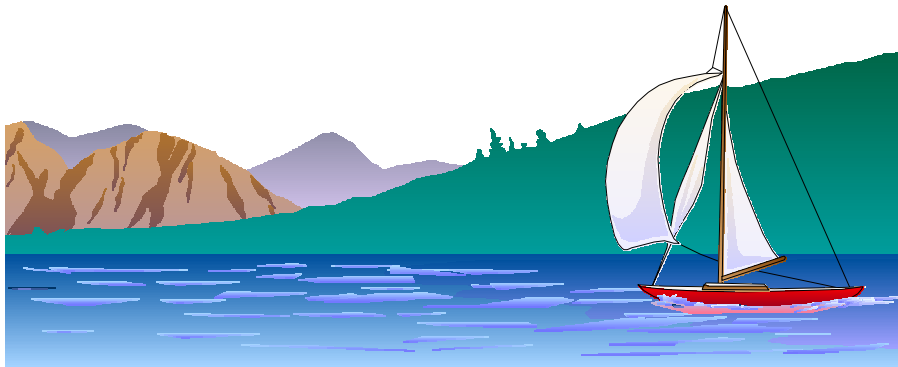


# The Letter

September 1999

Published by the  
Austin Area Translators  
and Interpreters Association



## AATIA to set sail on Lake Travis

AATIA MEMBERS AND GUESTS will dine on Lake Travis Sunday, September 26. We will gather at Volente Beach at 6:30 p.m., embark promptly at 7:00, and return at 9:00.

For \$10 a person (\$5 for children under 12), AATIA will provide food, soft drinks, and ice-filled coolers for BYOB beverages (no glass containers, please).

Upon receiving required advance reservations and payment, we will mail detailed instructions and directions to Volente Beach. ★

## September meeting topic: public service

AATIA'S SEPTEMBER MEETING looks at public service, with Maurine McLean speaking on health & human services interpreting, a report by Esther Díaz on the "Bridging the Gap" training she and other members attended, and a presentation on the Austin refugee interpreting program. ★

## Translation and Interpretation Certificate Program

### ACC offers global opportunities

HAVE YOU NOTICED that the world seems to be getting smaller? Names of places that used to be far away are now showing up in the daily news, in business conversations, and especially on the labels of products we buy. Are world markets coming to us, do you suppose, or are we expanding out to them?

The truth is, it's a little of both: and it's called globalization. Products need markets, and it's all about people buying and selling to each other. That means that there's a growing need for translators and interpreters—who have been well trained to work skillfully with foreign languages—to provide the essential interface that leads to successful international commerce. And that's where you come in.

If you are fluent in a foreign language and want to put your skills to work, check into ACC's Translation and Interpretation Certificate Program. ACC is proud

to be among the few colleges in the country offering a complete program in translation and interpretation. The program is a collaborative effort between ACC and the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AATIA). It includes courses such as Introduction to Translation and Interpretation, Technology for Translators and Interpreters, Ethics and Business Practices, and Basic and Advanced Translation and Interpretation Skills. These courses are presented by professional translators and interpreters. While these courses are offered on a non-credit basis, you will gain very marketable job skills, which will be well worth your investment in time and money.

Courses are taught in three-hour classes, meeting one evening per week for ten weeks. The cost is only \$150 per course. Check the AATIA website [www.aatia.org](http://www.aatia.org) for details about current offerings or contact Esther Diaz at [ediaz@flash.net](mailto:ediaz@flash.net). ★



# Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

## Board of Directors

**President** Asele Surina ☎ 832-5950 fax 832-5945 asele@texas.net

**Secretary** Elisabeth Joffrain ☎ 282-1198 fax 280-3359 (call first)  
joffrain@flash.net

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**INTERPRETATION** Cristina Helmerichs D. ☎ 452-5895

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73622.650@compuserve.com

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HarvieJordan@compuserve.com

**WEBSITE** Eric Brooks ☎ 659-3927 fax 472-4591 eric@mcelroytranslation.com

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Merry Wheaton ☎ 451-4772 fax 451-1935 75512.2650@compuserve.com

## Membership Update

AS OF THE AUGUST MEETING of the AATIA Board, membership stood at 203: 178 active, 6 associate, and 21 business (16 have dual active and business memberships).

