

A Note from Laura Friend, NOTIS President

Dear Colleagues,

2022 has been a challenging but overall positive year for NOTIS. I am happy to report that the society is in good shape. Membership has increased to over 650 language professionals, working in a variety of T&I-related fields and about 85 world languages.

Thanks to solid earnings and prudential management (and despite this year's economic challenges), NOTIS remains in a strong financial position. We have been able to keep event and membership fees low, and we continue to give back with our innovative <u>scholarship program</u>. We are grateful to our capable and talented treasurer, Rosemary Nguyen.

Professional interpreters and translators currently face hardships not seen in generations. A continuing pandemic and a war in Europe, to name just two ongoing crises, have shaken our world. And yet, through thick and thin, NOTIS has been here for us.

The all-volunteer Board of Directors, dedicated employees, and other volunteers gave generously of themselves, as always, to support and uplift the membership, sustain our profession, and serve the community at large. We owe a special debt of thanks to Naomi Uchida, our extraordinary office manager, who will soon celebrate ten years in her position. Last but not least, we acknowledge the steady support and guidance of the American Translators Association (ATA), our parent organization.

NOTIS's hardworking programming divisions — Community Interpreting, Legal, and Translation (including the Northwest Literary Translators) — have been as active as ever this year. In keeping with our mission, they have offered a wide array of high-quality continuing education sessions for professional advancement. Our energetic marketing and communications team have employed their creative powers to promote NOTIS activities through social media and our <u>various digital publications</u>.

Early this year the Board of Directors debated whether it was time to re-



IN THIS ISSUE

3 | 5Ws: Advice for Beginners

4 | ITD with NOTIS: a Conference Recap

6 | NOTIS Division Updates

8 | How I Became a Translator-Interpreter

10 | The Role of the Interpreter in Depositions sume in-person gatherings, and a membership survey yielded mixed reactions. In response, we decided to add some in-person events to our calendar while continuing to provide a variety of online meetings and webshops. This seems to be working well. It affords all our members equal opportunities to attend continuing education courses (and earn credits) from the comfort of their homes. It has also allowed us to meet again in person — to network and to share hugs with beloved friends and colleagues.

August 7 was a highlight, as NOTIS members and families gathered for the annual picnic at Seahurst Park in Burien. Blinking in the sunlight, we could hardly believe we were together again. Attendees thanked orga-



A few organizers of this year's ITD event (from left to right): NOTIS Office Manager Naomi Uchida and board members Yvonne Simpson, Deirdre Ruth Murano, Laura Friend, Rosemary Nguyen, Yasemin Alptekin, Maria Lucas, and Katerina Warns.

nizers profusely for putting on the picnic, and many said it was their first in-person event in two and a half years — since the start of COVID!

On October 1, NOTIS members reunited for a one-day conference to celebrate International Translation Day (ITD). It was a wonderful gathering, both uplifting and cathartic. Attendees joyfully embraced and spoke from the heart, sharing long pent-up stories of what they had been through — because who else but a colleague could fully understand? Comments made during the talks and the panel discussion addressed issues of concern to T&I professionals, such as the effects of crisis on employment, occupational hazards, worklife balance, and survivor's guilt.

One legal translator's business crashed overnight when Russia invaded Ukraine; a literary translator worries about friends, family, and authors on the ground there. An educator saw her classes stop abruptly during lockdown, and an interpreter spoke of the burden of collateral trauma suffered

by interpreters working remotely.

So while people were elated to reunite, they also had a lot of pent-up heartache and woes that they needed to share; and for many, this seemed like the first time in a while that they were really able to do so.

Looking ahead to 2023, board members and volunteers are brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. We are excited to put on more in-person events while continuing to offer a rich program of virtual ones as well; and we always welcome suggestions from you, our members, for new ways to support one another.

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank you all for showing up, whether virtually, in person or both. Thank you for bringing your authentic selves — your vulnerable, strong, and caring selves, with all your joys and sorrows. Thank you for being friendly and congenial. Thank you for your service to NOTIS and your community. In short, thank you for the positive impact every one of you is making, each in your own special way.

I wish you and your loved ones a delightful holiday season, and may the New Year bring you health, peace, connection, success in your careers, and renewed optimism and joy.

See you next year!

Laura C. Friend

Laura Friend



Our 2022 all-volunteer Board of Directors was Laura Friend, Maria Lucas (VP), Rosemary Nguyen (Treasurer), Yasemin Alptekin (Secretary), Pinar Mertan, Zakiya Hanafi, Tarja Sahlstén, Yoseph Petros, Deirdre Ruth Murano, & Katerina Warns.

