



# THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

November/December 2003

A Publication of The New York Circle of Translators

## L'Heure des Adieux...



It is indeed time to say goodbye. I leave with the pleasure of having gotten to know many of you a little better and the satisfaction of knowing that we got quite a bit done. I am extremely grateful to all the members of the team who worked very hard to overcome challenging circumstances and bring you a very full plate of programs and services. Let this be a thank you to everyone and a look back with pride to our many accomplishments.

We offered you once again six educational programs in the course of the year. I am particularly proud of our new meeting facility at The Foundation Center, an elegantly appointed room with capacity for 70 and equipped with a projector, screen, computer, podium, microphone, and TV/VCR. Now we can invite any outside speaker and not be ashamed of our surroundings. We have come a long way since the days of the dance studios!

Of course, a well-equipped and dignified meeting place would not count for much without interesting speakers. This year we had an excellent lineup of experts who informed, educated and entertained us in a diversity of fields. I want to personally thank all of them here: Peter Wheeler, Meg Shore, Laura Wolfson, Guylaine Laperrière, Beatriz Bonnet and Maria Cornelio. Their willingness to share and contribute is what enables us to bring you such successful and well-attended programs, which are the envy of other ATA chapters. A heartfelt thanks also to Debbie Folaron and Renée Borio-Román, successive Program Directors, who worked very hard at organizing our meetings and restaurant dinners. Indeed, while our programs provide food for the soul, dinners are by no means an afterthought. We, as gourmet New Yorkers, enjoy trying out new places and our monthly dinners are a very successful social venue for members to meet and network.

The newsletter has also been upgraded. Already last year, thanks to José Daigneault's contacts, we were able to outsource the production and mailing to professionals. The new layout looks very good and has elicited many favorable comments. But, as is the case for the programs, looking good is only part of the story. The most important thing about the newsletter is the content, and in that respect Helene Bergman has done an outstanding job as Editor. Many thanks to Helene, to the members of the Editorial Board and to all the Circle members who have contributed articles, news items, etc. to make our Gotham one of the

best ATA chapter newsletters.

Although we normally hold two Continuing Education workshops a year, this year's spring event was replaced by the ATA Legal Conference held in Jersey City in May. Our fall event, an all-day workshop given by Jost Zetzsche on Translator Tools for the 21st Century, was extremely successful with more than 40 attendees. I want to thank Milena Savova, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, for her unfailing support in organizing these events.

My thanks go also to Anne Witt-Greenberg, Chair of the Mentoring Committee, who cheerfully and caringly has provided information and guidance to many newcomers to the profession, and to Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, our Secretary. Best wishes for a happy and successful life in Puerto Rico! And a very special thanks to Maureen Gonzalez, our Treasurer. I drafted Maureen when we found ourselves without a Treasurer at the beginning of the year and she has been a tremendous support throughout my tenure. We have rationalized the finances (to the extent of being able to roll back dues in 2004), we have hired a professional bookkeeper and accountant, and we will hand over a solid financial operation to the incoming team.

David Mintz, our webmaster, has also been fantastically supportive. It has been a great pleasure to work hand in hand with David and I hope that our shared dream of a new, improved website with new guts and a new shiny dress will soon become reality.

Last but not least I want to thank Betty Welker and her Nominating Committee who by dint of persistence and high-level diplomacy have found a whole new team for next year. Please give the new Board your support and your cooperation going forward. Don't forget that this association is just the sum of all our efforts. Goodbye to everyone, it has been a great ride! ■

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# Fighting Freelance Flab

by Wendy J. Meyeroff

*This article originally appeared in THE FREELANCER, the newsletter of the Editorial Freelancers Association. The EFA is a nationwide non-profit organization of freelancers working in all areas of editorial communications.*



Okay fellow freelancers. Admit it. You've gotten lumpy sitting at your desk for hours on end. (Actually, I have to change the pronoun phrase to "we've gotten".) I know that when I first started full-time freelancing, back in '87, I gained 30 lbs within six months due to two things: not moving enough and being too close to my cookie jar and refrigerator. (I also got an article for *Weight Watchers* magazine out of it, but next time I'd rather find another way in.)

