THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

January/February 2003 A Publication of The New York Circle of Translators

President's Letter: *Welcoming a New Year*

Teresa S. Waldes
2003 NYCT President

Another year dawns for the Circle and a new team takes over. As I begin my year of service as NYCT President, I look forward to working with a wonderful group of officers: Shena Crane, President Elect (formerly Treasurer in 2000-2002), who has already proven herself as a dynamic and capable executive and who will be a great President in 2004; Maureen Gonzalez, our new Treasurer, (replacing Margaret Altieri who resigned) who has already earned our gratitude by agreeing to fill our vacancy on short notice; Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, Secretary, who served as Membership Secretary in 2002 and selflessly accepted to take over extra duties when we combined the two secretary positions; and last but not least Debbie Folaron, our dedicated and enthusiastic Program Director in 2000-2002, who has agreed to stay on for another two years. I am extremely grateful to each and every one of them for agreeing to serve (or to sign on for a second tour of duty). This has got to be one of the most knowledgeable and experienced NYCT boards ever and I am really excited to be a part of it. We are going to be a dynamite team!

I personally and on behalf of the NYCT also want to thank the outgoing President Marie-José Daigneault. She has been a dynamic and hard working leader throughout the year and we all appreciate her many contributions. Thanks are also due to the outgoing Secretary Anne Witt-Greenberg, who has diligently served the membership with caring and dedication during her two years in office. I am happy to report that Anne has agreed to continue to serve the Circle as Chair of a newly-created Mentoring Committee.

I also want to recognize the significant contributions made by other individuals, first among them our webmaster and long-time Circle member David Mintz. In the twenty-first century no organization such as ours can hope to survive without a website and the one David built and maintains for us is a priceless asset. We could not run our operations without it. As a token of thanks for his many contributions, in early 2002 the Board voted to grant to David Mintz an Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Another very important person in the life of the Circle is the Editor of the *Gotham Translator*. I am very pleased to announce that Helene Bergman has agreed to serve as Editor in 2003. To provide assistance and guidance to the Editor we are bringing back the Editorial Board, with Trudy Balch, Marian Greenfield and Nancy Wright as its first members.

My thanks also go to the committee chairs for their many contributions to the NYCT: Jane Lamb-Ruiz, Chair of the Advertising Committee, Milena Savova, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, and Renée Borio-Roman, Chair of the newly-created Programs Committee.

I look forward to working together with all the members of the team to bring you a great year in 2003. The NYCT is the most active of the ATA chapters nationwide with the most programs and meetings, one of the best newsletters, and a very useful and ever-improving website. Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated individuals much has already been achieved, and more is yet to come this year! ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Editor 2
Secretary's Farewell Letter 3
Trudy Balch from Mexico 4
Circle News 6
New Service Award 7
Report from the Secretaries 7
Holiday Party Photos 8
Program Director's Report 11
NYCT Monthly Meetings 12
A Translators' Conference in France 12
A LITA Event in New York 13
SpanSIG's Annual Report 13
NYCT Financial Highlights 14

THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

Editor
Helene Bergman
editor@nyctranslators.org

Editorial Board
Trudy Balch
Marian Greenfield
Nancy Wright

Design and Layout
Bahl Graphics
kbahlmann@austin.rr.com

Printing
Mail Boxes, Etc. South Orange NJ
mailboxso@mindspring.com

The Gotham Translator is published six times a year by the New York Circle of Translators, Inc., a chapter of the American Translators Association. The deadline for acceptance of contributions is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Articles and other materials should be e-mailed to the Editor at editor@nyctranslators.org. The opinions and views expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the policies of the NYCT or the ATA. All material submitted is subject to editing and becomes the property of the New York Circle of Translators unless accompanied by a copyright statement.

© 2003 by the New York Circle of Translators. All rights reserved. Nothing contained in this issue may be reprinted without explicit prior permission of the editor or, in the case of copyrighted material, the copyright holder.

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to all! It is a pleasure to serve as Editor of The Gotham Translator, 2003. I look forward to a year of exciting, interesting issues. Issues that reflect your interests and concerns. I am lining up some guest appearances and am requesting increased participation from members. Your articles can serve as guidelines and anecdotal asides for us all. Articles written by non-members serve a dual purpose: they will provide members with fresh insight while exposing them to new sources of work and reference. They also increase our "visibility".

by Helene Bergman

In the past, there has been regrettably little participation from our hundreds of members. This year why not participate if only by sending me a list of the kinds of articles you would like to see in the GT? If each reader would send me one article request, I could compile these, publish them in the next edition and then, perhaps, people would respond by writing an article from the "wish list". Wouldn't it be wonderful to open the GT and find an article about just the topic in which you are most interested? Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that you have written an article on a topic someone else has requested? Think about it! And please, email those "wish lists" to me as soon as you read this so that we may get an early start on this "project".