Welcome to the following new members:

### Mr. Stephen Eric Brooks

910 West Avenue

Austin TX 78701

512-659-3927

512-472-6753

eric@mcelroytranslation.com

English

### Ms. Rachel E. Kownslar

RR 2 Box 149 C-1

Bastrop TX 78602

512-321-4865

rachelkown@totalaccess.net

Spanish

Interpreter subject: Legal & administrative, medical & community

Translator subjects: Documents, employee handbooks, general legal, health and social services, human resources, public information, technical manuals, training manuals

### Ms. Anamarie Y. Martinez

6818 Cranbrook Square Court

Richmond TX 77469

281-491-0990

aymxlates@pdq.net

Spanish (Panamanian), English

Translator subjects: Business, computer technology, employee handbooks, energy and fuels, environmental engineering, general legal, mechanical engineering, petroleum engineering, technical manuals, training materials

### Mr. Mauricio Medina

915 East 48½ Street

Austin TX 78751

512-438-2970 512-438-2970

mmedinas@hotmail.com

Spanish

Translator subjects: Audio/video scripts, correspondence, documents, employee handbooks, instructional manuals, politics and international affairs, product

manuals, public information, technical manuals, training materials

### Ms. Janet K. Peirce

211 Pin Oak Drive  
Georgetown TX 78628-8977  
512-930-5006 512-943-5050  
peircej@georgetown.txed.net  
English

Translator subjects: Education, public information

### Mr. Eduardo Salas

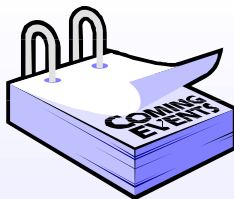
1408 Valleyridge Circle, #101  
Austin TX 78704  
512-707-0546 512-589-7583  
sambista@excite.com  
Spanish (Colombian)  
Interpreter subjects: Conference & seminar, escort & telephone, legal & administrative, medical & community  
Translator subjects: Automotive, Bible and religion, finance, geography, immigration law, management, marketing and sales, music, nursing and personal care, real estate ★

## Returned e-mail

FROM TIME TO TIME Albert Bork broadcasts e-mail announcements to his list of some 100 members. To make sure you get the messages, please inform Database Coordinator Jane Chamberlain [candide@io.com](mailto:candide@io.com) when your address changes. Otherwise the e-mail is returned undeliverable. The owners of the following addresses should update (or correct) them:

jnbrice@texas.net,  
peirce@georgetown.txed.net  
amts@worldnet.att.net  
lfrench@mail.utexas.edu

Kristlig@cs.com  
hqdavistran@hqaustin.com  
bobfarns@onr.com  
jmonline@webtv.net ★



*AATIA welcomes visitors to the Austin History Center (9th & Guadalupe) on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months for general meetings and even-numbered months for board meetings.*

### EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- SEP 11 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting. Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537  
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting. Info 707-3900  
5 p.m. Rowdy Translators SIG meeting
- SEP 26 6:30-9 p.m. Lake Travis Dinner Cruise. Info: Katarzyna Grzegorzczuk 479-7658 or [katarzyna@poboxes.com](mailto:katarzyna@poboxes.com)
- OCT 3 1-3 p.m. RussianSIG. Info Jane Chamberlain 453-1486 or [candide@io.com](mailto:candide@io.com)
- OCT 6 7 p.m. LitSIG. Info Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or [proza@compuserve.com](mailto:proza@compuserve.com)
- OCT 9 2-5 p.m. AATIA board meeting
- NOV 13 AATIA regular meeting & SIG meetings

### AND BEYOND

- OCT 2-3 **Arlington, VA.** Jornadas de traducción e interpretación en español. Info: 703-379-0653, [info@aagnese.com](mailto:info@aagnese.com) or [www.aagnese.com](http://www.aagnese.com)
- OCT 20-24 **New York, NY.** American Literary Translators Association annual conference. Info: 972-883-2093 or [www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/ALTA.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/ALTA.htm)
- NOV 3-7 **St. Louis, Missouri.** American Translators Association annual conference. Info: 703-683-6100 or [ata@atanet.org](mailto:ata@atanet.org)
- DEC 17-19 **Norwich, England.** Gender & Translation: an International Symposium. Info: Jo Catling [jcatling@uea.ac.uk](mailto:jcatling@uea.ac.uk) or Keith Harvey [k.harvey@uea.ac.uk](mailto:k.harvey@uea.ac.uk)

### DR. ASLAN ASLANIAN

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**Tres Amigos**  
RESTAURANT & CANTINA

# Introducing candidates for 2000 Board of Directors

## Board candidates announced

Nominating Committee Chair Harvie Jordan announced the candidates for the 2000 Board of Directors at the August meeting of the Board. Candidates will be introduced and make a brief presentation at the general membership meeting September 11, 1999. Additional nominations will be accepted until the third Saturday in September.