Anyway, having just finished an article for a newsletter on exercises for seniors, I'm thoroughly ashamed of myself for letting the flab creep back. I kept telling myself, "Well, it's part of aging. Gravity takes its toll," but I knew that wasn't true. I've seen many EFA members my age or older who stay fit and trim. (Congrats!) For those of us who haven't been as diligent, I offer the advice I got from various experts who've managed to get even those in wheelchairs fitter.

## The Magic Key: Low-Intensity Exercises

"No pain, no gain," is a fallacy," says Mary Ann McLaughlin,

MD, MPH, a cardiologist at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Dr. McLaughlin has numerous geriatric patients, many with congestive heart failure. They're not patients who should be participating in high-intensity aerobic exercises or heavy weight lifting. So Dr. McLaughlin is among a growing group of health experts who recommend exercises that are less strenuous, but still beneficial, to seniors.

Called low-intensity resistance exercises, they focus on increasing muscles by creating resistance through pushing against or pulling something, like a stretchy band, or light weights. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) emphasizes that "increasing muscles" doesn't mean looking like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Even a non-visible increase in muscle can play a significant role in improving your quality of life. The experts agree that low-resistance exercises increase strength and balance. They make it easier to walk longer and farther and to better handle a host of other activities.

Whether for fashion's sake or simply to increase your ability to reach higher or carry more, remember to do upper body exercises. Rebecca Seguin, BS, CSCS, an exercise physiologist for the Tufts Center for Physical Activity & Nutrition, shamed me into looking at my sinking triceps by telling me even her wheelchair patients do these "as long as they have function in their arms". A simple triceps curl, which can be found in a zillion exercise books, can be done standing or sitting.

## Heart Strengthening

It used to be believed that cardiovascular health benefits only came through HIGH-intensity exercises. Now more studies are supporting Dr. McLaughlin's recommendations of low-intensity exercises for her heart patients. At the University of Florida, 62 men and women between 60 and 83 exercised three times weekly for six months. Twenty-four participants in a low-intensity group increased their peak oxygen consumption by an average of nearly 24 percent, while the 22 participants in high intensity exercises improved by only 20 percent. (The remainder were in a control group.)

## What Equipment Do You Need?

Low-intensity exercises require relatively little equipment. A stand-alone chair (versus one that rolls, or even a recliner or sofa) is key to many exercises. (The chair stand, for example, requires you to slowly rise out of, and then reverse back down towards, a

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chair. Something that's moving or sinks obviously isn't too effective.)

As your strength increases, adding weights and/or stretching tools is recommended. Seguin is an advocate of "real" hand and ankle weights, with more than one weight set. For example, men using hand weights should have 5, 6 and 8 lbs. increments, while women should look for 2, 3 and 5 lbs.

Jennifer M. Bottomley, PT, MS, PhD, of the American Physical Therapy Association, is more flexible about equipment. "Anything that gives you resistance against gravity offers a benefit. It can be filled soup cans or partially filled milk jugs."

Another handy tool she recommends is elastic stretching bands. "They're lightweight, easy to carry and pack," so you can keep up your exercises when traveling. Some brands, like Therabands, offer different resistance levels (indicated by different colors.)

## Conclusion

If you can get some supervision you're ahead of the game. Working with a group is great for maintaining your motivation. If you can't do that, create some "company": use an exercise video (but make sure that it's suitable to your fitness level) or perhaps a TV exercise program. If you are exercising at home, make sure your space is clutter free and otherwise safe.

I've included a couple of exercises to get you started. You can find both on a great interactive Web site developed by the experts at Tufts. It's called the "Strong Women" program, but it's for men also. You'll find it at [www.strongwomen.com](http://www.strongwomen.com).

So what are you waiting for? Pull that non-rolling chair up to your computer and get started!

## Sample Exercises

For all exercises remember to breathe. Don't hold your breath as you're lifting weights, stretching, or raising or lowering yourself in any way.

Also, rest briefly between alternating limbs or exercises.

## Chair Stand

Caution: do NOT use a couch, an easy chair or something rolling for this exercise (unless it can be locked, like a wheelchair). Your best bet: a straight-backed, armless chair, perhaps from your dining room table.

