segment to our membership meetings this year: the Mentoring Moment. This segment, hosted by Tony Beckwith, invites experienced members to discuss how they entered the profession and to share advice with those entering the profession now. Membership meeting topics for 2006:

January—Unusual Work Opportunities for Linguists, panel presentation

March—Translator at Work: The Nitty-Gritty of Translating Poetry, by Alexis Levitin

Mentoring Moment (Premiere) spotlighted AATIA founding members Esther Diaz and Leon McMorrow

May—Software Localization: Not All Fun and Games, by Frank Dietz
Mentoring Moment spotlighted translators Marta and Michael Blumenthal

July—Court Interpreters in Texas: Licensing and Continuing Education, by Maurine McLean

Mentoring Moment spotlighted literary translators Marian Schwartz and Liliana Valenzuela

September—Candidate Presentations

Mentoring Moment spotlighted interpreters Maurine McLean and Fritz Hensey

November—ATA Conference Recap

Mentoring Moment spotlighted translators-turned-agency-owners Allan Adams and Merry Wheaton

AATIA presented Basic Interpreting Skills, Advanced Interpreting Skills and Patent Translation workshops this year. The Patent Translation workshop will be offered as an online workshop next year. In addition, we hosted an ATA Certification Exam sitting, preceded by a certification orientation session. The first workshop as a Continuing Education Provider approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation will be "Medical Terminology for Court Interpreters" in January 2007.

In an effort to serve members in South Texas, AATIA created a subgroup in San Antonio. Doris Cabezas serves as coordinator of the San Antonio Special Interest Group. With an initial mailing list of 40 translators and interpreters, the group has hosted an organizational meeting, a certification orientation workshop, and several networking sessions.

—Esther Diaz ★

The Waltz

by Tony Beckwith © 2006
www.tonybeckwith.com

MY FATHER LOVED TO WALTZ. He could foxtrot when the need arose, and samba with the best of them. But he really loved to waltz.

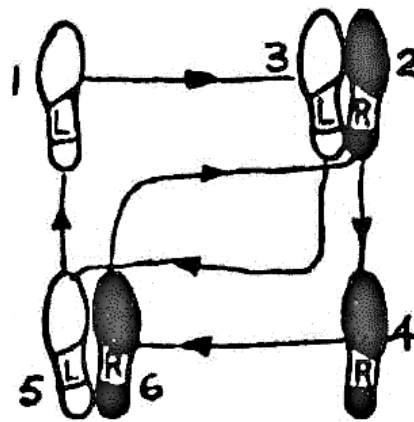
When I was a teenager, waltzing was one of the last things on my mind. Like most of my contemporaries, I attended ballroom dancing classes and learned to acquit myself, more or less satisfactorily, at formal events. But in my heart I longed to rock & roll, and had little patience with dances that required me to glide sedately around the floor, mentally counting: *one-two-three, one-two-three, one-two-three.*

My father, in turn, had little patience with “my” music. “A dreadful racket” he labeled it, and said it lacked graceful rhythms, and had no charm, no style. He was a broadminded man, but traditional in certain ways, especially when it came to music. “The waltz has been around for nearly two centuries!” he explained reverently. “Exactly!” I thought. “Time to bury the dreary old thing and move on.”

One of his favorite composers was, of course, Johann Strauss, Jr., the “Waltz King.” Born in 1825, in Vienna, Strauss wanted to be a musician like his father, but met the same paternal opposition that many have encountered ever since. “One musician in the family is enough,” said Johann, Sr. His mother, on the other hand, encouraged him, bought him his first violin, and taught him how to play it. Young Johann performed his first concert when he was 19, and that night the audience knew that they were in the presence of a major new talent. He went on to become the Royal Director of Music for Court Balls in Emperor Franz Joseph’s court, and composed many of the most popular waltzes ever played, the most famous of which was the *Blue Danube*.