Visit <u>notisnet.org/Board-of-Directors</u> to learn more!

Feedback or suggestions? Want to propose an event or find out how to get involved as a volunteer?

Contact info@notisnet.org



WITH TEODOSIA RIVERA

Hello everyone, and welcome back! For our second installment, I would like to circle back to a question I posed last time. It's a question that all new and emerging translators and interpreters tend to ask themselves from time to time: What do I do when I don't know what I don't know? As a guide to answering this question, I proposed the 5Ws method, that is: the who, what, where, when, and why of your decision to embark on this journey.

In part one we answered the WHO? question, and we established that *you* are the embodiment of the success you want to achieve. You can check out our first installment of this five-part series on the *Northwest Linguist Blog*. Today, we will tackle the WHAT?

The **WHAT?** question here is twofold: 1) What is your ultimate goal? and, 2) What do you possess that guarantees you can reach that goal? Your ultimate goal, for example, could be to have more than one specialization for more marketability. Another goal could be to have your own business and train other language professionals to find their niche in the industry. As for what you possess, think of it this way: if *you* are the embodiment of the

success you want to achieve, what is it about *you* that makes that so?

HINT: Jot down your answers to questions one and two above either in the "Notes" space in your phone or on postits in your office. If you're like me, your mind may play tricks on you when you are trying to remember what you need to remember at a given time or place; been there, done that, right?

Here (to the right —>) are some DOs and DON'Ts I believe can guide you to answer these two questions on a more personal level.

The 5Ws is an advice column for emerging language professionals written for NOTIS by Teodosia Rivera. Teodosia, who began translating & interpreting in 2018, is a member of ATA, NOTIS, & ATIF.

Find part one (as well as this and future installments) on the <u>NW Linguist Blog!</u>



NOTIS CELEBRATES

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY!

RECAP: A One-Day Conference Quenches a Two-Year Isolation



BY YASEMIN ALPTEKIN

What a celebration it was for International Translation Day (ITD) 2022! On the first day of October, NOTIS held an in-person event at Highline College in Des Moines, Washington. After all those months of isolation, which dragged on for the better part of three years, it was almost like a "Thanksgiving" day for translators and interpreters in the Pacific Northwest, who hugged each other in person and even wept with joy during a uniquely emotional "sharing and caring and educating" opportunity. Plus — it was fun!

"The venue was great, sessions were fulfilling, food was delicious, participants were engaged, and the organization went smoothly and wrinkle-free from registration to closure!" according to feedback from one attendee. Everyone involved did their share and more, pitching in above and beyond their volunteer task-description! Earning continuing education credits was another benefit of the one-day conference.

As a NOTIS member, board member, and volunteer, it was a great pleasure for me to meet and greet fellow translators and interpreters on this special occasion. I look forward to planning the next one in 2023 and making it just as good — or maybe even better — with an even greater number of translators and interpreters coming out to celebrate the important work we do: being a bridge across the diverse languages and cultures that enrich and enliven our region!



Attendees ease into the conference with coffee, tea, and conversation





Three members of our discussion panel — Crisis & Change: How Our Professions Have Been Affected by Pandemic and War — pose with goodie bags; (L-R): Elizabeth Adams, Shelley Fairweather-Vega, & Caitilin Walsh

MORE FROM #1110 WITH KOTIS 2022



Linda Noble, Russian<>English translator and court interpreter, leads a session for judiciary interpreters called Navigating Rough Waters (on the AOC Code of Ethics)



ABOVE - full discussion panel (L-R): Shelley Fairweather-Vega (moderator), Howard Chou, Dominique Hoffman, Caitilin Walsh, Elizabeth Adams, and Laura McGilvra | BELOW - Yvonne Simpson, Spanish<>English interpreter, trainer, and NOTIS board member, leads a session called The Emotional Weight of Interpreting (& Translating)









Other conference sessions included (L-R): Retirement Planning for Independent Contractors, with Michael Avzaradel; Tax Planning for Independent Contractors, with Elizabeth Fiattarone; Translation and Interpreting: How Do They Differ?, with Helen Eby; and The Emotional Weight of Interpreting: Self-Care Strategies for Interpreters, with Yvonne Simpson (pictured above) Click here to learn more about our 2022 speakers — and stay tuned for details on our annual event in fall of 2023!