1. Sit on the edge of a chair with heels firmly on the floor.
2. Push your buttocks up using your leg muscles only until you're standing straight up. (Count 1,2, 3, slowly going up; should take about 6 to 8 seconds.)
3. Lower yourself back to starting position, counting as above.

For a greater challenge: start the exercise standing about six inches in front of the chair and then slowly lower yourself to the chair but DON'T quite sit down. Pause for the count of one just above the chair seat. Then push yourself back up.

## Arm Raise

This can be done sitting or standing. If the latter, start from #3.

1. Sit in armless chair with your back supported by back of chair.
2. Keep feet flat on floor even with your shoulders.
3. Hold hand weights straight down at your sides, with palms facing inward.
4. Raise both arms to side, shoulder height.
5. Hold the position for 1 second.
6. Slowly lower arms to sides. Pause.
7. Repeat 8 to 15 times.
8. Rest; then do another set of 8 to 15 repetitions.

*Wendy J. Meyeroff is owner of WM Medical Communications of Brooklyn, NY. She "translates" medical information - in newsletters, magazine articles, press kits, Web sites and more - for a wide range of audiences, from health professionals to consumers.*

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# Translating for the Healthcare Consumer

*Note from the Editor: The following article is an extract of topics discussed at the October meeting. The subject was a presentation by Maria Cornelio on “Medical” versus “Healthcare” Translation: What’s the Difference? which addressed the very different challenges posed by translations aimed at the medical professional and those directed to the lay person.*

## What is Health Communication?

Health communication encompasses the study and use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions that enhance health. It links the domains of communication and health and is increasingly recognized as a necessary element of efforts to improve personal and public health.

Health communication can contribute to all aspects of disease prevention and health promotion and is relevant in a number of contexts, including (1) health professional-patient relations, (2) individuals’ exposure to, search for, and use of health information, (3) individuals’ adherence to clinical recommendations and regimens, (4) the construction of public health messages and campaigns, (5) the dissemination of individual and population health risk information, that is, risk communication, (6) images of health in the mass media and the culture at large, (7) the education of consumers about how to gain access to the public health and health care systems, and (8) the development of telehealth applications.

## Literacy Skill Levels

Responses from the 2002 National Adult Literacy Survey undertaken by the U.S. Department of Education indicate that approximately 90 million adults in the United States have inadequate or marginal literacy skills. Written information is not the only way to communicate about health, but a great deal of health education and promotion are organized around the use of print materials, usually written at the 10th grade level and above. These materials are of little use to people who have limited literacy skills. The result is that a very large segment of the population is denied the full benefits of health information and services.

Closing the gap in health literacy is an issue of fundamental fairness and equity and is essential to reduce health disparities. Public and private efforts need to occur in two areas: the development of appropriate written materials and improvement in skills of those persons with limited literacy. The knowledge exists to create effective, culturally and linguistically appropriate, plain language health



communications.

Professional publications and Federal documents provide the criteria to integrate and apply the principles of organization, writing style, layout, and design for effective communication. These criteria should be widely distributed and used. Many organizations such as public and medical libraries, voluntary, professional, and community groups, and schools could offer health literacy programs that target skill improvement for low-literacy and limited English proficient individuals. If appropriate materials exist and people receive the training to use them, then measurable improvements in health literacy for the least literate can occur.

## The Plain Language Initiative

### What is Plain Language?

The Plain Language Initiative requires the use of plain language in all new documents written for the public, other government entities and fellow workers. Writing that is clear and to the point helps improve communication between the government and the public since material takes less time to read and understand. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson urges that all government documents use plain English and avoid both jargon and highly technical language.

You should use plain language for all documents, presentations, and electronic communications. First, let’s look at the characteristics of plain language.

### Plain language is:

- grammatically correct language that includes complete sentence structure and accurate word usage.
- clear writing that tells the reader exactly what the reader needs to know without unnecessary words or expressions.

### Plain language is *not*:

- unprofessional writing.
- a method of “dumbing down” or “talking down” to the reader.

Certain hallmarks characterize plain language. These include:

- common, everyday words, except for necessary technical terms;
- “we,” “you,” and other personal pronouns;
- the active voice;
- logical organization; and
- easy-to-read and understand design features, such as bullets and tables.

