



THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

January/February 2004

A Publication of The New York Circle of Translators

A New Year.....A New Challenge! _____



Guylaine Laperriere
2004 NYCT President

A new year has rolled in, bringing its share of new resolutions and challenges. In my case, the challenges have already begun. I have chaired my first meeting with the new Board and we are looking forward to defining our goals and sharing ideas for the upcoming year.

As you may know, in the absence of the past President Elect who resigned last year, I have accepted the presi-

dency of the New York Circle of Translators for one year. This means that I am jumping on the bandwagon with little or no preparation. Fortunately, I have the privilege of being supported by a very dynamic team. Luke Sandford, President Elect, has had the opportunity, so early in the year, to show his commitment to the Circle. Antje Katcher, our Treasurer, brings to the Circle nearly 30 years of accounting experience. Nancy Wright, our Secretary, served on the Gotham Editorial Board last year. As for Slavica Zecevic-Pralica, our Program Director, she has already secured a speaker for our February meeting and she is just boiling with ideas!

As new officers, we are very eager to know how to better serve our members. To that effect, our Program Director has designed a survey that will be available on the NYCT Website. We urge our members to participate so we can develop workshops and invite speakers in your fields of interest.

One change has already taken place. The board has decided, upon the suggestion of our last President Teresa Waldes, to hire a professional editor for the Gotham Translator. We are happy to announce that Jason Fargo has accepted the position. Jason is a journalist and writes for a monthly newsletter for Fortune 1000 Corporate Directors. He has done some translation in the past, has studied in Spain for four years and has taught Spanish. Jason will put together the March/April issue and the remaining issues for 2004.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the NYCT, our outgoing President, Teresa Waldes, for her contributions to the Circle. With the help of her Board, she has put together a handbook

describing in detail all procedures for the NYCT. This handbook is a precious tool that will be updated by subsequent officers. Wearing many hats at once, Teresa has also generously given her time and energy to prepare the new Board for their specific duties.

Many thanks also to Maureen Gonzalez who eagerly and on short notice agreed to serve as Treasurer last year, and to Renée Borio Román who replaced Debbie Folaron as Program Director. Renée has provided us with opportunities to learn about our business through meetings and workshops, and to network with our fellow members while dining in great restaurants. One could not ignore the great work done by our Editor Helene Bergman who provided us with interesting articles throughout the year and has volunteered to put out this issue of the GT.

My thanks also to Anne de Witt Greenberg, Chair of the Mentoring Committee and Milena Savova, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Finally, let's not forget our Webmaster, David Mintz, who has built our website. We could not thank him enough for his constant support and involvement.

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead of us. I am confident that the dedication and the energy of this new team will contribute to the promotion of the New York Circle of Translators. ■

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New York Circle of Translators 2003 Report of Activities

Secretary's Report

by Consuelo Corretjer-Lee

At the end of 2002 the Circle had 352 members. Forty nine of those members did not renew their membership in 2003 but seventy three new members joined during the year. At the end of 2003 the Circle had 376 members. Of those, 345 were individual members and 31 were corporate/institutional members.

Program Director's Report

by Renée Borio-Román

I would like to thank everyone who assisted, attended and participated at our meetings and dinners this year. We had several fascinating and well-attended events during 2003. Below is a recap of the past year.

In January we held our Annual Business Meeting followed by dinner at the Silver Swan, a German restaurant and a good choice for a winter meal.

In February, Peter Wheeler, owner of Antler Translation Services in Sparta, New Jersey, gave a presentation entitled

"Splendeurs et Misères: the upsides and downsides of running a small translation company." He spoke about how a translation company interacts with its clients on the one hand, and with its freelancers on the other. Peter shared several amusing anecdotes about the trials and tribulations of running a company as well as many great tips for freelancers. The meeting was held at our new venue, the newly renovated training annex of the Foundation Center, located at 79 Fifth Avenue. After the meeting many attendees joined us for a Chinese New Year banquet at Tien Fu Gong, now renamed the Summer Palace.

In March, Meg Shore, a freelancer who translates Italian and French into English, spoke on the unique challenges faced by those who translate art-related materials such as art books, exhibition catalogs and brochures and museum guidebooks. Her presentation was entitled "From Visual to Verbal: Translating Art." The meeting was followed by dinner at Cal's Restaurant.

