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The Letter
of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association
November 2007

Results of AATIA officer election announced

The AATIA Tellers Committee, this year consisting of Gloria K. González and Janet Peirce, announced the following results of elections for the 2008 Board of Directors:

President

Michael Blumenthal..... 64

Secretary

Julie Nordskog..... 63

Dir. Of Communications

Tony Beckwith..... 64

Dir. Of Finance

Al Favela..... 64

Dir. of Membership

Gregory Huysmans..... 63

Dir. of Professional Development

Maurine McLean..... 64

A total of 64 ballots were cast in the election.

The bylaws amendment, which would permit balloting by electronic means, passed with a total of 61 votes for, 3 abstentions (or no vote), for a total of 64 ballots. ★

November 10 member meeting

How to obtain trilingual certification

The November 10th AATIA membership meeting will feature Yolanda Chavira of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), who will tell us about the Texas Trilingual Certification Program for interpreters of English, Spanish, and ASL. We will also hear from Esther Diaz on the Medical Division of the American Translators' Association. Tony Beckwith will also report on the ATA national conference recently held in San Francisco.

In addition there will be employment announcements, door prizes, and networking, making this an afternoon of sharing tips, camaraderie, and job information. Join us at 1:00 p.m. at the Austin History Center at 900 Guadalupe. Come as you are; leave in the know! ★

American Translators Association passes 10,000-member mark

Alexandra, VA – The American Translators Association (ATA) today announced that the organization has surpassed 10,000 members. Founded in 1959, the ATA is the largest professional association of translators and interpreters in the U.S. with members in over 80 countries.

"We are thrilled with the explosive growth that this vital profession has recently experienced," said Marian S. Greenfield, ATA's President. "The business of translation and interpreting continues to expand with the global economy and has become the new, hot career."

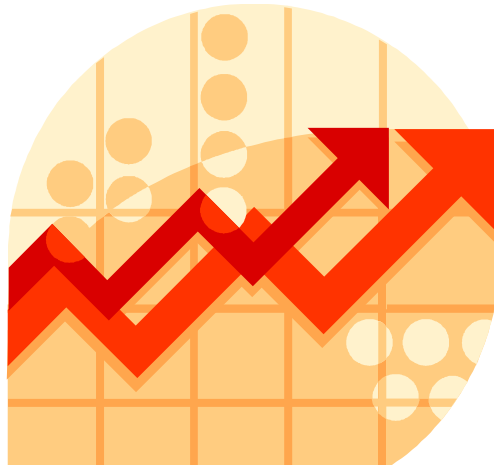
In the past ten years, the \$11 billion translating and interpreting services industry has experienced tremendous growth, increasing at a rate of 10% to 15% annually, particularly in the areas of the global marketplace, healthcare and national security, Greenfield pointed out.

In today's global business environment, the stakes are high. Translation mistakes can be costly, embarrassing, and even disastrous. Having a professional translator is vital and translation has proven to be one of the most sought after professions in the 21st Century.

Parade Magazine recently listed translation as the 2nd hottest job right now, saying that industry growth will be 26% in the coming year. The rapidly evolving global economy has given rise to a greater demand for translation services, and translators and interpreters are visible and being acknowledged as an indispensable force in the global arena.

"Translators and interpreters are no longer behind the scenes; they are now key players in an increasing number of international companies and organizations," said Greenfield.

Translators and interpreters are in hospitals, courts, banks, telecom, pharmaceuticals, tech, and dozens of other businesses that speak to people around the world on a daily basis. ★