**Why Should You Use Plain Language?**

A Government-wide directive requires Federal agencies to use plain language by January 1, 2002, in all documents written for the public.

**Engage your readers**

Write to the appropriate reading level. The NIH Plain Language Coordinating Committee recommends:

<b>Recommended Reading Level</b>	<b>Type of Information</b>
4th-8th grade	public information materials and public notices
8th grade and higher	technical and legal information, such as grant applications and information for medical students
higher reading levels acceptable	technical and medical research information and internal documents

**Some Practical Tips**

**Format Tips:**

- Use 12 - 14 point font.
- Serif font (such as Times Roman, Courier) is preferable to Sans Serif (such as Arial)
- Mix upper and lowercase letters; avoid sentences made up of ALL CAPS.
- Use bold, italics, and underline for emphasis, but avoid overuse.
- Use white space generously to avoid packing the text.
- Use headings to break up text.
- Use left justification - all lines start at left margin with right edges left ragged.
- Avoid hyphenating words.
- Use bullets for lists.
- Use generous side margins - at least ½ inch wide.

- No widows (half words) or orphans (continued on next page) on line breaks.

**Content and Style Tips**

- Whenever possible, avoid jargon - use common words. When it is necessary to use medical or technical terms, explain them.
- Use the active rather than the passive voice.
- Vary sentence length (mix long and short sentences), with the shorter ones predominating.
- Don't use a multi-syllabic word when a shorter one will do.
- Whenever possible, use simple verb tenses rather than compound tenses.
- Use parallel construction - arrange sentences so that parallel ideas look parallel.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
The role of the clinic nurse is:	The role of the clinic nurse is:
<i>to take your blood pressure</i>	<i>to take patients' blood pressure</i>
<i>to give you your medicines</i>	<i>giving you your medicines</i>
<i>to answer your questions</i>	<i>the nurse answers questions</i>

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Excerpts from a talk given at the New York Circle of Translators, April 22nd, 2003

by Laura Esther Wolfson

# The Interpreter Interpreted/Psychoanalyzed

OR

## Why interpreting may make you crazy and what to do about it.

I must tell you upfront that I have **nothing of pragmatic value** to impart this evening.

I will **not** be talking abt. How to **become** an **interpreter**;  
How to become a **better** interpreter;  
How much to **charge** for your work;  
How to run your business.

And I will **definitely not** be talking abt. what **reference works** and **translation tools** you absolutely must have in order to be a **sophisticated, cutting-edge, high-precision, technologically with-it, international, localized, globalized, multilingual, native-speaking quality-controlled language services specialist**.

Sorry, I have been looking at too many translation **company websites** lately.

**No**, my presentation this evening will be a bit like one of those **animated documentaries** on **public television** in which the viewer seems to be floating in a little **boat** upstream through someone's **veins** and **arteries** and learning about the functioning of various **internal organs**.

But, you will be glad to hear, **minus** the **visual aids**.

Tonight we are going to peer into the **mind of the interpreter**, and see **how it is affected by the activity of interpreting**.

And it won't be **pretty**.

In fact, the first part may seem a bit **grim**, but if you just hang in there, I will **reward** your **persistence** and **loyalty** with the  **requisite happy ending**.

### 1. The Interpreter as Depressive

Interpreting can result in its practitioners experiencing **depression**:

Why?

One model of what the interpreter does is to create a sort of **culvert** in her mind, through which words and ideas pass, unimpeded, **like industrial run-off**, from one side of a **road** to the other, in this case the language barrier.

An effect of this process is that the interpreter's **mind** and **lips** serve constantly as the **temporary dwelling-place** to a stream of

**ideas** and utterances which are not infrequently alien to her, but which, even if they are not alien, **never hang around for long**. The interpreter becomes a sort of intellectual **boarding house** or **bus station**.

The traces of all of these utterances mingle in all sorts of strange ways and ultimately disappear.

Interpreters have highly-developed **short-term memory**, but short-term memory is just another name for **long-term oblivion**.

Thus the interpreter has as her constant traveling companions a sense of **alienation and transience**.

**Christine Brooke-Rose**, an experimental writer, herself raised in a trilingual diplomatic family in Geneva, said in an interview abt. her post-modernist novel entitled **Between**, abt. a simultaneous interpreter:

"...it's all the language, the lunatic empty speech-making of all the different congresses, political, sociological, literary and so on and of course, the actual languages, all jostled together..."