The election will be conducted by mail in October 1999, and results will be announced at the November membership meeting. ★

### FOR PRESIDENT:

#### Asele Surina (incumbent)

I am a part-time freelance Russian<->English translator and interpreter and a stay-at-home mom of a two-year-old girl.



After moving to Austin from Russia, I immediately joined AATIA and have been a member for four happy and fulfilling years.

During my first year as President, you have given me your guidance and support. I have learned a lot about AATIA and its talented and dedicated members. The experience gained in 1999 will help me do a better job in 2000. [Surina is unopposed.] ★

### FOR SECRETARY:

#### Stacey Booth

To begin, I'd like to introduce myself to the organization. I learned of AATIA while taking

translation classes at ACC and joined almost a year ago.

I received my B.A. in Spanish in 1994 and lived in Mexico City for the next two years before coming to Austin. I am currently finishing my Masters in Latin American Studies at UT with a focus on Film and Art History.

While in Mexico City, I did market research for a large Mexican manufacturer and translated industrial and marketing materials. I also taught English. Currently, I translate for the Human Rights Documentation Exchange, a weekly publication of articles about Mexico and Central America. Additionally, I am the Employee Services Manager for a small software company.

I am honored to be nominated for Secretary and feel I have much to offer AATIA. I am organized and detail-oriented. I am a self-starter, a quick learner, and always welcome a challenge. I will combine my volunteer and professional experience with my dedication to

AATIA's goals to contribute to expanding and improving our organization.

AATIA has been an invaluable resource as I work towards my goal of becoming a freelance translator and I thank you for the opportunity to express my commitment to this organization.

### Deborah Moretsky

I would like to ask for your vote for Secretary. I believe that the skills I have developed throughout the years will allow me to do a good job; however, it is the enthusiasm that I have for the AATIA and the esteem that I have gained for its members that will allow me to do a great job. I am a freelance translator doing business as Españolísimo Translations, and have been a member of the AATIA since February of this year. In this short period of time, I have been quite impressed by the meetings, seminars, and services, but mostly, the members of this organization.

Before I embarked upon my present career path, I was the Senior Administrative Assistant for



the International Division of Fujitsu Business Communication Systems, an international telecommunications company. Amongst other things, my responsibilities included all

customer relations issues (orders, shipping, billing, etc.) with our customers in Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Curacao, and Trinidad & Tobago. Needless to say, if it weren't for my organizational skills I never would have survived!

I would like to use these skills as well as my unwavering enthusiasm to serve the AATIA membership. I hope you will allow me the honor. ★

**FOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:  
Monica Mitre (incumbent)**

I have served as your Director of Communications since January. I have been a translator/interpreter for the past year and a half. I have an undergraduate degree in Spanish and Economics from UT-Austin and a Master of International Management degree from Thunderbird. After graduation I worked for Citibank in NY and Miami in their Latin American Private Banking division.



I have enjoyed my time as Director of Communications and wish to continue in the position next year. As with any job, it takes a while to understand and feel comfortable with your responsibilities before you can add value by implementing new programs, procedures, etc. I feel I am at that point now. In August AATIA will participate in the fundraising drive for KLRU as a way to get our name out in the community. Hopefully this will be the first of many times we do this.

We have also found that we can use our directories as a source of always-welcome revenue. I would like to have more time to work on programs to make AATIA more well known in the Austin community. I also plan to reestablish ties with the translator/interpreter group in Monterrey, Mexico. I am sure there will be lots of interesting information to exchange.

There is still a lot of work to be done!

[Mitre is unopposed.] ★

**FOR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:  
Leon McMorrow (incumbent)**

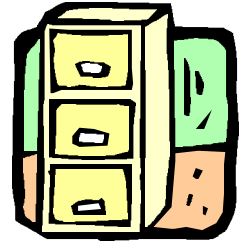
I have been a member of AATIA as long as I can remember; they still take my money and even gave me the office of Financial Director for the past t-t-two years—are they hard up or what! Since the pay is great, I decided to take another shot at the job this year. My philosophy of money management is simple and very common in America but it works: "There is gold in outer space; go for it!" This has made America great. Vote for America. [McMorrow is unopposed.] ★



**FOR DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP:  
Katarzyna Grzegorzcyk (incumbent)**

I have been a member of this organization for a couple of years now. During that time, I have made a lot of friends, developed excellent networking contacts and received a tremendous amount of information and valuable resources about the

profession. I cannot imagine ever becoming a translator without the support of an organization such as AATIA. I realize though, that we all reap benefits only because of the commitment and dedication of the members who get involved and make things happen.