Again, welcome to the GT! I look forward to working with you! ■

GERMAN>FRENCH AND GERMAN>ITALIAN

TRANSLATORS WANTED

CLS Communication, Inc. opened its first office in the United States in October 2002 on the banks of the Hudson River in Weehawken, New Jersey, directly opposite New York City. CLS Communication, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of CLS Corporate Language Services AG. Based in Switzerland, CLS Corporate Language Services AG is a leading provider of top-line translation and language services to major financial institutions and telecommunications companies in Switzerland and neighboring European countries. With its new business location in New York, CLS Communication, Inc. will be able to serve its U.S. and European clients with a local office directly linked to its European hubs of in-house translators. To meet the growing needs of our successful business, our in-house translation team in Weehawken is looking initially for **German into French** and **German into Italian** translators. Candidates should have native fluency in the target languages and excellent command of the source languages.

At **CLS Communication, Inc.** you'll gain exposure to a broad range of expertise in the banking, investment, insurance and telecommunications sectors as you work closely with our clients and senior staff translators. The work is varied and the job demands a quality-driven, team-based approach, the ability to research topics independently and to work under pressure. Candidates will be at ease with the latest language tools and will enjoy developing their creative skills in a lively team of language specialists. The company offers an attractive benefits package, performance incentives, flexible working models and a multicultural environment. Candidates will be required to do several translation tests before selection for interview.

For further information contact: James Sievert at (201) 223-4530 or via e-mail at james.sievert@cls.ch or send your resume to CLS Communication, Inc. 1500 Harbor Blvd., Weehawken, NJ 07086-6732.

Farewell Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

I was proud to have the opportunity to serve on the prior Board and work with and meet many of you in that capacity. I am confident that the significant accomplishments that were made during the past two years, which undoubtedly required the dedication and cooperation of the whole team, have and will continue to serve the Circle well. It took perseverance and sheer hard work and patience to make this time productive. I feel very fortunate to have you all as colleagues and would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to the previous Board.

by Anne Witt-Greenberg

Thank you, Teresa, for your wonderful foresight and dedication. Thank you, José, for your well-planned, well-executed Board meetings and your superb flair for organization. Thank you, Shena, for your meticulous work, which made my job so much easier. Thank you, Consuelo, for being so bright and wonderful to work with. Thank you, Debbie, for your impressive efforts and creativity in planning our events. Thank you, David, for your major contribution in getting the website together, and for being so patient with working with me at times when I was computer-challenged. Thank you, Margaret, for your nice attention to detail in making the website an even friendlier environment. And thanks to you, all members, for your kindness and patience during most stressful personal times, and for being so interesting and insightful to work for.

Last, I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to the new Board. I am personally looking forward to serving all of you as Chair of the Mentoring Committee. I urge everyone to get involved, too, in this exciting new NYCT endeavor and welcome your comments.

The memories and the lives touched and the good works will live on. I hope each of you continues to get something valuable from the Circle. It, and you, do make a difference! ■

NEW YORK CIRCLE OF TRANSLATORS
(212) 334-3060

2003 Board of Directors

Teresa S. Waldes, *President*
(212) 769-9411
president@nyctranslators.org

Shena Crane, *President-Elect*
(201) 533-1277
presidentelect@nyctranslators.org

Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, *Secretary*
(212) 627-4506
secretary@nyctranslators.org

Maureen Gonzalez, *Treasurer*
(718) 884-2952
treasurer@nyctranslators.org

Deborah Folaron, *Program Director*
(718) 381-4303
programdirector@nyctranslators.org

Committee Chairs

Jane Lamb-Ruiz, *Advertising and Marketing*
(781) 449-2789
jlambcloth@aol.com

Teresa Waldes, *ATA Accreditation*
(212) 769-9411
twaldes@ix.netcom.com

Milena Savova, *Continuing Education*
(212) 998-7033
milena.savova@nyu.edu

Anne Witt-Greenberg, *Mentoring*
(516) 487-6128
trlegdoc@aol.com

Renée A. Borio-Román, *Programs*
(718) 823-8325
rborio@peoplepc.com

Leticia Molinero, *SpanSIG*
(212) 274-1282
lmolinero@nyc.rr.com

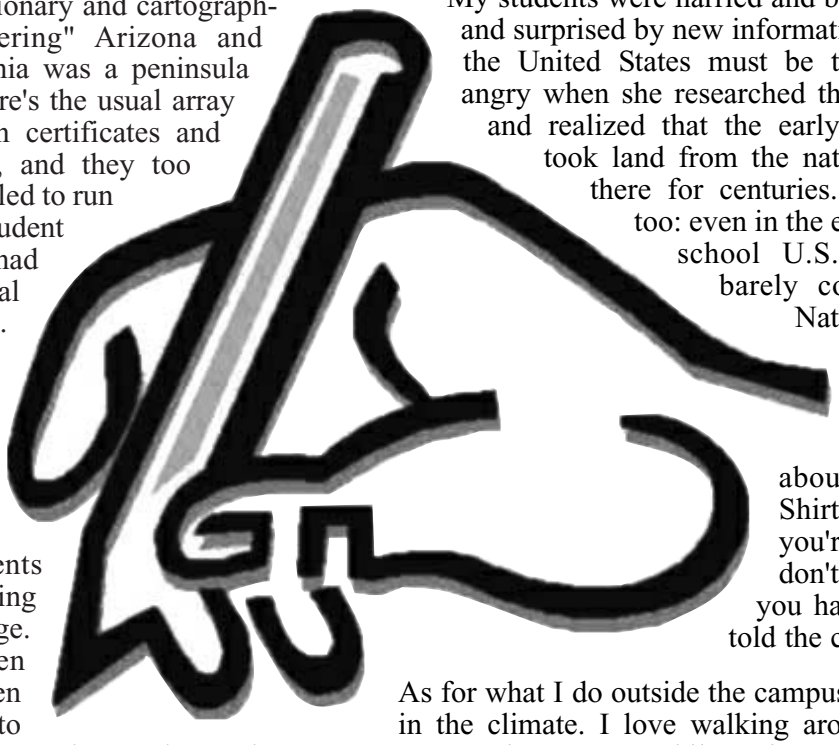
David Mintz, *Webmaster*
dmintz@panix.com