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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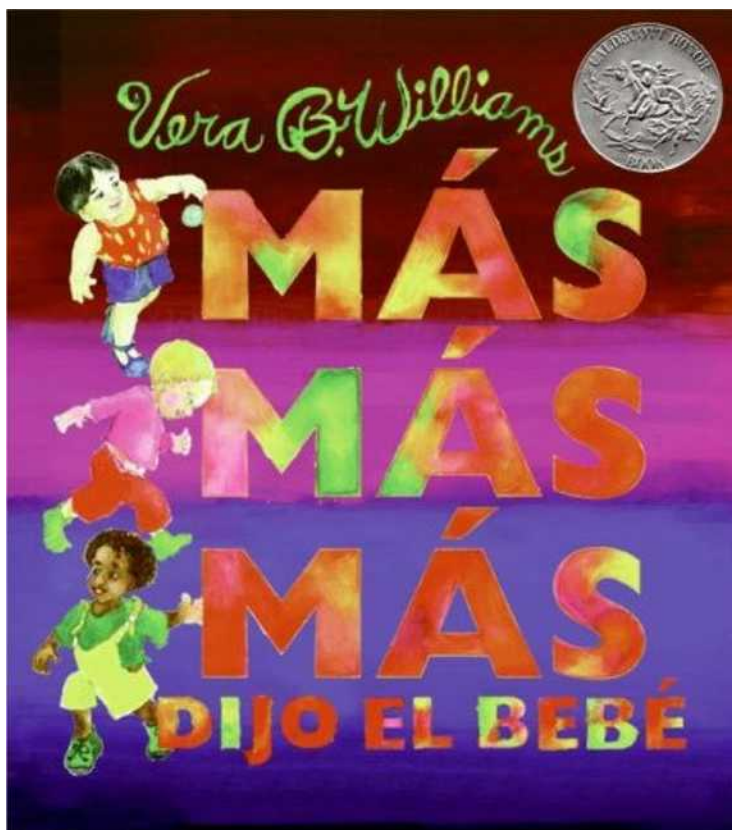
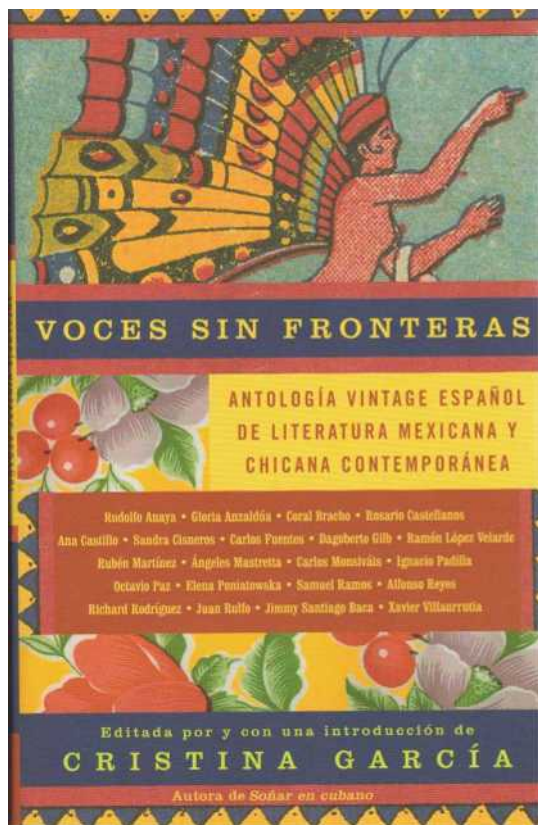
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Litcetera

Liliana Valenzuela has six new translations (poems, stories and essays) in the anthology *Voces sin fronteras: Antología vintage español de literatura mexicana y chicana contemporánea*, edited by Cristina García, Vintage Español/Random House 2007.

And just out, her translation of the illustrated children's book, *Más, más, más, dijo el bebé*, written and illustrated by Vera Williams, Greenwillow Books/Harper Collins, 2007. ★

Marian Schwartz's translation of *Soviet Culture and Power: A History in Documents, 1917-1953*, by Katerina Clark & Evgeny Dobrenko with Andrei Artizov and Oleg Naumov, has just been published by Yale University Press, as part of its Annals of Communism series. For a summary of the book visit the website at <http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/bookprinter.asp?isbn=9780300106466> ★



Wake Up!

by Tony Beckwith © 2007

www.tonybeckwith.com

SOON AFTER I ARRIVED in Austin, in the early eighties, Lillian took me to a drive-in movie. As we watched the screen, holding hands, with the speakers hooked onto the side of the car, I experienced an epiphany. These days we call it an "ah-ha!" moment, but it's the same thing.