The waltz took its name from an old German word—*walzen*—which means

to roll, or to turn. It became fashionable in Vienna in the 1780s, which must have been an extraordinary time to be there, with Haydn in his prime and Beethoven in his teens. As with many other forms of cultural expression, like the blues or the tango, the roots of the waltz were to be found in peasant dances, in this case from rural Austria and Bavaria. Originally seen as vulgar and sinful by the bourgeoisie, due to the way partners held each other closely as they spun around the floor, the waltz soon overcame moral and religious objections and became a favorite everywhere in Europe. But it was still considered scandalous in some quarters.



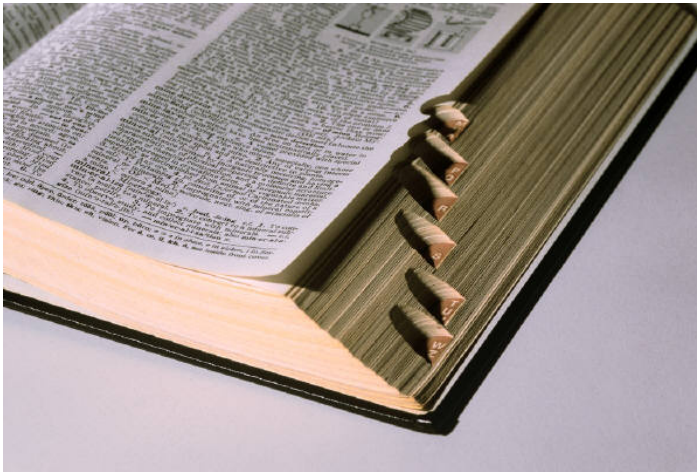
In July, 1816, at a ball given in London by the Prince Regent, the glitterati waltzed the night away. A scathing editorial in *The Times* later reported: “We remarked with pain that the indecent foreign dance called the Waltz was introduced (we believe for the first time) at the English court on Friday last. It is quite sufficient to cast one’s eyes on the voluptuous intertwining of the limbs and close compressure on the bodies in their dance, to see that it is indeed far removed from the modest reserve which has hitherto been considered distinctive of English females. So long as this obscene display was confined to

prostitutes and adulteresses, we did not think it deserving of notice; but now that it is attempted to be forced on the respectable classes of society by the civil examples of their superiors, we feel it a duty to warn every parent against exposing his daughter to so fatal a contagion.”

Well! That sounds rather like press coverage of rock & roll in the late nineteen fifties. It is also reminiscent of the reaction to the Charleston in the nineteen twenties. Maybe the waltz wasn’t so dreary after all.

My mother was barely two years younger than my father, but her taste in music was solidly rooted in her own century. She came of age listening to Glen Miller, Harry Roy, and Tommy Dorsey, and loved boogie woogie, jitterbug, and the Big Band sound of the forties. Tall and blonde, with long legs and a lovely figure, she was a natural dancer. She and her sister were thrilled when Bill Haley’s movie, *Rock Around the Clock* came to town. They took me to see it when I was about twelve years old, and I vividly remember the excitement of what to me was still an amazing new sound. My regret is that I was too young at the time to fully appreciate the stunning escort I had at my first rock & roll event.

But how, I used to wonder, did my mother and father ever get together, given their distinctly different tastes in music? The answer lay in the waltz. Once I was a little older, I began to appreciate what my father—and my mother—enjoyed about the music of Johann Strauss. A waltz has wonderful rhythm, and a melody you can hum along to if you are so inclined. There is a structure to the music that you can work within, but it needn’t limit you if you are feeling creative and adventurous. You can swirl around the room as if you were on a skating rink, which can make you feel just as giddy as a glass of ice cold champagne. And, best of all, you can hold your partner close—scandalously close!—and glide around the floor in a world of your own, with a *one-two-three, one-two-three, one-two-three.* ★



Strange New Words: Do you Speak Web 2.0?

© 2006 Frank Dietz, www.frankdietz.com

YOU MIGHT HAVE READ ABOUT THE SALE of YouTube to Google for a staggering 1.65 billion dollars. In this context, you also might have read the term “Web 2.0” and wondered what it meant.