In April, our presenter, Laura Esther Wolfson, a freelance Russian-English interpreter, translator and author, gave a fascinating presentation entitled "Interpreting Interpreted." Among other topics she touched upon the questions: What does it feel like to interpret? What is the state of mind an interpreter must achieve to work effectively? What happens when an interpreter cannot come up with the right word? What actions by clients and interpreting partners are the most likely to drive an interpreter out of her mind? What are some popular images of the interpreter? The meeting was followed by dinner at Cal's.

In May, Guylaine Laperrière, a freelance translator and actress, gave a talk on "How to get into voice-overs." She presented an overview of the type of voice that clients look for, the audition process, basic microphone techniques and studio etiquette. This popular and well-attended event was followed by dinner at L'Annam, a Vietnamese restaurant.

In September, the Circle invited Beatriz Bonnet, President and CEO of Syntes Language Group in Denver, CO and member of the Board of Directors of the ATA, to discuss marketing strategies for translators and interpreters. Among other topics she discussed: Market and industry segment analysis, Marketing and market research, and Customer satisfaction/retention. The event was followed by dinner at Havana Central.

In October, Maria Cornelio, the Director of the Hispanic Research and Recruitment Center at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, offered a presentation

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entitled "Medical" versus "Healthcare" Translation: What's the Difference? Her talk addressed the very different challenges posed by translations aimed at the medical professional and those directed to the layperson. The audience was given guidelines for analyzing source language texts, following the conventions of the field, and avoiding common pitfalls. The presentation was followed by Chinese food at the Summer Palace.

Also in October, the Circle cosponsored a continuing education workshop with NYU, presented by Jost Ztezche, and entitled "A Translator's Toolbox for the 21st Century." Those in attendance learned how to use their computers with greater efficiency and speed. Among other topics, Jost spoke about Desktop Publishing and CAT software.

In November, the Circle hosted a networking event at Stark's Veranda Restaurant. In lieu of a presentation, members who had attended the ATA conference in Phoenix were encouraged to come share their experiences with those who had not been able to attend. The meeting turned into a party to celebrate the election victories of Marian Greenfield and Virginia Pérez-Santalla.

In December, the NYCT held its annual holiday party at La Petite Auberge. Despite the snowstorm and foul weather, those who attended enjoyed a great meal in wonderful company!

Continuing Education Committee *by Milena Savova, Chair*

There was one event in 2003, an all-day workshop given by Jost Zetzsche on "Translator Tools for the 21st Century." This October event was extremely successful with 40 attendees. We collected \$2,000 in fees and after deducting expenses of \$1,396.40, made a net profit of \$603.60.

ATA Certification Committee *by Teresa Waldes, Chair*

The NYCT sponsored 2 sittings of the certification/accreditation exam in the spring and fall of 2003. Fifty people signed up for the exam at each sitting. This service is provided at no cost to the NYCT as the ATA reimburses us for all expenses.

Mentoring Committee *by Anne Witt-Greenberg, Chair*

The Mentorship Program was warmly embraced by a number of Circle members throughout the year. Various mentorship activities took place, among them providing career advice on practical matters like making invoices and keeping records. Constructive feedback on resumes and translation samples was provided, as well as assistance with

questions about internship searches. Questions about formal training were answered over a couple of lunches with some of the mentees living in my neighborhood. Others were able to visit the mentor in her office and had the opportunity to be engaged in remunerated translation work. An independent online introductory translation course was secured for an adult student at a college that did not offer translation courses as part of its curriculum.

All in all, the Mentorship Program seems well on its way, and so are my mentees, whom I wish to thank for having had the pleasure of working with them personally, and who never ceased to surprise me by their willingness to learn and perseverance! ■

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NYCT 2003 Financial Highlights

by Maureen Gonzalez, Treasurer

At year-end 2003 the treasury showed a net loss of \$11,973.17, but this is in fact not a "real" loss. Our main source of income is dues and our membership dues income was \$20,100.70 in 2003, a healthy increase over the \$18,020.00 collected in 2002. However, about half of the 2003 membership dues income was recorded in 2002, thus causing a fictitious large profit in 2002 and an equally fictitious large loss in 2003.