Until I settled in Austin, my movie-going experience was limited to the traditional indoor theater. There were no drive-in movies in Montevideo in the fifties. But there were radios and records, and the music of the Everly Brothers who sang the memorable hit, "Wake up, little Suzy." The action in this musical story takes place at the movies, as explained in the lyrics:

*We've both been sound asleep
wake up little Suzy and weep
the movie's over, it's four o'clock
and we're in trouble deep.*

As a teenager I memorized the lyrics of virtually every song I listened to. I always assumed that everyone did, and didn't discover until many years later that I was wrong. But then, perhaps not everyone listened to a favorite song, or all the tracks on a favorite album, over and over and over and over and over and over again. After a while those lyrics are burned into one's mental hard drive, never to be forgotten. Anyway, after listening to "Wake up, little Suzy" a few million times, I still couldn't understand how someone could fall asleep at the movies and not wake up until four o'clock in the morning.

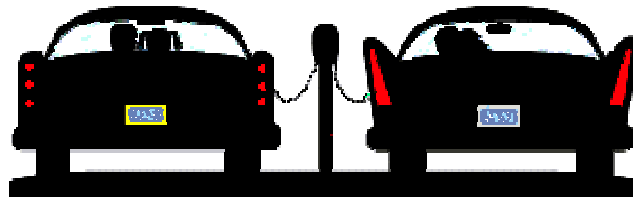
*Well, we told your mama that we'd
be in by ten
Suzy, baby, looks like we goofed
again!*

That just couldn't happen in any movie theater I'd ever been to because the ushers would usher

everyone out of their seats after each performance. It would have been impossible to snooze on uninterrupted until the wee small hours of the morning. What was the song talking about? Unable to solve the riddle, I put it aside and forgot about it. Decades went by and then, that night at the drive-in movie in Austin, the answer suddenly hit me like a thunderbolt and I cried out, "ah-ha!"

It had suddenly dawned on me that Don and Phil Everly were telling a story set in a drive-in movie! At a drive-in, Suzy and I could indeed have fallen asleep and slumbered on into the night. Every time I thought about it, the Suzy in my mind's eye looked like someone else, and more details of the incident emerged, as from a fog. Or steam.

*Whatta we gonna tell your mama?
Whatta we gonna tell your pop?
Whatta we gonna tell our friends
when they say, "ooh-la-la!"*



Now, at last, my ancient quest was at an end; I had finally found the solution to a puzzle that had long challenged my reason, and the answer had provided a most satisfying cultural insight as well. I had been unable to solve the riddle of the song because there were no drive-in movies in Montevideo at that time. But there were plenty of regular ones.

During my teenage years I would often join my pack to attend marathon Saturday or Sunday movie sessions that were cleverly scheduled to begin just before lunch at 1 p.m. and end at about nine o'clock at

night. We'd go to the Casablanca, the Biarritz, or the Cine Carrasco. We'd see four full-length movies, interspersed with cartoons and newsreels and advertisements. There were concession stands of the old, entrepreneurial variety: vendors with trays on stands or carts on wheels, offering gum (*jchicle!*), cold soft drinks (*jPessi Cola bien helada!*), hot dogs (*jfrrrraanfrrruteee!*), sweet and salty popcorn (*jel pó, el pó acaramelado!*), hot roasted peanuts in a newspaper cone (*jcalentito el maníí!*), cigarettes (*j cigarillos!*), sandwiches (*jsánguches!*), and ice cream (*jvasito, barrita, bombón helado!*). Oh, did I say cigarettes? Don't tell my parents!

My favorite place to be on a cold and rainy Saturday afternoon was the Casablanca. For one thing, most people in the audience were about my age. It wasn't until years later, when I went to the movies at night as an adult, that I understood just how totally those weekend matinees

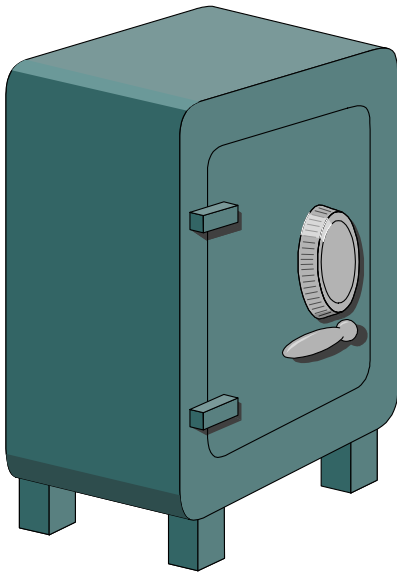
were geared to the kids. And I appreciated them enormously. They were a snug, exciting, safe place to be away from home and surrounded by friends and peers. Not that there was anything wrong with life at home; on the contrary, I was lucky enough to grow up in a very loving and easy-going family. But when the boys and girls in my gang were at the Casablanca, that's where I absolutely had to be. Which movies were actually being shown was of no importance whatsoever. I doubt I ever even looked it up in the paper. That certainly wasn't why I was there. Not by a long shot.