TRANSLATION DIVISION

The Translation Division at NOTIS was pleased to offer a variety of stimulating and instructive meetings in 2022, many of them in-person. Former ATA President Thomas West joined us for two seminars on translating court documents (from French and Spanish to English, respectively); veteran Finnish<>English subtitler Tiina Kinnunen gave two sessions of a workshop called Subtitling 101: The Art and Science of Good Subtitles; and previous NOTIS board member Mary McKee led a thoughtful discussion on machine translation and how we, human translators, might reframe our relationship with MT in our globalized and rapidly changing world.

The Northwest Literary Translators (find them on Facebook) enjoyed a number of fun and informative presentations from members Thei Zervaki, Elizabeth Adams, and Mia Spangenberg, and collaborated with the ATA Literary Division to host a webinar on the Authors Guild Model Contract for book translation. We were honored to welcome the Uzbek author in exile Hamid Ismailov to Folio for a conversation with NOTIS member Shelley Fairweather-Vega, one of his translators. Another highlight of the year was our Finnish Translation Slam, moderated by Elizabeth DeNoma, in which there of NOTIS's Finnish language translators treated the audience to a figure



in which three of NOTIS's Finnish-language translators treated the audience to a fierce and friendly competition over every line of a short prose piece.

We are looking forward to a number of valuable new events for translators in 2023 (plus a reprise or two, by popular demand), and we hope you will join us for one — or all — of them.

COMMUNITY INTERPRETING DIVISION (CID)

The Community Interpreter Division (CID) thanks NOTIS membership for another very active year! We hosted 27 sessions of 20 different trainings, providing hundreds of interpreters with webshops and webinars to support their professional practice.

One of the positive outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic has been on-line training. Not only are we able to bring together interpreters from across our region, we also welcome trainers from other states.

The CID brought back perennial favorites, like Note Taking and Medical Interpreter Ethics, and intro-

duced new topics including Impartiality in Interpreting for the LGBTQ+ Community and practices for interpreters' own mindful wellness.

This year we provided several webshops related to early life: Pediatric Genetics, Infant and Pregnancy Loss, Pediatric Vaccines, Well Visits, and Autism Spectrum Disorder. And, for the first time, we held a training for interpreting in K-12 educational settings.

The CID is excited to announce that we now offer some on-demand trainings — get

CEUs on your schedule! On the NOTIS events page, look for class titles starting with "On Demand".

In 2023, be on the lookout for topics including Dementia, Interpreting for Survivors of Domestic Violence, and Interpreting for Postpartum Care. Washington State has a large cohort of DSHS-certified interpreters whose certification is up for renewal on April 6, 2023 — don't miss out on opportunities for CEUs in the next few months!

If you would like to participate in planning or providing training, please reach out to our committee!

LEGAL DIVISION

As we again approach the end of a year that seems to have gone by swiftly, the Legal Division would like to take a look back at what this wonderful 2022 has brought us.

As we eased out of a long pandemic with renewed energy and hope, this year really felt like a comeback! In partnership with the Washington AOC, we continued to offer language-neutral continuing education courses to help us keep our skills sharp and learn new tricks. This year's sessions included:

- *Interpreting as a Performance Art (Part 2)*, with Javier Castillo
- *Introduction to the Standards of Practice and Ethics for Judiciary Interpreters* (Parts 1 & 2), with Milena Calderari-Waldron, Emma Garkavi, and Linda Noble
- Diving Deep: Take a deep dive with us into the icy waters of consecutive!, with Athena Matilsky

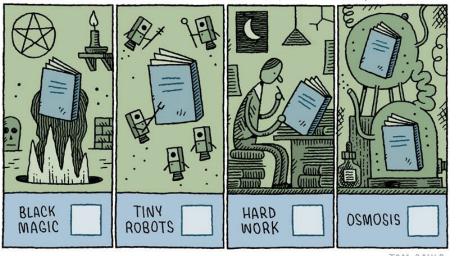


We enjoyed these sessions, and we certainly learned a lot, but it was the #ITD Conference that really felt like a celebration of our profession! Gathering in person again felt almost like a return to "normal" — with a subdued but definitely joyful tone.

As for next year, you'll have to stay tuned. We are always on the hunt for new training opportunities and presenters that can bring new perspectives and latest buzz in the interpreter world. If you would like to propose a session or series, don't hesitate to reach out.