NYCT's major expenses in 2003 were the usual ones. Production of the Gotham was \$6,486.23, slightly down from the \$6,506.13 spent in 2002. Production of the NYCT Membership Directory was \$4,568.05, up from \$3,536.32 in 2002. Meeting expenses were \$5,582.27. All the administrative categories combined, i.e. administrative expenses, professional fees, and website expenses, were an amazingly low \$2,134.11. Some expense categories cannot be easily compared with 2002 as we have reorganized our bookkeeping, but the overall figures are in line with or down from previous years.

The largest expense item, \$9,714.38 for SpanSIG expenses, was totally unrelated to NYCT's operations. Some of it was for expenses incurred by SpanSIG at the beginning of the year but most of it was a transfer to SpanSIG of the monies we had been holding on deposit for them.



SpanSIG, originally a subgroup of NYCT, had in recent years been operating independently with its own membership and board. But we were still carrying their funds on our books and administering them on a commingled basis with NYCT's funds. This was not advisable from a legal or accounting standpoint; thus this year SpanSIG became an independent association and we gave them their money and got them off our books.

Total assets of \$75,666.56 were sharply down from the \$87,119.99 recorded in 2002. As explained above, NYCT had been holding monies that did not belong to us and the year-end 2003 figure is in fact a more accurate picture of our financial position.

Of these, \$29,014.69 were unrestricted NYCT reserves and the remainder (\$46,651.87) were Stern funds. At year-end 2003 NYCT had no liabilities. ■

Balance – December 31, 2003

ASSETS

Checking/Savings	
HSBC	\$26,454.32
F Union Stern F	\$1,667.43
NYCT CD	\$2,560.37
Stern CD-1	\$11,179.41
Stern CD-2	\$29,835.03
Stern CD-3	\$3,970.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$75,666.56
Total Assets	\$75,666.56

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	-\$61.08
Retained Earnings	\$86,947.34
Net Income	-\$11,219.70
Total Equity	\$75,666.56
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$75,666.56

Profit & Loss – January-December 2003

Income

Advertising Income	\$350.00
Cont.Ed. Income	
Workshop Fees	\$2,000.00
Directory	
Directory Sales	\$10.00
Interest Income	\$817.43
Membership Dues	
Dues 2004	\$1,815.00
Dues 2003	\$10,130.70
Total Membership Dues	\$11,945.70
Restaurant Income	\$1,892.00
Span-SIG Income	\$2,375.00
Total Income	\$19,390.13

Expense

Administrative Expenses	
Office Supplies	\$157.82
Postal Expense	\$308.35
Photocopying	\$234.27
Software	\$15.90
Telephone	\$631.29
Total Administrative Expenses	\$1,347.63
Bank Fees	\$167.50
Cont. Ed. Expenses	\$1,396.40
Directory Expenses	
Layout	\$332.50
Printing	\$3,572.75
Shipping	\$463.19
Tax	\$199.61
Total Directory Expenses	\$4,568.05
Gifts and Awards	\$320.39

Gotham Expenses

Layout	\$2,250.00
Printing	\$1,538.64
Handling	\$1,709.53
Postage	\$896.16
Tax	\$71.36
Other	\$20.54

Total Gotham Expenses \$6,486.23

Meeting Expenses

Speaker fees & expenses	\$575.10
Facility Rental	\$2,230.00
Restaurant Exp.	\$2,542.90

Total Meeting Expenses \$5,348.00

Professional Fees

Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	\$558.75
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Total Professional Fees \$558.75

Span-SIG Exp

Mtg.Speakers	\$604.95
Postage	\$68.60
Printing	\$700.00
Shipping	\$28.08
Web Hosting Services	\$135.00
Span-SIG Exp - Other	\$8,177.75

Total Span-SIG Exp \$9,714.38

Travel Expenses \$349.00

Uncategorized Expenses -\$108.50

Website Expenses

Hosting services	\$162.00
Programming services	\$300.00

Total Website Expenses \$462.00

Total Expense \$30,609.83

Net Income -\$11,219.70



Sylvia Zehn & Luke Sanford

Milena Savova & Guylaine Laperriere



2003 Ho





Teresa Waldes & Maureen Gonzalez

Renee Borio-Roman & Slavica Zecevic-Pralica



Holiday Party Pics



CIRCLE NEWS

Reminder! Pay Your 2004 Dues!