Letter from Mexico

by Trudy Balch

When I was a junior in high school, my U.S. history teacher was infamous for digressions that began "Many of you already know that I've had the privilege of spending a year in England. . . ." (Cue to students: brace yourselves for the reminiscences). I couldn't help but think of him when Teresa Waldes invited me to write about my experiences working in Mexico this year. The tables are turned now: I'm a translator at the University of Guadalajara, one of the largest public universities in Mexico, and during the first semester, I was teaching U.S. (and Canadian!) history as well.

When I have my translator's hat on, I sit at my desk in the translation section of the Department of Modern Languages and do whatever comes in: from articles on business, medicine and psychology, to speeches by the *rector general* (president) of the university, to a talk on Padre Kino, the Jesuit missionary and cartographer credited with "discovering" Arizona and realizing that Baja California was a peninsula and not an island. Then there's the usual array of student transcripts, birth certificates and letters of recommendation, and they too have their charm: I was thrilled to run into the mother of one student who told me that her son had been accepted at the Royal College of Music in London. (And if I run into a mysterious abbreviation, all I have to do is call the registrar's office!)



When I was wearing my teacher's hat, I was in a classroom with 16 students working on degrees in teaching English as a foreign language. (No one could have been more surprised than I when the department told me to teach this course. I now understand *Marbury v. Madison* - see the note at end of this article if you need the same refresher about it that I did - through and through, not to mention the intricacies of Canada's parliamentary system of government.) Undergraduate education in Mexico is far more specialized than it is in the United States, and my course was one of the students' few electives. The rest of their time is spent on English and comparative grammar, applied linguistics, cross-cultural communication, teaching methods, curriculum development and other related topics. (An aside: because students here specialize so early, they must make career-related decisions much earlier than many of us do in the United States. One of my colleagues went through the entire medical school curriculum - an undergraduate program in Mexico - before he decided he didn't want to be a doctor.)

My students were harried and busy, but still curious and surprised by new information. Like students in the United States must be today, Lety became angry when she researched the Plymouth Colony and realized that the early settlers essentially took land from the natives who had lived there for centuries. (Interesting to me too: even in the early 1970s, my high school U.S. history materials barely covered the fate of Native Americans after the arrival of the Europeans.) Paco was fascinated by what he learned about the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire: "When you're an immigrant and don't know the culture, you have a hard time," he told the class.

As for what I do outside the campus gates: First, I revel in the climate. I love walking around in jeans and a sweater in January while I sip a guava or strawberry *licuado* (fresh fruit drink). Somehow life here is less choreographed than in New York. Walk out on the street and you never know who you'll find selling what: one day it could be oranges, the next day beaded jewelry, and the day after that fresh-baked pastries. Instead of doing all my grocery shopping once a week, I pick up what I need that day from the butcher or chicken-seller or any one of the numerous tiny grocery stores that dot my neighborhood. True, there are shopping centers and malls and Wal-Mart here, and they seem to be doing good business. But where I live, the little places are more convenient, and - depending on what you're

buying - the prices can be the same or better. I do plan ahead a little: for the cheapest fruit and vegetables, I wait for the weekly *tianguis* (street market) or else go to one of the big municipal covered markets where competing vendors wave you over for a taste before you buy.

I take buses everywhere, and that's been an adventure. Bus drivers here make change, but they don't seem to care whether you're sitting, standing or a safe distance from anything dangerous (or even all the way on the bus) before they race off. One night, I was taking out my money to pay when the bus started up so fast that I was thrown against the railing near the driver's money tray. Ouch! Ribs smarting with pain, I went to the emergency department at my social security (Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social, the federally run medical and retirement system for workers) clinic. Within twenty minutes, the doctor on duty appeared at the office door, peered at the patient clipboard, looked out at the waiting area and called my name hesitantly, as a look of alarm began to spread across on his face. "Buenas noches," I said as I approached. He breathed a sigh of relief. "No hablo inglés," he said to the receptionist as he motioned me into his office. (As for my ribs, nothing was broken and yes, they're better.)