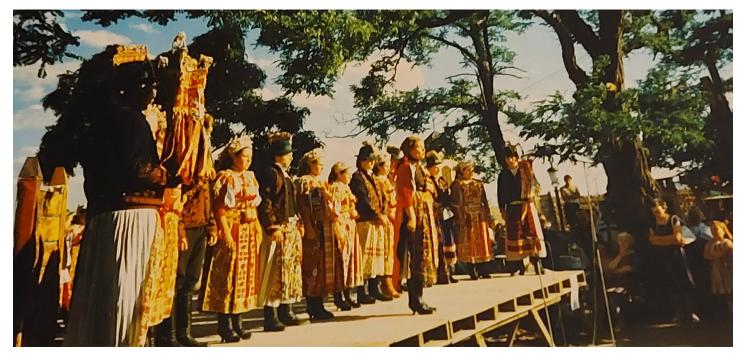
Learn more about NOTIS's Committees & Divisions (and how to get in touch): notisnet.org/Committees/Divisions Check out our Events Calendar: notisnet.org/Events Want to propose an event? Or volunteer to join a NOTIS division or committee? Email info@notisnet.org

QUIZ: HOW DO NOVELS GET TRANSLATED? (TICK ONE BOX)



TOM GAULD





Doing It the Hard Way: How I Became a Translator & Interpreter BY EDINA TOOLE

I have been wanting to write a book since 1975 but I have never been able to tackle it emotionally. You will soon read why. Now, I am thrilled that I can at least write this article: it feels a bit like a short "book" about my experience.

I was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary. Our mom "made" us learn German from childhood on. How did she know back then, in 1962, that someday in the distant future there might be major events in my life where German would be a priority?

In fifth grade, since we were under Soviet occupation, we had to start learning Russian.

Before high school, being the foreign language fan that I was, I started taking English in an in-person group session. I took an intensive Russian class for all four years of high school, and we had to choose one more language as well: I chose English. I really liked it. It sounded so smooth and melodic compared to German and Russian.

My parents were separated but our dad came to visit one day, telling us about his upcoming vacation to Austria. I was 17 at the



time and I thought: what a perfect opportunity this will be for me to practice German and have fun.

For a month it was enjoyable to travel between Austria and Germany, "flaunting" my German. I was so proud of myself.

Rothenberg Ob der Tauber might be a beautiful little German town to most; for me, it was where the "axe fell." I had to call my mom and let her know that our dad did not intend to return to communist Hungary. I felt stuck. I was too scared to go back by myself, lest all the repercussions fall on me, yet I was desperately longing for my mother, brother, grandmothers, aunt, friends, school... everybody and everything that until then had meant my home: a fairly happy life with a fairy-tale childhood.

We reported to the Foreign Police in Vienna. My dad drove his Dacia (a Romanian car), and I was not allowed to ride with him (which to this day is a mystery to me). Instead, like a criminal, they transported me in a van they normally used to transport prisoners. But I hadn't done anything wrong.

We were admitted into a refugee camp in a small village where everybody knew each other. We were the outcasts, and the locals really thought we were criminals — thieves, to be precise — and they would follow us around in the stores to make sure we did not steal anything.

I was in such a state of shock, and my self-image had crashed so fast and so deeply that I did not want to go to school in the village (even though I spoke fluent German by then). I was afraid the local kids might make fun of me. For ten awful months we lived in a wooden former-military barrack, and we worked very menial low-paying jobs without any benefits. This meant that when I got sick, I got fired.

My "liberation" came in 1976, when, through a Catholic scholarship for Eastern Europeans, I exited the refugee camp and made my way to Germany to a Hungarian-German Catholic boarding school — not because I came from a rich family, but because I needed an escape from the camp. Thankfully, I graduated from high school there. Every holiday I spent somewhere different, with various families, who were kind enough to take me in during school vacations. Technically, I had no home to go home to.

I traveled with a STATELESS refugee passport (under the Geneva Convention). Thus, I was not allowed to go home to see my family in Hungary or anywhere in Eastern Europe, because I was considered a criminal according to the communist system. In fact, I was "sentenced to juvey," just because I had stayed with my father in the "evil West" and I had not returned to Hungary in the allotted 30-day period.

Nobody came to my high school graduation. My friend's mom gave me some flowers.

A few of us from our class headed to the University of Mannheim in Germany. I spent six months high up in the Alps in Switzerland. Eventually I moved back to Vienna.

This is when I started studying to fulfill my dream: to become a translator and interpreter; preferably for the United Nations, which had a huge presence in the city.