Membership renewal forms were sent to all individual and corporate members in early January. If you have not yet sent in your dues, we urge you to do so without delay to preserve the benefits of membership. If your dues have not been received by January 31st 2004, your entry will not be included in the 2004 printed version of the Membership Directory. Your information will, however, still appear in the online directory until the end of a 3-month grace period. If your dues have not been paid by March 31st 2004, your membership will lapse. Your data will be deleted from the online directory and from our mailing list.



Call For Speakers

The New England Translators Association (NETA) is seeking qualified speakers for its Conference, which will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2004, just outside Boston. They are looking for experienced presenters who are able to impart technical, practical, specialized, or other useful information to translators or interpreters. Some of the presentations can be language-specific, but presentations that have appeal across languages are preferred. NETA pays an honorarium to speakers, and in some cases will pay for or contribute to transportation. Interested parties should send a resume and short abstract to Ken Kronenberg at: kfkronenberg@earthlink.net

Election Results

The election results, as reported by Betty Welker, Chair of the Nominating Committee, are as follows:

- President**Guylaine Laperrière – 20 votes
- President Elect**Luke Sandford – 20 votes
- Treasurer**Antje Katcher – 19 votes
- Secretary**Nancy Wright – 19 votes
- Prog. Director**Slavica Zecevic-Pralica – 18 votes

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and many thanks to those members who took the time to send in their ballots!

2004 ATA Certification Exam Sitings

Exams will be held in the New York area (Manhattan location) on Sat. March 20 and Sat. Sept. 18, 2004. The registration deadline in each case is two weeks before the exam date. Before you sit for the exam, you may elect to take an ATA-sponsored practice test. If you are interested in the practice test or the exam, you must register directly with ATA. For information and registration contact: Terry Hanlen, American Translators Association, telephone: (703) 683-6100, e-mail: terry@atanet.org. You can obtain detailed information on certification exam procedures and download registration forms from the ATA website: <http://www.atanet.org> (click on "Certification").

National Virtual Translation Center

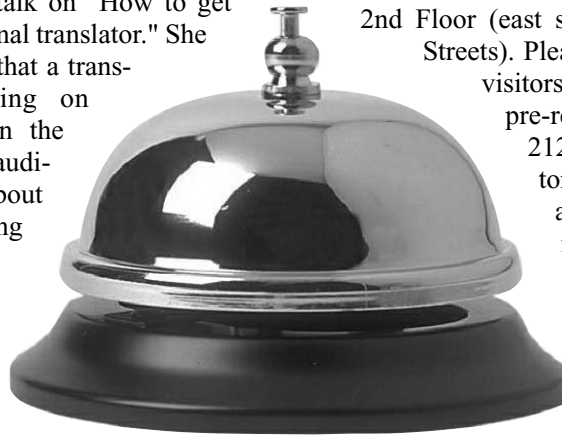
Kenneth Lo, an NYCT member, reports that the website for the newly-launched National Virtual Translation Center is now live at: <http://www.nvtc.gov>. The National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC), a federal agency, was established in February, 2003 "for the purpose of providing timely and accurate translations of foreign intelligence for all elements of the Intelligence Community." Its foreign language team consists of both full time staff members and contract linguists who live throughout the country and work from home or from designated civilian and military Government facilities. The NVTC accepts online applications from talented linguists and translators in a variety of foreign languages.

New Translation Newsletter

Jost Zetzsche, the speaker at the NYCT's successful October workshop and author of a computer primer for translators "A Translator's Tool Box for the 21st Century," has started a biweekly electronic newsletter for people in the translation industry who want to get more out of their computers. It contains current and translator-specific information on operating systems, office suites, computer-assisted translation tools, utilities, desktop publishing applications, and more. To subscribe to this free newsletter, go to <http://www.internationalwriters.com/toolkit/> and sign up.

Susana Greiss, the founder and past administrator of ATA's Slavic Language Division, a recipient of ATA's Alexander Gode Medal in 2002 and an honorary lifetime member of NYCT, will give a talk on "How to get started and survive as a professional translator." She will talk about important issues that a translator needs to know, touching on translators' survival skills down the road. She will also encourage audience participation by asking about their experiences in the changing global climate.