Well, according to Wikipedia, which is itself a Web 2.0 site (www.wikipedia.org), the term refers to “a supposed second generation of Internet-based services—such as social networking sites, wikis, communication tools, and folksonomies—that emphasize online collaboration and sharing among users.” Notice the term “supposed”—there are some critics who regard this all as just so much hype. But you probably stumbled when you read “folksonomies”—what on earth is that supposed to mean?

Those of us who were around when the WWW became popular remember all the new terms we suddenly had to deal with—browser, e-commerce, B2B, and so on. Now you might be faced by a second wave of neologisms. Here are a few of them, with explanations:

- **Blog.** From “Weblog”. A journal-like website whose author adds entries more or less regularly, with the latest entry appearing on top. The totality of blogs (particularly politically oriented ones) is sometimes called the “blogosphere.”
- **Crowdsourcing.** From “Crowd” and “Outsourcing”. Outsourcing work, such as photography, to a large group of amateur users. The term was coined in an article in *Wired* (www.wired.com/wired/archive/14.06/crowds.html) discussing the website iStockphoto.com.
- **Folksonomy.** From “Folk” and “Taxonomy”: Collaborative, internet-based creation of labels to categorize web pages or online photographs.

- **Long Tail.** A reference to the book *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business Is Selling Less of More* by *Wired* magazine editor Chris Anderson. The book discussed how internet-based businesses such as Amazon, iTunes, or Netflix can make money in very specialized market niches, as they can offer much more content than brick-and-mortar bookstores, music stores or video rental businesses, and at a much lower cost to them.
- **Podcasting.** From “iPod” and “Broadcasting.” Internet distribution of multimedia files that can then be played back on MP3 players or computers.
- **RSS (Real Simple Syndication).** This format allows users to subscribe to websites by using so-called RSS-Readers or their internet browsers. Example: www.aatia.org allows users to subscribe to an RSS feed of calendar events (click on the orange XML button), so they do not have to check on the AATIA website to see new announcements.
- **Social bookmarking.** Web-based services, such as del.icio.us that allow users to store bookmarks online and share them, thus creating maps of currently “hot” topics.
- **Social commerce.** An attempt to combine the user communities of social networking sites with affiliate selling programs. An example would be Squidoo.com.
- **Tag cloud.** The totality of user-provided labels on a website such as the photo-sharing site flickr.com. This allows users quick access to popular topics.
- **Wiki.** A type of website that allows visitors to add, remove or edit content. Wikipedia is the prime example. There is a heated debate over the reliability of this kind of “collective intelligence.”

So, be prepared when you receive Web 2.0-related texts to translate. Of course, by the time you read this, a number of new terms will likely have been invented. ★

Software for Starving Students 2007.01 Released

THE 2007.01 RELEASE of Software for Starving Students is now available for download at www.softwarefor.org/downloads.html. Software for Starving Students is a free collection of programs organized for students (but available to anyone). These best-in-class programs are listed on the Q&A page in two categories: one for Mac OS X, one for Windows. Even label art is available for those who want to burn the downloaded software to a CD.

Another source of free, open-source software is www.theopencd.org, which is now available in version 4.0.

The two collections overlap somewhat, but each has some unique programs, including productivity applications, design tools, games, and others. ★



How I Lost and Then Found My Precious Data

—by *Gisella Greenlee*

RECENTLY I HAD TO REFORMAT my hard drive due to a very persistent virus. It was using my computer to send out spam mail, and I was unable to get rid of it. My ISP, Road Runner, instructed me either to take my computer in to be cleaned, which I had already done previously, or reformat the hard drive.

I went out and bought an external hard drive and saved my entire documents folder on it. Not thinking that it would create a problem, I left the external hard drive connected to the computer, because in my mind I was just reformatting the C: drive. Well, whatever I did wrong, I somehow also reformatted the external hard drive and wiped it clean.

I took it to a business specializing in computer repair and data recovery, but they were unable to retrieve my document folder. The only thing they were able to retrieve were some pictures.

Figuring I had nothing to lose, I decided to poke around the Internet looking for data recovery software and came across www.easeus.com. They have several versions of their software, including a demo that I downloaded just to see if it would find anything. The demo version does not give you a lot of specific information, but after it was done I could see that they found almost six gigabytes of

files, which I knew was about the size of the missing data folder.