So, among the **interpreter's primary challenges** as a human being, she must

1. maintain her sense of **identity** and
2. not give in to a **cynical** attitude (though it may be supported by her reality) that all is **fleeting**, and that many **statements** are **not backed** by actions.

Among the utterances the interpreter is regularly called upon to convey are **promises** and **commitments**, frequently when the **two parties** to the discussion are economically or politically **unequal** and the more **powerful partner** is **promising** some sort of **aid**. **Different interpreters** may be hired to work the later meeting where the **promises** are or **are not kept**. When you interpret promises over and over and are not present to see them made good upon, it is easy to assume that most promises are broken.

And perhaps that is true, but one shouldn't make the assumption unless one is sure.

### 2. Alienation

The interpreter may experience a sense of separateness from others (in part because she is in a different field from those she is

interpreting for)

and also because

she does not belong completely to either side of the language barrier (and is thus mistrusted by both sides).

Furthermore, it is common for interpreters to determine their own worth by the rank of the people they work for and how much they travel for their work, rather than through a sense of their own value. This may cause alienation from self.

It is common for interpreters to be caught in webs of **cultural misunderstandings** w/ both sides looking to them expectantly to **justify** their position and **explain** the other side—another source of alienation.

### 3. Stress

Interpreting triggers stress in all sorts of ways unimaginable to people who have never sat in the interpreter's seat:

There is the risk of making a crucial **error, obviously**

but also

- a. that of being **corrected** for a mistake you haven't made by someone **less knowledgeable** abt. the language, — this could be a matter of a mere false cognate—and then the interpreter is torn between defending her rendition vs. letting it pass (esp. if the person doing the correcting is of high rank);
- b. trying to interpret while being **interrupted**;
- c. the difficulty of concentrating during **cross-talk**;
- d. that terrible, **oncoming train** feeling that comes when someone says something you **cannot understand**, (and it happens to **everyone**...)—sometimes this even happens when the speaker is speaking your native language!;
- e. the *delightful* experience of interpreting to an audience containing many bilinguals and feeling that your every word is being second-guessed by at least a dozen people...;
- f. speakers who are culturally insensitive or **insult** their audience (especially stressful **if the speaker** and you have the **same native language**, for that makes you feel somehow more responsible for his offensive statements);
- g. speakers who say things like: "I have **3** things to say, they are **both** very important, and here **it** is..." What do you do with a sentence like THAT?

All of the abovementioned can lead to the following state (taken from a previously unpublished essay of my own):

"Interpreting assignments can be marked by arid, painful stretches, which sometimes last for hours, or perhaps they merely seem to, when interpreting resembles a form of utterly gratuitous torment. Torment, because at these times, the act of interpreting feels like a blade slicing deeply into the spongy but resistant matter of the brain, the act of interpreting is like a machine whose functioning has gone terribly awry with no one nearby to fix it or

throw the 'off' switch, and cogs are grinding, grinding against each other until the friction is almost unbearable and finally, gaskets begin to blow, blackened bits of springs pop out and clatter on the floor and a sulphurous, dry burning smell fills the air.

It goes without saying that in no way does the *quality* of the interpreter's work suffer during these hellish periods and that she gives no outward sign of what is happening; the listeners are as oblivious to the interpreter's agonies as the ancient Romans were when, as was their wont, they would celebrate military victories by dining at groaning boards placed, along with the benches on which the celebrants sat, on the bodies of prisoners of war who were, as the evening's festivities unfolded, slowly crushed to death under the dreadful weight of feast, feasters and furniture. The victors ignored or did not notice their victims' screams. The interpreter cannot scream."

Yes, it is true: sometimes interpreting reaches such a pitch of difficulty that the interpreter, without noticing how or when, begins looking upon the speaker as a kind of sadist, forgetting that he or she is devising opaque circumlocutions at top speed for reasons which have absolutely nothing to do with increasing the interpreter's suffering.

**So, what is the answer? Hint: it is not talk therapy and it is not pharmaceuticals.** In fact, it does **not cost any money** at all.