*The movie wasn't so hot
it didn't have much of a plot
we fell asleep, our goose is cooked
our reputation is shot
wake up, little Suzy
wake up, little Suzy
we gotta go home. ★*

How Long Will Your Precious Data Last?

by Frank Dietz ©2007

www.frankdietz.com



Recent studies suggest that while theoretically, optical media can last for decades, in real life, few people can provide the environmental conditions (constant temperature, humidity and avoidance of sunlight) required for this. While this might seem of little concern in your day-to-day activities as a translator, consider what your glossaries, translation memories and other reference materials are worth after you have accumulated years of work-related files.

What should you do to ensure the safety and longevity of these important data? Here are a few tips:

Don't rely on hard drives alone. You certainly should not just rely on the internal hard drive of your computer, but even if you have an external hard drive for back-up, that could be stolen or damaged by fire or flood.

- Treat your optical discs carefully. Don't allow them to be scratched. Keep them in jewel cases. Buy only quality brands. Also, CD-Rs generally last longer than rewriteable discs.
- Supplement local storage with off-site storage. This could be as simple as keeping a few CD-Rs or DVD-Rs at a friend's house. You could also rent a safety deposit box at your bank and keep them there.
- Use online storage. Now that even free e-mail services offer plenty of storage (my Yahoo! Mail account recently switched to unlimited storage), you can simply mail yourself important files. Just don't trust your files to a start-up that might not be here next year.
- Don't put all your data in one basket. Make sure to have a mix of back-ups on hard drives CD/DVD, flash drives and online sites.
- Remember the format. Even the best media won't be of any use if you do not have the proper programs that can read your data. Either keep versions of old programs (and hope their media don't fail), or transfer your data to new formats regularly. ★

Use LinkScanner to check shady URLs

IF YOU'D RATHER BE SAFE than sorry, enter the URL of a site or Web page you want to visit in the box at <http://linkscanner.explabs.com>. The free LinkScanner Online service will visit the URL in a controlled environment on their servers and inspect it in real-time to determine whether it is hiding any exploit code and, if so, what exploit.

Use LinkScanner Online to inspect:

- Links forwarded by friends
- Web sites displayed on search results

- Any link with suspicious characters or website you have never visited

Cybercriminals use "lure" sites to attract web users to sites they have invisibly infected with exploit code. This exploit code is then used to infect users' PCs with drive-by downloads of spyware, rootkits, and other malware.

Just because you click a link doesn't mean you'll land on the site you thought you would.

Just because a site looks innocent doesn't mean the underlying code is harmless.

Just because a search engine serves up a listing doesn't mean you can trust it. ★

Did you know ?

IN SPAIN, Popeye's girlfriend is called "Rosario" In Portugal, her name is "Olivia Palito."



Found at www.neatorama.com



TAHIT Symposium on Language Access

The Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT) held its first Symposium on Language Access on August 24 and 25, 2007, at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The 144 participants came from Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, and all over Texas. They included interpreters, staff and administrators from major hospitals in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin, as well as translation and interpreting agencies.

The event kicked off Friday with tours of M.D. Anderson and Texas Children's Hospital, followed by a reception, all of which were well-

attended. The networking was great!

The following day was filled with plenary sessions featuring Legislative Updates, an Open Forum on Certification of Healthcare Interpreters, a Cultural Forum on Healthcare Beliefs and Practices, and the Standards of Practice for Health Care Interpreters.

Concurrent sessions were divided into two tracks: one for providers and administrators, the other for interpreters and translators. Presentations for Administrators included a Forum on Models of Service Delivery, The Development of M.D. Anderson's International Department, JCAHO Standards and How to Prepare for a JCAHO Survey.

Presentations for Interpreters and Translators included an Update in Pediatrics by John Cochran, M.D.,

from the Department of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics at LBJ Hospital, a lively presentation on Professional Boundaries in Health Care, and a session on Congenital Heart Defects.