Since they offer a 30-day money back guarantee, I figured I would download their live version and give it a try. After the program ran for about two minutes, I could see my files coming across the data feed, and 30 minutes later every one of my files was back!

The program cost \$75.00, but it would have cost me far more in productivity to try and recreate some of the lost files.

One important factor to bear in mind is that once you lose data, you should not write anything else to that drive until you have attempted to retrieve the data, since anything else you may save to the affected drive may overwrite the “lost” data, resulting in permanent loss. ★

ATA conference recapped

In our November meeting several AATIA members talked about their experiences at the ATA 47th Annual Conference in New Orleans. The following are some highlights.

Catalina Huidor. As a newcomer to the conference, Catalina found the variety somehow overwhelming. By attending the ATA mentoring program presentation, she learned that ATA maintains a database of translators that are willing to mentor other translators via e-mail and phone conversations.

Mike Magee. This year the Alexander Gode Award was awarded to Peter Less, and his acceptance speech made an impression on Mike because of its focus on technology and communication. As translators we are communicators, and Less reminded the audience about the importance of assuring the integrity of communication which is so heavily influenced by technology.

Patricia Yacovone. She was happy to learn about the Mental Health Interpreter program at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, which has in place a set of interpreting standards that apply to both in-house medical interpreters and the freelance interpreters they work with. There is also a support system within the hospital that ensures the medical interpreters take good care of their own mental health. Interpreters applying for a position at the hospital must complete a written test, a 30-minute role play and a test in medical terminology.

The Mentoring Moment

The November session of the Mentoring Moment featured Merry Wheaton and Allan Adams. Tony Beckwith moderated the session and asked a number of questions that might help newcomers to the translating and interpreting professions:

How did you get into translation?

While at Kent State University, Merry Wheaton translated a political science textbook from Spanish to English. Later she became a teacher, a grant and speech writer, and a translator. When she came to Austin she started looking for a niche market that would accommodate all of her skills and opened her own business from home, providing both translation and original copywriting services.

Allan Adams first became interested in languages after hearing radio broadcasts in foreign languages. He started translating Atari games into Apple programming language. Then, he opened his own translation agency from home and, after several attempts, managed to get Dell as a client. *How do you find translators for your projects?*

Merry Wheaton's agency is small. She used to work with two translators and recently added a third one. Her goal has been to keep her business the right size to allow her and her colleagues to keep busy.

Through the years, Allan Adams has developed a large pool of translators, many of whom are AATIA members (Albert Bork and Tony Beckwith, to name just two).

If you had it to do over, what would you do differently?

Merry Wheaton said she would probably hire the services of a professional for advice about how to most effectively market the combination of writing and translating skills. Allan Adams is happy with the way things turned out. He derives satisfaction from having created a lot of jobs for people, and while he knows he could have invested more time in growing the business, he is happy to have invested in his family life as well. ★

Open letter to AATIA:

Dear Esther,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and all the members of the AATIA Hospitality Committee for being such a helpful local resource for the ATA 47th Annual Conference.

Having effective volunteer support is so important to the success of our event and I hope that you found your experience to be rewarding and fun. Thank you for helping to make the conference such a wonderful event... we couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely,
Jiri Stejskal
ATA President-Elect

Translation is the paradigm, the exemplar of all writing. It is translation that demonstrates most vividly the yearning for transformation that underlies every act involving speech, that supremely human gift.

—Harry Mathews
1930- , American Novelist

Literary Notes

LITSIG WILL MEET on the following dates in 2007:

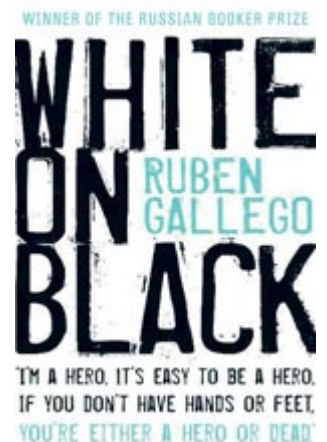
- January 20
- February 17
- April 21
- May 19

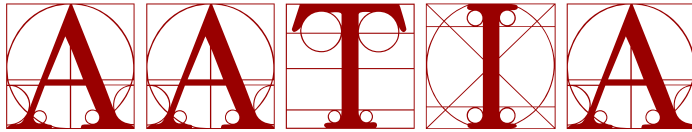
Details on venues and topics will be supplied as they become available. For any questions, please contact Marian Schwartz (litsig@aatia.org).