In the "Help! Professional Translator Needed!" Department, you'll get a good laugh - or else cry - at the sign I saw in the Puebla Cathedral on Christmas Eve. (The city of Puebla, which is about two hours east of Mexico City, was one of my holiday vacation destinations, and I highly recommend it: beautifully restored buildings and interesting side streets, delightful museums, a leafy *zócalo* - main plaza or square - and great food.) I had taken a walking tour that morning and heard someone tuning the cathedral's magnificent organ, and I was determined to hear it that night in its full glory. The organ fulfilled its promise, but the English part of the bilingual sign past the cathedral's entrance clearly needed help: "This written: My house will be sentence house. We beg the tourists NOT WALK for the corridors of the Cathedral during this liturgical celebration." (Translators and interpreters who work in Spanish, see if you can guess the original of the first sentence. And for everyone, I've put both original Spanish sentences at the end of this article, along with an explanation.)

I returned to the cathedral the following night in hopes of hearing the organ again. (What can I tell you? I'm quite contentedly Jewish, but passionate about organ music.) During the Mass, the priest read Pope John Paul II's Christmas message in beautiful Spanish. I clicked into professional high gear: priests all over the world are probably reading this to their congregations, in who knows how many languages. Imagine the coordination that must take place in the Vatican to be sure everything gets out on time!

Nor did the organist disappoint: an elderly, stooped-over man in well-pressed suit and tie, he smilingly complied with a request for some of Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in d minor" following the service. Not only did he play cleanly and movingly from memory, but his neck - at a near right-angle to his hunched shoulders - seemed to straighten up in the process.

Now, a few other translation-related issues you may be interested in. Translators here usually charge by the page, rather than the word. There is a system of official translators (*peritos traductores*) licensed by the court systems, and all documents (such as birth and marriage certificates) to be submitted to government agencies (such as social security and immigration, which handles work permits) only accept official translations. Many translators also request partial payment for work up front, especially for long projects. "Ask for a deposit it will hurt them to lose [if they don't pay the rest]," one colleague counseled me.

Finally, New Year's Eve found me at a small party with friends in Mexico City. At midnight, I ate my 12 grapes (another local custom: each grape represents one month of the year, and you make a wish for each) and wished good things for my family, friends, colleagues and the world. Happy New Year to you all, and a special hello to Mr. Hynes (who had the privilege of spending a year in England), wherever you are. ■

Trudy Balch translates from Spanish and Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) into English, specializing in journalism, economics and finance, social sciences, law and humanities. Her e-mail address is <tbalch@pobox.com> no matter where she is.

---

* *Notes: Marbury v. Madison, decided in 1803, was the case in which the U.S. Supreme Court established its power of judicial review. For more details, see me after class. As for the original of that sign in the Puebla Cathedral: "Escrito está: mi casa será casa de oración. Suplicamos a los turistas NO CAMINAR por los pasillos de la Catedral durante esta celebración litúrgica." (The confusion in the first part of the English translation revolves around the fact that "oración" can be either "prayer" or "sentence" - the linguistic kind - depending on the context.)*

CIRCLE NEWS

A Reminder to Pay your 2003 Dues

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 2003, your entry will not be included in the 2003 printed version of the Membership Directory. Your information will, however, remain in the online directory until the end of a 3-month grace period. If your dues have not been paid by March 31st 2003, your membership will lapse and your data will be purged from the online database. ■

Election Results

The election results, as reported by Anne Witt-Greenberg, outgoing NYCT Secretary, are as follows:

- Shena Crane for President-Elect, 2003, and President in 2004, received 16 votes.
- Margaret Altieri for Treasurer, 2003-2004, received 16 votes.
- Debbie Folaron for Program Director, 2003-2004, also received 16 votes.

Congratulations to all three candidates and many thanks to those members who took the time to send in their ballots! ■

Treasurer Resigns; New Treasurer Appointed

The newly elected Treasurer, Margaret Altieri, has been forced to resign for pressing personal reasons. The Board regretfully has accepted Margaret's resignation and thanks her for her service as Chair of the Website Committee in 2002. To replace her, Maureen Gonzalez has been appointed Treasurer in accordance with the procedures contemplated in Article V.4 of the Bylaws. ■

SpanSIG Event

SpanSIG and Instituto Cervantes are jointly sponsoring a full-day conference entitled "*Translation and Interpretation in Social and Information Services*." The event will be held on Monday February 24, 2003 at the Instituto Cervantes Library, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 807, New York City. More details are available at SpanSIG's website: http://www.spansig.org. Admission is free; however, due to limited seating capacity pre-registration is required for all attendees. To register, please send an e-mail to info@spansig.org no later than Friday, February 14, including your name, telephone number and email address. A certificate of attendance will be issued upon request. ■

Mentoring Committee

In response to the mentoring initiatives pursued by ATA at the national level, the Board of the NYCT has created a Mentoring Committee and appointed Anne Witt-Greenberg as Chair. Her responsibilities will be to provide a liaison with the national Mentoring Committee and to give information and advice via email or telephone to people interested in becoming mentors or mentees in the NY area. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Anne directly at: trlegdoc@aol.com. ■