1. Maintain your mind richly stocked with knowledge and thought and different registers of language: current events, great literature, slang, stirring oratory, human contact, so that the act of interpreting does not leave you feeling depleted and worthless;
2. Have a broad network of professional contacts, where, ideally, the line between a colleague and a friend is a blurry one;
3. Never lose sight of the 3 important Interpreting Life Lessons:
  - a. Interpreters have contact w/ people all up + down the social ladder:  
treat them ALL the same, simply + w/respect;  
  
high-ranking people are weary of **sympophants** and **fawning**, they will value yr. simplicity;  
  
the humble, accustomed to being **ignored and patronized**, will value yr. respect;
  - b. Interpret the **feeling**, not just the words;
  - c. Even diplomats and heads of state do not always know which fork to use.
4. Ask the client for the working conditions you need:  
  
Reasonable hours;  
An interpreting partner to share the workload;  
Preparation materials;  
Decent acoustics;  
A speaker who does not go unreasonably fast;  
Decent pay.

(continued on next page)

Some of these conditions should be requested before the job; others may be requested (politely!) while the job is going on when it becomes apparent that they are not being met.

In determining, requesting and receiving the conditions needed to do a decent job, the interpreter becomes, instead of the suffering creature described above, laboring on in silence and pain, someone for whom the act of interpreting is often sheer pleasure, that state psychologists know as “flow.” At these times, the interpreter is completely focused on her task, at one with it.

As the poet William Butler Yeats wrote, “Who can tell the dancer from the dance?”

During these periods of flow, the interpreter is oblivious to time’s passage. A characteristic of this state of flow is that when in it, the interpreter is startled somewhat whenever she feels that tap on her shoulder or other non-verbal sign from her colleague indicating that thirty minutes have elapsed and the moment is again at hand when she must relinquish the microphone and take a break. She is thinking, where did the time go?

Who needs relief when work is going this well?

Like dolphins performing at Sea World, *le mot juste* rises up over and over and breaks through the surface of the unconscious mind, curves in a graceful arc, in proper sequence, at just the necessary speed, through whatever invisible medium it is (does it have a name?) that fills the space intervening between unconscious mind and speech organs. In a word, all is going swimmingly.

**Conclusion: in spite of my vivid description of interpretation’s difficulties**

**the occupation’s pleasures** are greater than its pain, otherwise we wouldn’t do it.

The interpreter is like a character in a fairy tale by the author of the Wizard of Oz. This character, Princess Langwidere, has a collection of 30 different heads, all beautiful, all different, some pale, some dark, some olive-skinned, some freckled with red hair, some snub-nosed, some hawk-nosed, w/ different personalities and each morning, she decides which head she will don that

day, fulfilling a universal dream of leaving self behind (different from losing the self), living different lives in different settings.

Here is a snippet of dialogue between two other characters about this princess, which could apply almost equally to interpreters:

“I cannot say what she looks like,” says one character, “though I have seen her twenty times. For she is a different person every time I see her.”

“That is strange,” said Dorothy. “Do you mean to say that so many different princesses are one and the same person?”

“Not exactly,” came the reply. “There is, of course, but one princess, but she appears to us in many forms, all of which are more or less beautiful.”

“She must be a witch,” exclaimed the girl.

“I do not think so,” said the other. “But there is some mystery connected with her, nevertheless.”

Like the princess, interpreters wake up every day and say, “Who am I going to be today?” Not, which hat am I going to wear, but which head am I going to wear?

That of diplomat, businessman, judge, criminal?

This is, I think, something people in other professions may envy.

But the trick, of course, is to change roles and settings in a way that is productive and pleasurable: to change heads...

without losing your mind.

THE END

*Laura Esther Wolfson recently became a freelance interpreter at the United Nations. Her book translation [from the Russian], Stalin’s Secret Pogrom, published by Yale University Press, won the 2002 National Jewish Book Award in the Eastern Europe category. She is the newest member of the Board of Directors of the American Translators Association.*



**Helene Bergman**

## Letter from the Editor

How quickly the year has passed! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the GT either by sending articles, offering commentaries or merely reading their copy with interest and enthusiasm! The newsletter is a wonderful way for us to share our experiences, explore new avenues and help each other get the maximum benefit from our membership in the NYCT. As I prepare to step down from the position of Editor, I hope that my

successor will continue to encourage your participation and to find articles of interest to the many individuals who read this newsletter. Again, thank you for your participation! May you all have a happy, healthy NEW YEAR!