At the recent ALTA Conference in Bellevue, Washington, Ingrid Lansford read her translation of the German short story "Pulling Up Fish Traps," by Wolfdietrich Schnurre, and moderated the panel "Danish, Norwegian and Icelandic Voices for the American Reader." Marian Schwartz made a presentation on Andrei Gelasimov's *Thirst* for the Russian fiction panel.

The paperback edition of Ruben Gallego's *White on Black*, translated by Marian Schwartz, is just out from Harcourt.

A reading to look forward to: Enemy Nations, Emerging Voices: a reading from two groundbreaking anthologies that introduce the literature and culture of so-called enemy nations. The featured works include *Literature from the "Axis of Exil"* and *Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora*. Participants will be Persis Karim and Samantha Schnee with contributors Zara Houshmand and Mohammad Ghanoonparvar. Sunday, Jan. 21, 3pm at BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, Austin. ★





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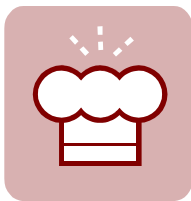
EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Jan 6 Back Injury Court Interpreter Terminology Workshop
- Jan 13 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*
- Jan 20 1–3 p.m. LitSIG meeting [see p. 7]
- Feb 10 10:15–12 noon. SpanSIG meeting*
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting*
- Mar 10 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*

*AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.

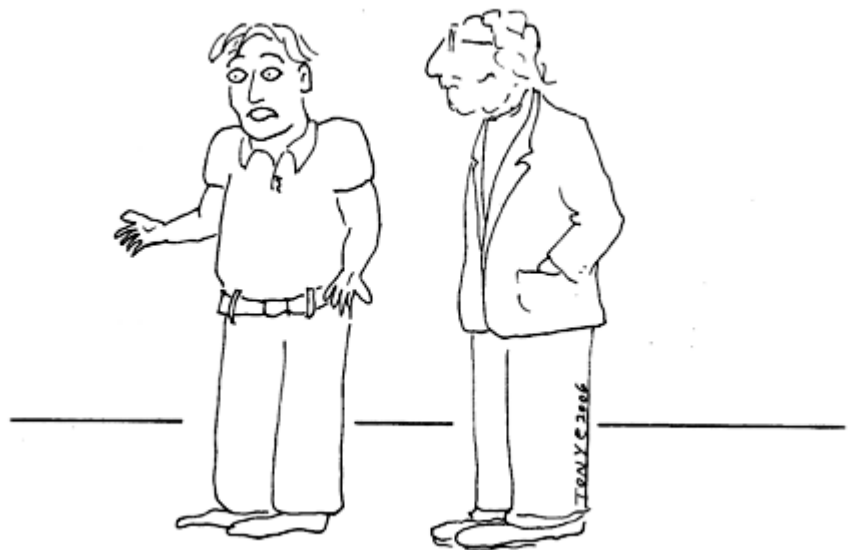
BEYOND AUSTIN

- May 4–6 **Houston.** ATA Energy Conference www.atnet.org
- May 18–20 **Portland, Oregon.** 28th Annual Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators www.najit.org
- Oct 31–Nov 3 **San Francisco.** 48th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association www.atanet.org
- Nov 7–10 **Dallas/Richardson.** 30th Annual Conference of the American Literary Translators Association www.literarytranslators.org



Calling all cooks (or friends and relatives thereof)

TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR, AATIA will serve special international refreshments at our January meeting. Anyone willing to contribute “finger food” for the feast is asked to contact Refreshment Coordinator Merry Wheaton at (512) 451-4772 or mcwheaton@austin.rr.com. ★



Who cares about a thought that counts? I want a thought that *thinks!*