Advisory Council

The Board of the NYCT has also voted to create an Advisory Council made up of all past NYCT Presidents *ex officio*. Membership in the Council is purely honorific (no work involved). The names of all Council members and their year(s) of service will be included in a list or roster to be published every year in the printed directory. This list will serve as a permanent reminder of the contributions made to the NYCT by past Presidents throughout our organization's history. It can also be used as a resource by the current President and Board when they need advice or background information. ■

New Website for Translators and Interpreters

Our webmaster David Mintz reports that a new website called courtinterpreter.net has been online since the start of the new year. The site hosts a bulletin board system dedicated to discussion of court interpreting and legal translation. For more information see http://courtinterpreter.net. ■

New Service Award Created

To run the Circle takes a lot of selfless effort on the part of many people. Nobody, however, works as hard as the officers of the association. Realizing this, the Board wanted to find a way to recognize and honor the exceptional contributions of our officers, i.e., the people who have served as President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Program Director, Editor or Webmaster. It therefore decided to create a Service Award to be presented to all NYCT officers past and present. The first Service Awards were given at the Holiday Party to the members of the 2002 Board of Directors with our gratitude for a job well done.

The award is a lovely enamel lapel pin with the Circle's logo in red, white and blue. It will not be sold or otherwise given away and the only way to get one will be to serve as an officer. The Board hopes the pins will be worn proudly at Circle functions to identify the wearer as a current or former officer of the NYCT and, as such, deserving thanks from all the membership.

To claim their pins, former officers should contact Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, our Secretary. Either approach her at any monthly meeting and pick up your pin in person or e-mail your request for the pin at: clee59@earthlink.net. Please be sure to indicate your name, full mailing address, position(s) held and year(s) of service. ■

Report from the Secretaries

by Anne Witt-Greenberg and Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, Secretary and Membership Secretary for 2002

We are pleased to report that our membership numbers are going up. At year end the Circle had 323 individual members and 29 corporate members.

The year 2002 was marked by the implementation of significant administrative changes, which had already been initiated by the two previous Boards. The database is now fully functional to meet the NYCT's current administrative demands. We have finally joined the virtual age, with various Circle communications switched to the Internet mode. For instance: labels to mail the Gotham newsletter are now generated directly from the website's database, eliminating prior painstaking labeling procedures. Members update their profiles directly online, which has increased flexibility and personal access. The database has eased the Secretary's job tremendously. Broadcast e-mailings allow us to reach everyone free of charge in a matter of minutes, instead of the prior time-consuming and comparatively costly membership paper mailings. The Directory production process is much improved since members have become part of it. The online directory increases the exposure of our individual and corporate members. Information about events is now posted online, which means that those few members whose Gotham does not get forwarded after a move are no longer out of touch with the Circle. Joining the NYCT, which in the past had been a somewhat slow process, is now quicker and easier. The Board devoted a lot of time in 2002 to improve administrative procedures, and we are now sailing smoothly onwards. Undoubtedly, the Circle is headed to even more improvements in 2003. This account could go on, but we hope you do agree that we have come a long way since the paper and pen age.

We welcome the membership's participation in this process, as we are all volunteers who strive to make things better for translators and interpreters in the Greater New York Area. ■

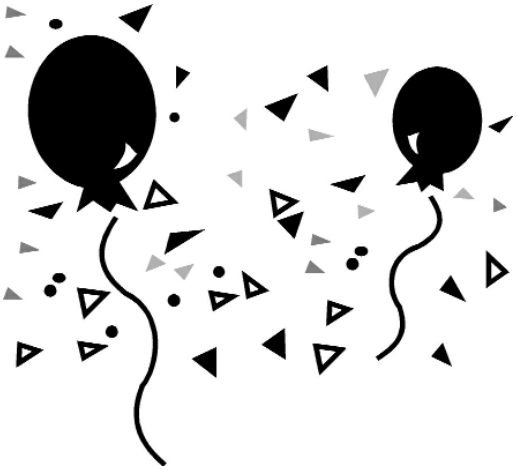
2002 HOLIDAY PARTY

Consuelo Corretjer-Lee and
Anne Witt-Greenberg

Marian Greenfield and Daniel Ferraro

Once again Laurie Treuhaft and her
daughters paid us a visit

Slavica Zecevic, Eleanore Speckens, Catherine Bokor



A view of the party

José Daigneault and Shena Crane

Alex Schwartz and Mrs. Schwartz came to visit Circle friends and colleagues

Eileen Brockbank, Marian Greenfield, Melly Bartholomew, Rosa Codina and Betty Welker party with friends

Among the partygoers at this table we see Borney Restrepo, Gabe Bokor, Renée Borio-Román and Susana Greiss

Debbie Folaron and José Daigneault. Pepper anyone?

Another view of the party

Leila Bose, Anne Witt-Greenberg, Consuelo Corretjer-Lee, Teresa Waldes, Shena Crane, Debbie Folaron and José Daigneault

Program Director's 2002 Report

by Debbie Folaron

Once again, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who assisted, attended and participated in our meetings, dinners and workshops this year. Your presence and ideas have always proved stimulating and exciting. A most heartfelt "thank you" and I look forward to more of the same this year!