One day I got invited back to the refugee camp in Vienna where I had lived with my father — this time as a very well-paid translator and interpreter.

Then, an American publishing company in Vienna approached me to translate an English book into Hungarian, which I did.

For three years I enjoyed my work so much, but fate interfered once again in 1983. I foolishly dropped out of school and moved to England to attend a different college. In 1984 I married an American man and, in 1985, we had a child and moved to the US (where I obtained a degree in Management and Organizational Leadership).

Scroll forward to 2022 when, by chance (or fate?), I found out that my book had been published! I got so excited, motivated, and inspired that I immediately decided that my place was back in the field of foreign languages as an interpreter and translator. That, I know now, is my identity and my passion; it is what I am good at.

Thus, I became a NOTIS and an OSTI member and attended numerous workshops last summer. I succeeded in securing a contract with the International Institute of Buffalo.

I am glad that my children, grandchild, and even my colleagues in this field will hopefully never experience anything like this.

There must be an easier way to become a translator–interpreter.



Edina's photo captions (in descending order):

- 1. A Hungarian folk dance company (I did this too)
- 2. My dad and I in Wien (Vienna), when I was a college student in Germany but wanted to go home to Hungary. With fear and trepidation I "slithered" into the Hungarian Embassy. The nice consul advised me like a father not to be silly, to stay in Germany and enjoy a life of freedom in the West. Wow. That was an eye opener.
- 3. My husband in his Hungarian shirt my mom embroidered; me in my Dirndl = Austrian and German traditional costume.

EDINA TOOLE is a translator and interpreter based in Oregon State. Her working languages include Hungarian, German, and English.

The Role of the Interpreter in Depositions by Pilar Lomonaco

the target language. Occasionally, sight translation is used. where the interpreter briefly reviews a written document and renders its content orally into the

The role of the interpreter in a deposition (called examination for discovery in Canada) may not be clear for those witnesses that have not been exposed to the work of professional interpreters. It is important that a witness understands that the interpreter is not present in the deposition to help one of the parties in particular, but to facilitate the communication among all parties involved in the legal process and to obtain an accurate record of the examination. Additionally, it is important for the witness to be familiar with the process of an examination and with the role of the interpreter during this process.

It is generally acknowledged that the role of the interpreter in the judicial setting is to make communication possible despite language barriers that exist between litigants, lawyers, judges, and court personnel. The interpretation must be impartial, complete, and accurate, and it must also reflect the tone, intonation, register, and educational level of every source language speaker. Although court or legal interpreting may appear simple, it is an exceedingly complex and demanding process. Court interpreters require a set of key qualifications for competent interpreting, such as proficiency in the source and target languages, ability to interpret in all modes of interpretation, cross-cultural awareness or thorough knowledge of two cultures, familiarity with the legal process, and adherence to standard of ethics and professional con-

Savage Chickens



Most of the interpreting in a deposition is done in consecutive mode, where the interpreter waits until the source language speaker pauses, and then renders the original meaning into

duct.

target language.

A court interpreter may not have the opportunity to explain her role before most court proceedings, but it is possible to provide some information before a deposition. The interpreter may take advantage of this opportunity to explain her role in both English and the foreign language before the deposition starts. This explanation will help the witness to understand the role of the interpreter and to corroborate that he can understand the interpreter when she speaks; additionally, it will help the interpreter to render a more complete and accurate translation throughout the examination; it will facilitate the work of attorneys and court reporters, and it will reduce or eliminate disruptions and misunderstandings during the examination.

The contents and style of an interpreter's introduction may vary, but it is recommended that the interpreter mention the following information:

- 1. Name of interpreter.
- 2. Reaffirmation of the interpreters' code of ethics.
- 3. Clarification of the specifics to be interpreted, which in most cases means that the interpreter will translate everything that is said in the room without additions or omissions. For example, if the witness decides not to complete a sentence or not to answer a question, the interpreter will not complete a sentence or answer a question for him. Occasionally, however, the interpreter may be instructed by both attorneys to exclude highly technical legal discussions regarding objections when the question/answer process is on hold, as the interpreting of these discussions may be disruptive and may confuse the witness.
- 4. Instructions to the witness to speak clearly, use short sentences and make pauses between blocks of information so that the accuracy in the interpretation can be maintained.
- 5. Encouragement for the witness to request greater

- clarity or repetition from the examining lawyer, when necessary. The interpreter will translate the witness' request so that the lawyer may explain, repeat, or rephrase the information.
- 6. Instructions to the witness to allow the interpreter to finish a translation before the witness answers a question from the lawyer, even if the witness understands the information.
- 7. Instructions to the witness to address the examining lawyer directly, instead of addressing the interpreter, and to avoid engaging in conversation with the interpreter. It is not the role of the interpreter to answer questions, provide explanations or summarize information.