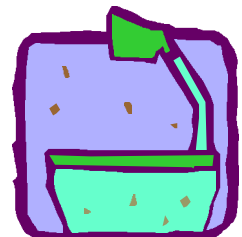


Last year, I decided I wanted to give back to the organization by serving as Membership Director. With the help of other members and coordinators, I have started some new projects to increase our membership and to contribute to the organization. I've enjoyed it tremendously and have come up with many new ideas for this position. A year doesn't seem long enough, however, to accomplish all that I've set out to do. I'd like to continue the efforts to increase our membership and participation by reaching out to already established translators and interpreters in the area, as well as to those who are just starting out and need help as I did two years ago when I joined the organization. [Grzegorzcyk is unopposed.] ★

**FOR DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

**Albert Bork (incumbent)**

[Statement unavailable at press time. Bork is unopposed.] ★



## Along Literary Lines



IT CAN BE DAUNTING to select a literary text to translate, especially since before you can publish your translation, you must obtain permission if the original work is still under copyright. You can get around this problem by choosing an original work that is in the public domain, like the poem below.

AATIA member Martyn Hitchcock found this anonymous thirteenth-century poem in an anthology of Dutch love poetry and translated it to use as a valentine many years ago.

O lieve herte,  
mij doet smerte  
uw verre wezen;

waar ik u bij  
zo waar ik vrij  
ende al genezen.

O heart most dear,  
pain grips me here  
while thou'rt abroad.

Were I by thee,  
released I'd be,  
and straightway cured.

*Translation © 1999 Martyn Hitchcock*

Members and nonmembers alike are invited to submit short literary translations for publication in *The Letter*. All translations submitted should be no more than 300 words in length and should be accompanied by the original text. ★

## PEN updates online translators guide

THE NEW (FOURTH EDITION) of the PEN Handbook for Literary Translators is now available at <http://www.pen.org/translation/handbook.html>.

The online handbook contains sections on The Responsibilities of Translation, Negotiating a Contract, Dos and Don'ts, A Translators Model Contract, Selected Resources, and International PEN's Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Translators. ★

## LitSIG back for October meeting

AFTER ITS SUMMER VACATION AATIA's Literary Special Interest Group will resume its regular meetings at 7 p.m., October 6, at 607 Caroline Ave.

Michele Aynesworth will talk about translating an Argentinian novel and the issues involved in submitting her translation for publication.

Contact LitSIG Coordinator Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or [mbs@texas.net](mailto:mbs@texas.net) for details or directions. ★

## Kafkaesque translation

IN PHILIP ROTH'S NOVEL *The Professor of Desire*, (1977) the protagonist travels to Prague, where he meets a Czech professor who was forced to retire after the Soviet occupation. During a discussion of Kafka, the professor states:

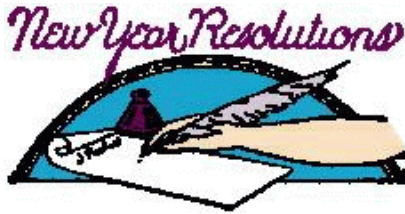
"I translate *Moby Dick* into Czech. Of course, a translation already happens to exist, a very fine one indeed. There is absolutely no need for another...."

"Now, as you might imagine, this ambitious project, when completed, will be utterly useless for two reasons. First, there is no need for another translation, particularly one likely to be inferior to the distinguished translation we already have; and second, no translation of mine can be published in this country. In this way, you see, I am able to undertake what I would not otherwise have dared to do, without having to bother myself any longer worrying whether it is sensible or not. Indeed, some nights when I am working late, the futility of what I am doing would appear to be my deepest source of satisfaction."

*Contributed by Frank Dietz ★*

## Eric Brooks dons Webmaster hat

STEPPING ASIDE due to work demands, Frank Dietz passed the Webmaster's stetson to Eric Brooks in July. The new Webmaster works as a systems analyst at Ralph McElroy Translation Co., which will provide time on the job for Brooks to administer the site, according to company representative Patricia Probst. ★



## Computer Corner Online Y2K Resources

by Frank Dietz ©1999

UNLESS YOU SPENT the last few years under that proverbial rock, you should have heard about the Y2K issue, AKA the Millenium Bug—the fact that in the stone age of the computer era programmers used two digits to mark the year. Now, 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.