To recap our year:

In January, we had our annual Business Meeting, followed by dinner at L'Annam, one of our favorite (Vietnamese) restaurants!

In February, we held a special dinner meeting at The Lafayette Grill and Bar to help support small businesses and restaurants that were affected directly by the events of 9/11.

On March 13th, Courtney Searls-Ridge (ATA Mentoring Task Force) led a meeting to introduce us to ATA's new mentoring program, followed by dinner at Gus' Figs Bistro & Bar.

On March 14th, Courtney Searls-Ridge led two interesting workshops addressed to both new Mentors and Mentees. The NYCT was one of the first ATA chapters to become involved in the new program!

On April 25th, Natasha Pavlova, representing the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs & Language Services, led our meeting and engaged members in a discussion on the translating and interpreting needs for the various linguistic and ethnic communities within the City of New York. This was followed by dinner at Bondi's Restaurant, another favorite of ours!

Also in April, NYCT was fortunate to have Cristina Márquez Arroyo (demonstrating TRADOS, Star Transit, Déjà Vu) and Keith Laska (Multilingual Desktop Management, SDLX) present a full-day workshop on the four standard industry CAT tools. This successful workshop was filled to capacity!

On May 23rd, NYCT-member George Fletcher, Ed.D., President of Globe Language Services, led an exciting discussion to a full crowd on tips for freelancers when translating for agencies. Meeting and dinner were held at Stark's Veranda Restaurant.

Also in May, NYCT collaborated with NYU to present a valuable Continuing Education English/Spanish/French Workshop on "The Language of International Development". The workshop was led by S. Alexandra Russell-Bitting, Senior Translator at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington D.C.

On June 26th, we gathered once again for our annual summer dinner at another favorite place -- Dolphin's Restaurant! The outdoor patio was the scene of some lively conversations.

On September 25th, Leah Ruggiero, Senior Project Manager at Eriksen Translations Inc., delivered portions of her presentation "The Translation Company Unveiled" (describing the relationship between freelancers and translation companies and agencies) from The Business of Translating and Interpreting Seminar in Boston on August 10th. This extremely successful talk was followed by NYCT President-Elect Teresa Waldes who gave a brief overview of the Boston seminar. The meeting and dinner were held at Stark's Veranda Restaurant.

On October 22nd, Carla DiFranco, Localization Program Manager at Microsoft, spoke to a full crowd on the new skills needed for translators working in today's localization market, and how to add value to our services as translators. Dinner was held at Bondi's Restaurant. Don't miss Carla's follow-up article in "The Gotham Translator"!

In November, we had a special recap of and roundtable discussion on the annual ATA conference in Atlanta for those members who were unable to attend. NYCT members Marian Greenfield, Gabe Bokor, and Milena Savova captivated the audience with their engaging accounts of ATA events! Special congratulations were extended to NYCT member Susana Greiss, who received the 2002 Alexander Gode Medal, ATA's most prestigious award! Dinner was held afterwards at Cal's Restaurant.

On December 15th, the NYCT held its annual holiday dinner party at La Petite Auberge. Pictures are forthcoming! It was wonderful to see so many members! ■

Upcoming Monthly Meetings on Feb. 18 and March 25

Remember that, because of our new publication schedule, you will not receive the next issue of the GT until April 1st. So **mark your calendars now** for the February and March meetings.

February Meeting

Peter Wheeler, owner of Antler Translation Services in Sparta, NJ, will give a talk on "***Splendeurs et Misères*: the upsides and downsides of running a small translation company.**" He will be looking at how a translation company interacts with its clients on the one hand, and with its freelancers on the other.

Peter has been a member of the Circle since 1988, and was its President in 1991. Before starting his own company he worked in a number of in-house translator positions, including 10 years with the European Commission in Luxembourg.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday February 18, at 6:30 p.m at **a new venue**: the newly-renovated training annex of The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, 2nd floor (between 15th and 16th Streets). Afterwards join us for a Chinese New Year banquet at 8:00 p.m. at Tien Fu Gong, 180 Third Avenue (between 16th and 17th Streets). Dinner is $28 per plate (tax and tips included) with individual drinks paid for separately. Please reserve by e-mailing Debbie at dfolaron1@nyc.rr.com or calling (212) 334-3060.

March Meeting

Our March presentation is entitled "**From Visual to Verbal: Translating Art.**" Meg Shore will discuss the unique challenges faced by translators of art-related materials such as art books, exhibition catalogs and brochures, museum guidebooks, etc.

Meg is a long-term member of the Circle, and was its President in 1997. She holds a B.A. in Art History from Vassar College and is currently working towards her Ph.D. She lived in Italy from 1969 to1974 and works as a freelancer in Italian>English and French>English.