Conveying these points before the deposition will result in a smoother and more successful examination.

The advantages of clarifying the role of the interpreter are similar to those of a company that makes sure that job descriptions are provided: it reduces the chances of conflict and increases productivity. When attorneys, witnesses, and court reporters have a clear understanding of the role of the interpreter, we can concentrate on doing what we are supposed to do: provide an accurate, complete, and impartial rendition of an examination, which is the ultimate goal of facilitating the communication among the parties involved.

PILAR LOMONACO BA, MPub, is a Certified Court Interpreter and a Certified English to Spanish Translator by STIBC-CTTIC. She works as an interpreter in Canada for Court Services - Ministry of Attorney General, Immigration Refugee Board and the Provincial Health Services Authority. She has been a member of NOTIS since 2018.

www.syntaxis.ca

WHAT'S NEXT AT NOTIS	
December 15	**in person** at Folio Seattle
December 17	INTERPRETING FOR IEPS AND BEYOND: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SERVICE INTERPRETERS IN SCHOOLS A NOTIS webshop, with Fanny Cordero
January 7	ETHICS JEOPARDY! A NOTIS webshop, with Cindy Roat
January 17 & 21	INTERPRETING FOR POSTPARTUM CARE A NOTIS webshop, with Marisa Rueda
January 18	NETFLIX AND LEARN: UNCONVENTIONAL RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY A NOTIS webshop, with Yuliya Speroff

NOTIS is now offering <u>ON-DEMAND</u> webshops at a discounted price! Learn more about these & all other events at <u>notisnet.org/Events</u> Contact us at <u>info@notisnet.org</u> if you would like to propose an event





Top left: Fight to the Finnish — a Translation Slam — with Mia Spangenberg, Lola Rogers, and Jenni Salmi, plus celebrity referee Elizabeth DeNoma | Top right: Tiina Kinnunen leads a workshop at the Nordic Museum — The Art & Science of Good Subtitles

MORIE 2022 ROTIS EVENTS & OUTINGS

Snapshots from our Summer Picnic & Potluck at Seahurst Park
RIGHT: NOTIS Secretary Rosemary
Nguyen addresses the crowd
BELOW LEFT: Picnic attendees
observe a lively lawn game
BELOW MIDDLE: Putting for prizes
BELOW RIGHT: Zakiya Hanafi &
Melody Winkle pose for the camera









BELOW, LEFT AND RIGHT: NOTIS members gather for lunch at the annual ATA Conference (#ATA63) in Los Angeles, California







Happy holidays, NW linguists!

Connect with NOTIS on social media:

FACEBOOK:

@NOTISnet

INSTAGRAM:

<u>@nw_translators</u> <u>interpreters</u>

LINKEDIN:

Northwest Translators & Interpreters Society (NOTIS)

TWITTER:

@notis net



Members of our 2022 Board of Directors at our summer picnic in Seahurst Park. Pictured, from left to right: Yvonne Simpson, Rosemary Nguyen, Yoseph Petros, Laura Friend, and Katerina Warns. Not pictured: Pinar Mertan, Zakiya Hanafi, Maria Lucas, Tarja Sahlstén, Yasemin Alptekin, and Deirdre Ruth Murano.

Thank you for reading the latest issue of the *Northwest Linguist*! Cheers to a new year filled with opportunity, promise, language, and community. We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Call for Papers

Let us share your work! To submit an article (400-1500 words) or other applicable content to one of our publications, contact Brianna at social@notisnet.org

<u>Membership</u>

Not a NOTIS member? Join us! Benefits include:

- privileged admission to webshops & other events;
- excellent networking opportunities;
- the ability to get work on our online jobs board...
- and advertise your services in our directory;
- opportunities to organize social events with us...
- or advertise *your* events on our platforms; and more!

 Check out the perks at <u>notisnet.org/join</u>

Volunteer

Want to get more involved? Volunteer for a division (Translation, CID, or Legal) or committee (Publications, Scholarships, or Advocacy)! For details, visit notisnet.org/Committees-and-Divisions