

2/2024

Newsletter of the German Language Division
of the American Translators Association



In this issue...

Editor-in-Chief

Sabine Seiler, Niskayuna, NY
seilersabine7@gmail.com

Co-Editor

Marion Rhodes, San Diego, CA
marion.rhodes@gmail.com

Copy Editors

Ivonne Reichard-Novak, Blacksburg, VA
ivonne@lexlation.com

Annett Kuester, McLean, VA
annett.kuester@gmail.com

Melissa Kostecky, Portland, OR
info@kosteltranslations.com

Richard N. Block, Berlin, Germany
richard@richardnblock.com

Proofreaders

Kimberly Scherer, Salzburg, Austria
kimberlyscherer@gmail.com

Ute Kegel, Kakauna, WI
ukegel@gmail.com

Jill R. Sommer, Cleveland Heights, OH
gertoeng@jill-sommer.com

Megan Falk, River Falls, WI
megan.may.dietrich@gmail.com

Calendar

Stella Waltemade, Munich, Germany
post@stellawaltemade.de

Review Coordinator

Rosalie Henke, San Diego, CA
translation@rosaliehen.ke

Design & Layout

Daniela Radivo-Harder, Salzburg, Austria
dradivo@translations.eco

• • • • •

GLD Officers:

Administrator

Karen Leube, Aachen, Germany
mail@leubetranslation.com

Assistant Administrator

Robin Limmeroth, Mainz, Germany
robin@robin-limmeroth.com

Editorial.....	3
Word from the Administrator.....	4
(Translation) Notes from the Homeland.....	6
GLD Conference Primer.....	8
Features:	
Volunteering: A Different Tune	14
The Right to Wind in their Hair: Das Recht auf Wind in den Haaren	16
Gleaning–What a great word!	18
Aktive ehrenamtliche Tätigkeit im Tierheim und im kommunalen Beirat in Texas	22
Volunteering: A Cultural Perspective	24
Translator in Profile: Karen Leube	25
Book Review:	
<i>Kairos</i> by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann	26
Calendar of Events 2024-25.....	28



A portrait of Karen Leube, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark floral top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred bookshelf.

Karen Leube grew up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in German in the United States and obtained a PhD in English and German as a foreign language (DaF) from the University of Heidelberg. She taught translation at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz (Germersheim) and now works as a freelance translator and seminar facilitator from her office in Aachen.

By Karen Leube

Apart from the GLD Members in Europe workshop held in Leipzig in February, I was part of three GLD in-person meet-ups, including our workshop in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, in February organized by Petra Rieker and Matt Bunczk, and our GLD Stammtisch meet-ups in Cologne in May and in Fairfax, Virginia, in June, organized by Ruth Boggs.

Our Digital Events Coordinators, Katrin Rippel Galati and Megan Falk, gathered members online for educational sessions, including the [webinar on German variants](#) with presenters Bettina Schreibaier-Clasen and Rainer Dykowski, and

Assistant Administrator Robin Limmeroth and I vetted session proposals for the upcoming conference in Portland, and I coached [Inga Schiffler](#), our Distinguished Speaker, on responding to Headquarters' invitation to submit proposals for her sessions on "Leichte Sprache." I want to thank everyone who went out of their way to contribute to the German track and also those GLD members who submitted proposals for sessions in other tracks.

With all these plates to spin, I was busy, of course. But with a new situation—next to no work. After decades of running on fumes and fending off offers of work, by April 1, 2024, I had invoiced for a grand total of €2,537.38 for the year.

As I stated in the “Translator in Profile” interview, I don’t plan to translate forever, but I do want to stay in the driver’s

Do you write or blog about the translation industry—or would you like to start and need a platform? We want you! Please contact Sabine Seiler about how you can become a GLD contributor! E-mail: seilersabine7@gmail.com.

Did you know?

The GLD has its own LinkedIn page!

Make sure to follow us at [linkedin.com/company/german-language-division/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/german-language-division/)

seat when it comes to my business. Was this it? Am I the next to be eliminated by DeepL and Co.? How can I continue to be the GLD Administrator if my business is failing? What kind of example am I?