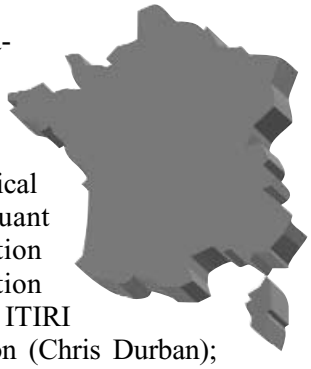
The meeting will be held on Tuesday March 25, at 6:30 p.m at **a new venue**: the newly-renovated training annex of The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, 2nd floor (between 15th and 16th Streets). Afterwards join us for dinner at 8:00 p.m. at Caffé Bondí, 7 West 20th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues). Dinner is $29 per plate (tax and tips included) with individual drinks paid for separately. Please reserve after March 1st by e-mailing Debbie at dfolaron1@nyc.rr.com or calling (212) 334-3060.

A Translators' Conference in France

by Anne Witt-Greenberg

While in Europe this past fall, I attended a two-day International Symposium on Specialisms and Specialization in translator training and professional practice organized by Rennes II University (*Colloque International sur les Spécialités et Spécialisations dans la formation et les pratiques professionnelles des traducteurs*). This event, hosted by Daniel Gouadec of Rennes II University, was well worth the short train ride from Paris. The 50 euro registration fee included a whole-day sightseeing trip by bus to picturesque Mont St. Michel, Cancale and St. Malo.

The Conference objectives were to analyze the impacts of specialty and specialization on markets; to take into account the specialized dimension of both translation training and translators' professional fields; to review translator training proposals, initiatives and models and to define specialties to be learned, according to fields of specialization or even related professions (such as terminologist, webmaster, multilingual drafter, etc); as well as to determine conditions under which translator training can introduce or confirm specialties and specializations. The scope of application was broad as it aimed to cover all specialty fields, document globalization, software localization, multimedia translation, subtitles, and dubbing.



Some of the most informative lectures I attended were Technical Translation (Hugo Marquant (ILMH, Bruxelles); Localisation (Lionbridge/BGS); Localisation Project (R. de la Paix, DESS ITIRI Strasbourg); Financial Translation (Chris Durban); Legal/judicial Translation (SFT/Unetica) and Translation Review (Louise Brunette, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada).

Anyone interested in going to Rennes II conferences/workshops may contact Daniel.Gouadec@uhb.fr. Some additional information can be obtained through various websites, including http://www.uhb.fr/langues/craie; http://www.uhb.fr/langues/craie/cfttr; http://www.uhb.fr/langues/craie/ProTLS.

On a related note, Robert Bononno's Guide to Translation Programs Around the World, at http://home.nyu/~rb28/t-schools.html, offers the most updated list of translation training currently available. ■

A LITA Event in New York

by Anne Witt-Greenberg

The Professional Development Committee of the Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (LITA) sponsored a presentation on 12/17/02, which was held free of charge and took place at 111 Centre Street. The presentation was about the translation of the term probation into Spanish and related criminal justice terms and definitions. The speakers were Sandro Tomasi, certified court interpreter, New York State; David Deferrari, former translator, terminologist and legal officer of the United Nations; and Alejandro Garro, professor at the Columbia Law School; the panel moderator was Oscar Méndez, staff interpreter, New York Civil Court, New York County. In presenting his paper, "English-Spanish Legal Dictionaries on Probation," which appeared in the October issue of the *ATA Chronicle*, Tomasi stated that over ten English-Spanish legal dictionaries have erred in providing *libertad condicional* as the translation of the term *probation* and said that most Latin-American countries and Spain have codified the term in Spanish as *parole*. In concluding, he cited three South American legal scholars that provided the term *probación* for the translation of *probation* and concurred in their assertion by further citing that the Anglo-American system constituted a criminal sentence while there are no such sentences in civil law countries. Out of all the terms that were provided in the eighteen legal dictionaries that Tomasi reviewed, Garro and Deferrari chose *condena condicional* despite Tomasi's arguments for the term being an exact equivalent of the term *suspended sentence* rather than *probation*. However, the two dissenting panelists did not address the issue of differentiating between the two - specifically, as they both appear in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice. Although there may still exist some differences of opinion on how to translate *probation* into Spanish, the presentation helped in narrowing down the numerous possibilities by making clear and researched assertions. Although the discussion focused on the Spanish language, the information gathered was equally applicable to other romance languages. I would like to thank Sandro Tomasi for inviting me to this congenial and highly instructive event. ■

SpanSIG's Annual Report - Year Ended on December 31, 2002

- SpanSIG ended the year with a positive balance of $7,343.38.
- Our membership is currently 389.

Below are the highlights for 2002:

New Services

- We introduced InTradES Direct, which currently has 85 listings, and we are working very hard to enable the interpreters section by mid-February.
- We are broadcasting and promoting the use of InTradES through press releases and other means, and we plan to increase and formalize these activities in 2003.

Conferences

- SpanSIG, under the auspices of Instituto Cervantes, held a one-day conference on February 25, 2002 on the subject of Specialized Translation and Interpretation. Attendance exceeded our expectations and the Instituto Cervantes's Library capacity.

www.spansig.org

- The information published on our Web site is constantly updated.
- Visits to www.spansig.org have increased 200%, with over 1000 visitors on some peak days. We look forward to exceeding 5000 hits per day at the end of the current year
- We got our first web-link sponsor (www.atril.com)

Publication

- We published four 24-page issues of Apuntes.