The Open Forum on Certification of Healthcare Interpreters involved discussion about the following statements:

- I think we are ready for national certification now (30 strongly agree; 43 agree; 30 disagree; 8 strongly disagree)
- I think national certification at this time will answer concerns about the quality of healthcare (27 strongly agree; 50 agree; 30 disagree; 4 strongly disagree)
- I think national certification will eliminate a lot of good practicing interpreters. (4 strongly agree; 15 agree; 53 disagree; 45 strongly disagree)

There was also discussion of the following questions:

- What are the conditions that need to be in place for national certification to be credible and successful?
- What are the potential benefits and pitfalls of national certification? Who might it potentially help? How?
- Who might it potentially harm? How?

Results from this focus group will be tabulated with results from others conducted around the country and will be considered by the Standards, Training and Certification Committee of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care.

By all accounts, the symposium was a success. For those who missed it, an electronic copy of the program and presentations will soon be available at www.tahit.org.

Now, it's time to start planning for next year's symposium. We look forward to seeing you there! ★





Members urged to review data

IN OUR ONGOING EFFORT to improve our website to allow for more efficient communication with our members by email, we ask all members to review their profiles and update all pertinent information, particularly your email address.

This will allow us to send timely communication to our members by email, conduct votes (per the recently approved bylaws amendment), annual billing, etc.

This change will result in cost savings for AATIA, which can be used to provide other services to our members rather than spending funds on printing and postage.

—Gisela Greenlee
Director of Membership

Rosita's Day of the Dead

AATIA MEMBER ALEX MCGUIRE plays a key role in the local production of Rosita's Day of the Dead, produced by Teatro Vivo. The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from November 1-17.

Catch this hilarious bilingual comedy at St. John's Episcopal Church, 11201 Parkland Drive, at Braker Lane, Austin 78758. For ticket information call AUSTIX at 474-8497 or go online to www.texasperforms.com.

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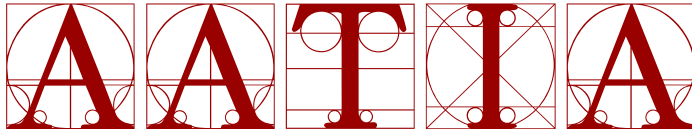
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EVENTS IN AUSTIN

Nov 10 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*

Dec 8 10:15–12 noon. SpanSIG meeting*

1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting*

Jan 12 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*

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

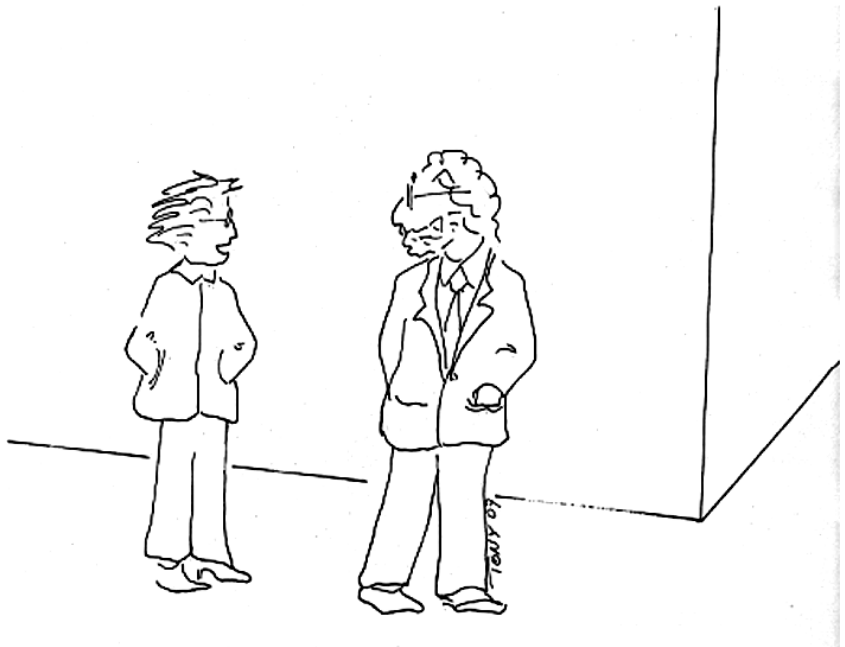
BEYOND AUSTIN

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

May 16–18, 2008 **Pittsburgh**. 29th Annual Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators www.najit.org

Laughter
translates
into any
language.
— Graffiti



What's so cute about a button, for goodness sakes?