Susana says "If anyone is interested in a few pearls of wisdom from someone who has been around this business for a while, I will say..." (Reflections on Translator's Life) She has much more than a few pearls of wisdom to share. She embarked on the "way to a multicultural destiny" when she was four. She is a small encyclopedia for translators. An evening with her can be



February Meeting

nothing but enlightening.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24th, at 6:30 PM at The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor (east side of 5th between 15th and 16th Streets). Please note that for security reasons all visitors to The Foundation Center must be pre-registered 24 hours in advance. Call 212.334.3060 or e-mail programdirector@nyctranslators.org if you plan to attend the meeting even if you are not going to dinner. Afterwards join us for dinner at 8:00 PM at The Silver Swan, 41 East 20th Street.

Dinner is \$28.00 per plate (tax and tips included) with individual drinks paid for separately. Please reserve for this event after February 1st by e-mailing programdirector@nyctranslators.org or calling 212.334.3060. If you fail to make the reservation,

it is possible that the restaurant may not accommodate you. Thanks. ■

Workshop This year the ATA Certification will be held in New York and the NYCT think that it will be of benefit to the membership to have a workshop just a week before the certification itself. "The ins and outs of S<>E certification exams" will focus on the largest group taking the certification tests (and the group with the highest failure rate). However, people working in other language combinations may benefit from such a workshop, too. The goal of

the presenters, Susana Greiss and Rosa Codina, will be to improve the passing rate and raise awareness on what it really takes to become a professional. They will use "real life" examples from past tests. It will be on Saturday, March 13. The details on registration, time and place will be broadcast. Please mark your calendar! If you have any questions please call 212-334-3060 or e-mail programdirector@nyctranslators.org.

TRANSLATORS: TRIM TAX BILLS!

HEALTH INSURANCE DEDUCTION FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

Translators, please note:

If you are self-employed, in 2004 you can now deduct 100 percent of your health insurance premiums, up from 60 percent last year.

If you have no health coverage and would like to see some options, please contact the translators' health insurance broker.

GLORIA S. DAXLAND at (718) 343-5372

Get your health insurance in place in 2004 in order to take advantage of this deduction!

Leading NYC intellectual property law firm seeks seasoned German-to-English translator with in-depth knowledge of technical German to join its translation team.

Excellent writing skills a must.

Patent translation experience preferred.

Qualified individuals please send resume and cover letter to:

careers@kenyon.com

5th Conference on Translation and Interpretation

February 23, 2004

Organized by Intradés-Apúntes, Inc with the collaboration of Instituto Cervantes

Instituto Cervantes at Amster Yard
211-215 East 49th Street, New York, NY 10017

A Certificate of Assistance will be issued upon request.
Attendance to this one-day conference may be valid to keep ATA accreditation (to be confirmed).

Registration form at <http://intradés.org>
General Admission: \$85
Intradés-Apúntes and/or Instituto Cervantes members: \$60

9:00 a.m. Introduction to the 5th Conference on Translation and Interpretation
Leticia Molinero – President of Intradés-Apúntes, Inc., Editor of Apúntes

9:30 a.m. Financial Information in Spanish in the Mass Media (In Spanish)
Methodology and resources.
Case stories. Vocabulary.
Yamila Constantino – Bloomberg News, Manager - Spanish Language Television, Radio

10:30 a.m. Translation of County Government Communications for a Diverse Hispanic Community (In Spanish)
This Spanish-language presentation will deal with the various issues faced when translating county government communications, such as press releases, surveys, public health notices, traffic warnings, weather advisory notices and updates, community events, etc. for the Hispanic community of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.
Alicia Agnese – Translator, Teacher, Owner of Alicia Agnese & Associates.

11:45 a.m. Coffee Break

12:00 a.m. Why is Comparative Law Relevant to Legal Translation: A Hands-On Exercise on Finding Functional Counterparts (In English)
One way of understanding nuanced meanings in concepts used in foreign legal systems is to identify similar terms or similar institutions in the domestic U.S. legal system. Participants will be encouraged to offer their own translations of the terms appearing in a list, and to present for discussion other legal concepts in search of a closer Anglo-American legal counterpart.
Alejandro Garro – Attorney at Law, Professor at Columbia University

1:30 p.m. 1 hour lunch break

2:30 p.m. Translating for the Computer Industry – Latest Trends (In Spanish)
Discussion of the evolution of the Computer Industry terminology and the challenges it presents to the Spanish translator. Brief analysis of the resources currently available

to translators at the WWW, from Industry specific glossaries to Academic and Institutional terminology databases, plus some search strategies to find them.