## CIRCLE NEWS

### Traditional Holiday Party on Sunday, December 14th

Join us for a festive holiday luncheon on Sunday, December 14th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will get together to celebrate the season at La Petite Auberge, 116 Lexington Avenue (between 27th and 28th Sts.). The restaurant will be closed for our private party. The Luncheon is \$31 per plate (tax, tip included, drinks are separate). Please reserve by e-mailing Renée at [programdirector@nyctranslators.org](mailto:programdirector@nyctranslators.org) or calling (212) 334-3060. We look forward to seeing you!

### Annual Business Meeting on January 14, 2004

Participate in the life of your association! Come to the Annual Business Meeting held to review the 2003 financial statements and performance. The new Board of Directors will also discuss plans for the incoming year and answer members' questions. This event will be held on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. at The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, 2nd floor (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 email [programdirector@nyctranslators.org](mailto:programdirector@nyctranslators.org) if you plan to attend the meeting even if you are not going to the dinner.

Join us for dinner afterwards at 8:00 p.m. at The Silver Swan (41 East 20th St.). Dinner is \$28.00 per plate (tax and tip included) with individual drinks paid for separately. Please reserve for this event after January 1st by e-mailing [programdirector@nyctranslators.org](mailto:programdirector@nyctranslators.org) or calling (212) 334-3060.

Remember to make TWO separate reservations for the meeting and for the restaurant. When you contact NYCT (preferably by e-mail at [programdirector@nyctranslators.org](mailto:programdirector@nyctranslators.org)) please state: (1) your full name; (2) "I am coming to the meeting at The Foundation Center"; and/or (3) "I am coming to the dinner at the restaurant" (as applicable). **We will only make restaurant reservations for those who register specifically for the dinner. All others will be seated only if the restaurant is able to accommodate walk-ins.**



### NYCT Members Elected to ATA Leadership

We proudly celebrate the election of two NYCT members to leadership positions on the ATA Board. The election took place at the ATA Conference recently held in Phoenix.

**Marian Greenfield**, a past Treasurer and President of the NYCT, was elected to a

four-year term as President-Elect (2003-2005) and President (2005-2007) of ATA. Marian has been an ATA Board member for six of the past seven years where she has chaired its Professional Development Committee and the Ad-Hoc Continuing Education Requirements Committee. As Professional Development Chair she has organized many seminars and mini-conferences around the country, in particular the Financial Conference in New York City in 2001 and the Legal Conference in Jersey City in 2003 and served on the Spanish Division Conference Organizing Committee. She will continue to Chair Professional Development and will be organizing 6 seminars in 2004, and several seminars and a Financial Translation Conference in 2005.



Marian Greenfield

**Virginia Perez-Santalla**, also a NYCT member, has been for the past three years Assistant Administrator of the ATA

Spanish Language Division. She chaired the Organizing Committee that put together the Spanish Division Conferences (so far there have been two conferences, the first one was aboard a Caribbean cruise and the second took place in San Antonio, TX).

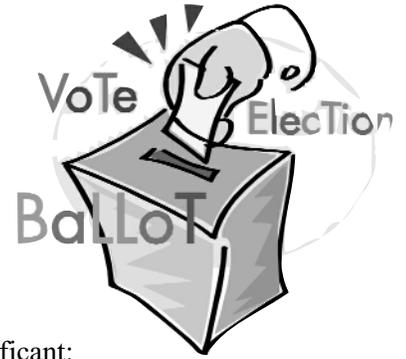
She also served as moderator of Espalista and member of the Interpreters Division Directory Committee. For the past 2 years Virginia has been a mentor for the ATA program. In Phoenix Virginia was elected to a three-year term as ATA Director.

We wish Marian and Virginia much success in their new positions and look forward to benefiting from their leadership.