Membership

- Membership registration is on the increase and renewals are solid.
- We hold informal monthly meetings ("Encuentros") at a local restaurant, where colleagues meet to discuss matters of common interest and to network.

New York Circle of Translators 2002 Financial Highlights

by Shena Crane, 2002 Treasurer

Overview:

- At year-end 2002 the treasury showed a profit of $15,172.37.

  The majority of the profit is due to the collection of $10,600 in 2002 for 2003 dues as the result of dues invoicing being set to the calendar year. (NYCT 2003 dues were due and payable January 1, 2003, in the same way that 2003 ATA dues were payable.) As a result, $10,600.00-about 58% of anticipated 2003 dues-was paid in 2002, as opposed to $1,240.00 collected in 2001 for 2002 dues.

Other points:

- Membership dues collected for 2002 totaled $18,020, a slight increase over the $17,685 collected for 2001 dues.
- In addition to Membership dues, the main category of income was the ATA chapter rebate of $2,129.50. Continuing Education income offset expenses.
- Main expenses categories remained the same, but some cost savings were seen in the production of the Gotham, $6,506.13, down from $8,771.40 in 2001, and the NYCT Membership Directory with expenses of $3,536.32, down from $4,661.91 in 2001. Meeting expenses were consistent with those of 2001. Expenses for both the 2002 and 2003 invoice mailings were incurred in 2002 due to 2003 renewals being mailed in 2002.
- Regional Conference Seed Money profits from the 1996 Washington Regional Conference had been held by the NYCT for the ATA since 1996. In 2002, we returned these monies in the amount of $4,080.08 ($3,542.70 plus $537.38 in accrued interest) to the ATA.

NYCT Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2002

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

F Union Stern F	$1,692.43
HSBC	$38,661.22
NYCT CD	$2,537.38
Stern CD-1	$10,961.29
Stern CD-2	$29,093.47
Stern CD-3	$4,174.20
Total Checking/Savings	$87,119.99
Total Current Assets	$87,119.99
TOTAL ASSETS	**$87,119.99**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Retained Earnings	$71,947.62
Net Income	$15,172.37
Total Equity	**$87,119.99**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

$87,119.99

NYCT Profit & Loss Statement

January-December 2002

INCOME

ATA Mentor workshop Income $59.00

ATA Rebate
- Accreditation Exam $430.00
- ATA Rebate - Other $2,129.50

Total ATA Rebate.....$2,559.50

Cont.Ed. Income
- Fees $1,270.00

Total Cont.Ed. Income $1,270.00

Directory
- Other $50.00

Total Directory $50.00

Gotham Income
- Gotham Ads.....$305.00

Total Gotham Income $305.00

Hol. Party Inc. 2002 .....$1,147.80

Interest Income $2,166.78

Membership Dues
- Dues 2002 .....$18,020.00
- Dues 2003 .....$10,600.00

Total Membership Dues $28,620.00

Restaurant Inc. $4,842.00

Span-SIG Income $7,196.00

Total Income $48,216.08

EXPENSE

Accounting Expenses $250.00

ATA
- Mentoring Program $263.00

Total ATA.....$263.00

ATA accreditation exam facility $215.00

Bank Fees.....$81.00

Cont.Ed.Expense $738.00

Directory Exp
- Fulfillment $160.00
- Other $248.33
- Printing $2,850.00
- Shipping $277.99

Total Directory Exp $3,536.32

Gotham Expenses
- Layout $751.25
- Postage $1,171.21
- Printing $2,420.48
- Production $2,060.40
- Taxes $102.79

Total Gotham Expenses $6,506.13

Hol. Party Exp.
- 2001 .....$130.12
- 2002 .....$1,437.20

Total Hol. Party Exp. $1,567.32

Invoice/Profile Mailing
- 2002 .....$756.80
- 2003 .....$606.95

Total Invoice/Profile Mailing $1,363.75

Meeting Expense
- Facility Rental.....$1,075.00
- Other $100.00
- Meeting Expense - Other $1,744.70

Total Meeting Expense $2,919.70

Misc. Expense
- Other $20.00
- Refunds $245.00
- Misc. Expense - Other.....$0.00

Total Misc. Expense.....$265.00

Postal Expense
- P.O.Box Rental $76.00
- Postage $266.67
- Postal Expense - Other $105.78

Total Postal Expense $448.45

Regional Conference Seed Money.....$4,080.08

Restaurant Exp. 2002 .....$4,694.38

Span-SIG Exp
- Acct main. fee-NYCT $12.00
- Computer.....$559.99
- Mtg. Expenses.....$74.00
- Mtg.Speaker $500.00
- Petty Cash.....$200.00
- Postage $202.56
- Printing $2,787.86
- Production $58.15
- Web Hosting Services $564.85
- Span-SIG Exp - Other $15.00

Total Span-SIG Exp.....$4,974.41

Supplies $54.20

Telephone NYCT $720.97

Transportation $96.00

Web Page
- Hosting service $270.00

Total Web Page $270.00

Total Expense $33,043.71

Net Income $15,172.37

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

PO Box 4051
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-4051