Cristina Márquez Arroyo – Translator, Owner of Trans-Ar and Instructor of Translation of Computer Related Material at New York University

3:30 p.m. Good Clinical Practices and Institutional Review Board Guidelines – Their Importance for the Medical Translator (In English)

This presentation will describe two little-known federal mandates for the protection of human subjects in clinical research. Their requirements have important implications for the translation of documents in the medical field.

María Cornelio – Director of the Hispanic Research and Recruitment Center at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Instructor of Translation in Healthcare at NYU

4:30 pm Cofree Break

4:45 pm Translation for International Relations and Diplomacy: Implications in an Era of Global Turmoil (In English)

Frank Gómez, former senior American diplomat, will discuss how the international affairs arena has evolved in recent times and the implications for translators and interpreters. Increasingly, traditional state-to-state diplomacy has given way to that of multilateral organizations (UN, WTO, FTAA) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). These and other players come together in a dynamic process of interaction that poses challenges and opportunities for translators. The remarks will touch on areas of specialization, jargon in the field and in specialized agencies, the emergence of Spanish as a vital language in the international arena, and what translators can/must do to work in this field

6:00 p.m. Round Table on the Need to Professionalize Languages Services for a Bilingual Population

Panelists: María Cornelio, Leticia Molinero, Frank Gomez
Debate open to the public.

Call For Papers



Global Security: Implications for Translation and Interpretation

2nd International Translation Conference
20th Anniversary of the NYU Translation Studies Program

Kimmel Center
New York University

June 3-5, 2004

- Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent in electronic format to: milena.savova@nyu.edu by February 12, 2004.
- Selection will be completed by February 25.
- The conference website is www.scps.nyu.edu/translationconf. and will be up shortly after New Year's.

Global developments of the last decade have transformed the nature of the translation profession. Modern telecommunications technology, for example, has transformed this profession from one which once served primarily local markets to one which is truly global, permitting translators to work anywhere at any time. Today's new global realities have broadened the scope of the translation and interpreting professions.

These realities are increasingly shaped by ethnicity, religion, human rights, the environment, public health, including AIDS, and other issues. Growing pride in ethnicity, religion and language are at the heart of many of the conflicts, or abet conflicts, around the world today. There is an ever-increasing demand for competent translators and interpreters in the languages spoken in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in Asia.

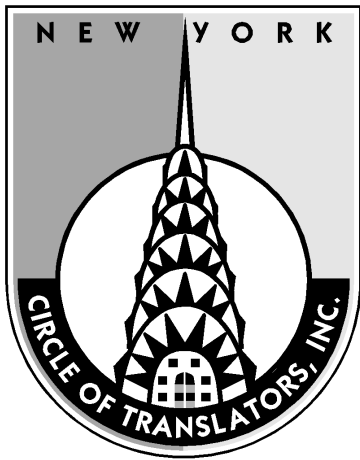
For two decades the NYU translation studies program has based its education and training on three concepts: academic responsibility, high-level pragmatism, and real world situations. Our first

international conference, in March 2000, embodied these concepts. This conference, therefore, will gather academics, practicing translators and a wide range of translation and interpreting consumers from around the world to explore, from different perspectives, the issues confronting these two professions today.

Presentations are invited on all aspects of global security, translation and interpretation, including but not limited to:

- War, peace and security –
- Foreign policy and counter-terrorism –
 - Ethnicity –
 - Religion –
 - Human rights –
 - Internet –
- Business, finance, global trade, and money-laundering –
- Communications/news –
 - Environment –
 - Public health –

THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR



The New York Circle of Translators (NYCT) is a New York State not-for-profit corporation regrouping independent translators and interpreters as well as companies and organizations. It is a chapter of the American Translators Association (ATA) which is, in turn, an affiliate of the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

NYCT members work in a variety of languages and specialties. Our members are committed to the exchange of ideas and mutual support. One of our goals is to educate the general public about the professional nature of interpreting and translating.

NYCT members enjoy the following benefits:

- Free monthly meetings featuring speakers on all aspects of the translation profession
- Networking opportunities at monthly dinners and annual holiday party
- Professional development workshops and seminars
- Subscription to our newsletter, *The Gotham Translator*
- Listings in the NYCT Online Membership Directory and the annual NYCT printed Membership Directory
- Referrals (if you indicate that you accept them, existing members may direct work requests to you or clients may contact you directly)

Visit us at www.nyctranslators.org and join on-line!

THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

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