Virginia Perez-Santalla

## **Election of Officers Candidate Statements**



### **Candidate for President Guylaine Laperrière**

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As a translator, one cannot emphasize enough the importance of networking and continuing education. Through meetings, dinners, training sessions and presentations, the New York Circle of Translators has created an environment where its members can relate and exchange about their “solitary” profession. I feel particularly honored to have been nominated as President for the New York Circle of Translators. The challenge is significant: to represent the interests of a very distinctive group of professionals I highly respect. These days, in light of the anemic economy, it is more important than ever to maintain and nurture communication and solidarity among our members. I am committed to promoting the resources of the NYCT to its current and future members as well as to continue educating clients about our demanding but exciting profession.



**Luke Sanford**

### **Candidate for President-Elect Luke Sanford**

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I hereby submit my candidacy for President-Elect of the New York Circle of Translators.

I have worked as a French-to-English translator since receiving an M.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1990. I moved to New York in 1994 and received an M. Phil. in French literature from N.Y.U. in May 1997. Shortly thereafter, I joined the Circle and began work as a financial translator for J.P. Morgan. From late 2000 until Summer 2003, I translated monthly news articles for *Le Monde diplomatique's* English-language Internet and print editions. I currently teach a course on translating journalism for N.Y.U.'s School of Continuing

and Professional Studies.

The New York Circle of Translators has opened my eyes to the singular dedication and professionalism of our members as they seek to bridge the gap between myriad cultures and linguistic groups. Moreover, the Circle has provided me with numerous educational and professional benefits, for which I am truly grateful.

With your support, I hope to build on the highly successful tenures of past Presidents and Presidents-Elect. My efforts will be two-fold: providing our members with additional educational and professional development opportunities, while striving to foster public awareness of the translator's craft. On behalf of the entire membership, I look forward to working with the Board of Directors as we pursue bold new initiatives in response to the contemporary challenges of translating in an increasingly globalized world.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Nancy Wright**

### **Candidate for Secretary Nancy Wright**

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As someone with a lifelong interest in and commitment to the study of languages and excellence in translation, I am honored to run for the position of Secretary of the New York Circle. I have an academic and professional background in international relations, which has included translation of government development plans from French, Spanish, and Portuguese into English, as well as more recent translations of contractual documents from Portuguese into English. In my academic pursuits, I have served as rapporteur for numerous seminars and meetings and recognize and adhere to the importance of clear and concise reporting. As one

who has enjoyed and learned so much from our excellent Circle membership, I now would welcome the opportunity to serve the Circle in this capacity.



**Candidate for Treasurer Antje Katcher**

I would like to submit my name for consideration for the post of Treasurer, since I believe that it will allow me to make a contribution to the important work of the New York Circle of Translators. I combine a background in finance with previous service as Treasurer to volunteer organizations. I believe that we need to ensure that our members continue to receive value for their dues and that we continue to manage our administrative expenses effectively. I look forward to serving the New York Circle of Translators. Thank you.



**Candidate for Program Director Slavica Zecevic-Pralica**

When asked to run for a position of program director, I felt honored and slightly overwhelmed by the thought about the responsibility to my colleagues and to the New York Circle of Translators.

Translation is art to me and I remember how surprised I was when I heard that translators, interpreters as well, were called “commodity” at one of the ATA conferences. The time we live in and the lack of appreciation for our profession made some of us accept that term. I would very much like to try as Program Director of the New York Circle of Translators to

work on reversing that and on heightening the general public and professional awareness of the subtle complexity of the membership. The aphorism “He that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools” shows one of the paths that I would take to this end. So, speakers will be invited, workshops or seminars will be organized on topics tailored by our needs, and informal forums for networking at meetings and dinners will be provided. I hope that our professionalism and capability of growing will help us establish the position that our profession really deserves in this society.

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**Cast your votes for the candidates as follows:**

- Guyline Laperrière** for President
- Luke Sandford** for President-Elect
- Nancy Wright** for Secretary
- Antje Katcher** for Treasurer
- Slavica Zecevic-Pralica** for Program Director

Ballots must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2003.

Mail your ballots to:

Betty Welker, Nominating Committee Chair  
186 Riverside Drive, Apt. 11A  
New York NY 10024

Or fax to: (212) 875-9549

The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting to be held next January.

## ***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](http://www.nyctranslators.org) and join on-line!

## ***THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR***

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