To forestall possible problems, it's not too early for a New Year's resolution: to make sure your computer is Y2K-compliant. The following websites should help.

The Y2K DATABASE at <http://y2k.y2kbase.com/> lets you check the Y2K compliance of utility companies, airlines, government agencies and many other institution 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/](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/>.

For those whose translation work involves Y2K information, there is plenty of information in other languages: FRENCH at <http://www.an2000.gouv.fr/>, GERMAN <http://www.2000kommt.de/> and <http://www.microsoft.com/germany/jahr2000/>, ITALIAN <http://www.anno2000.it/>, SPANISH <http://www.y2k.gob.mx/>, SWEDISH <http://www.statskontoret.se/2000/>, and Portuguese <http://www.sisnema.com.br/news/Bug2000/>.

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. ★

## Spanish T&I seminar scheduled

JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES for *Jornadas de traducción e interpretación en español* October 2-3, 1999, in Arlington, Virginia.

The \$250 seminar will cover translation topics including Contrastive English-Spanish Grammatical Structures, Business and Legal Terminology in Context.

Interpretation topics will include Role of the Community Interpreter, The Interpreter in a Health Care Setting, Police and Victim Services Interpreters, Depositions, and more.

Lecturers: Alicia Agnese, Pimpi Coggins, M. Eta Trabing, and AATIA member Cristina Helmerichs. For more information, call 703-379-0653, e-mail [info@aagnese.com](mailto:info@aagnese.com), or see the website [www.aagnese.com](http://www.aagnese.com). ★

## Your ad in *The Letter*

YOUR BUSINESS CARD-SIZED AD in the November issue will reach an expanded readership, as it will be distributed at two major national conferences. Limited space is available. \$25. Contact Tony Beckwith 479-8865 or [104607.2510@compuserve.com](mailto:104607.2510@compuserve.com). ★

Residential Real Estate  
**Stacy Brunson**

*Amelia Bullback*  
REALTORS

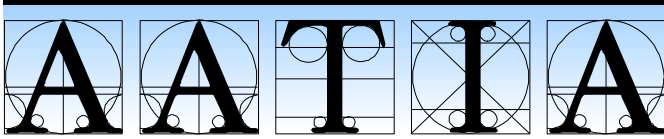
I speak your language

327-4874 ext. 173/626-0733 mobile

I will donate to AATIA 10% of my fee from member sales or purchases

Any way you translate it,  
"fine dining" always means

*Green Pastures*  
RESTAURANT



PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900

<http://www.aatia.org>



## AATIA Agenda: September 11, 1999

- 10 a.m. **SpanSIG**  
(Austin History Center,  
9th & Guadalupe)
- 1 p.m. **General meeting**  
(Austin History Center)
- 5 p.m. **Rowdy Translators SIG**  
(Dog & Duck Pub,  
17<sup>th</sup> & Guadalupe)

### T&I Tip

A CONSTANT CHALLENGE for the freelance translator is to appear "business-like."

Often, a client's first contact with us is through our voice mail message. But most of us seldom, if ever, listen to our own recordings. And we should.

It is to our advantage to check our own messages once in a while. Just to see if they seem out of date, are too long, aren't funny or cute any more, and so on. We should try to be aware of the first impression we are making.

*Got a hint to share with your colleagues? Send it to the Editor by fax 474-2895 or e-mail [conner@texas.net](mailto:conner@texas.net). ★*



### Change of e-mail address

Please update your directories. Stacy Booth has a new e-mail address: [srbooth@flash.net](mailto:srbooth@flash.net) ★

### Interpreter Suggestion Box

SOME SPANISH PRESENTERS read prepared statements at 400 words per minute. I have a possible solution for interpreters who have trouble keeping up.

Toss an old thermal fax machine in with the other equipment taken to assignments. With such a machine in the room the interpreter can discreetly and politely ask the presenters for copies of their papers immediately before their presentations, such copies to be made on the spot so that the material is right there in front of them the whole time—no danger of anything getting lost in the shuffle. Naturally the copies can be returned to the speaker once the interpreter has finished using them.

I believe this is a good, cheap solution to what is perhaps the greatest difficulty facing conference interpreters.

—*Hank Phillips*