I signed up for [Corinne McKay's](#) "March Marketing Madness" course and put myself out there and set about working full time to look for full-time work. Although it is not an ATA course, there were many ATA members participating, some of them hoping to revive their businesses, like me, and others doing the right thing—doing regular marketing despite having "enough" business.

The course helped me to perform dreaded tasks like sending cold emails and following up with phone calls, which in fact were not as awful once I realized that potential clients were open to my sales pitch. I also learned to identify what I am passionate about—giving others a voice to market their businesses or services—and that made it easy to be authentic. At some point, the rhetoric changed from "I'm looking for work" to "I'm rebuilding my business."

The month of April marked a turnaround. I attended the IHK Forum on Germany-USA-Mexico trade in Düsseldorf and connected with a speaker who has an energy business in Aachen—and recruited Katrin Lange to speak to the GLD (a double win). I also attended my

first "University Translators" forum in Mannheim. I offered my services to the local continuing education center (*Volks-hochschule*) and agreed to teach a new course, "Deutsch für die Pflegeberufe." The floodgates suddenly opened, with new jobs as disparate as a job proofreading the translation of an Italian cookbook (written in German...) to one editing a book on veterinary ophthalmology, and a referral by a fellow ATA member to a company seeking a new "go-to" translator for GI tract-related publications as well as commissions for two academic publications about urban architecture. All of these jobs came about through my connections in professional associations, first and foremost ATA (and the GLD), but also its German counterpart BDÜ ([Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V.](#)).

Along the way, I cried on numerous GLD members' shoulders and received ongoing support and encouragement. I'm grateful to all of you. Yes, the "job" of administrator entails work—but it translates into "Freude" and can even lead to paid work...

And one last GLD PSA: Please reserve November 1, 7:30 pm PDT, for our GLD Networking Dinner at Brix Tavern in Portland!

Karen

What's all the "ataTalk" about?

"ataTalk" is a forum for discussing ATA policy, activities, and governance. It's a place where members can voice opinions and be heard by the association at large. Join in and find out what all the talk is about! (Please note that questions and problems that need to be addressed right away should continue to be directed to president@atanet.org.)



By Ellen Yutzy Glebe

In our case, I think it worked okay. She laughed and repeated the words back to us. An Iraqi man in Baden-Württemberg had a less pleasant experience when, during a train journey, he used his phone to ask a woman where the train would split. He was just trying to make sure he was on the right section to reach his final destination, but the app's translation [suggested the train would “explode”](#)—and the woman called the police, who in turn evacuated the train, brought in a dog squad, and interrogated the man for several hours before anyone realized what had happened. While it's fun to laugh about the absurdity of the situation—and especially fun, perhaps, for members of the profession most threatened by the technology at the heart of the story—I was struck by two things: first of all, although many readers deemed the translation an

On the other hand, sometimes translation takes time. In recognition of this fact, the ITI has recently published a “[Slow Translation Manifesto](#),” which suggests that translation is ideally “a human process thoughtfully carried out by people who care about words and meaning, and who value the time needed to research and understand the intricacies of the source text before translating it into the target language with precision, skill and artistry.”

As a translator who specializes in non-urgent, academic translations, my first inclination might be to embrace the ITI document wholeheartedly, and it seems in many ways to be echoing things I've written here before about the crucial role of human intuition and understanding in the translation process. At the same time, I know there are other

Speaking of CPD and working vacations: plans have shaped up nicely for our upcoming 2025 European workshop—in Vienna! See the announcement on [page 20](#) for more details!



GLD Conference Primer



The [ATA 65th Annual Conference](#) in Portland will feature several sessions of interest to GLD members. Below is a list of presentations in the German track to help you map out your virtual conference schedule. Full descriptions as well as a list of other conference sessions are available [here](#).

Conference Sessions and Events

ATA65 provides a comprehensive selection of educational opportunities for professional development specific to your needs. You'll find sessions that focus on practical skills and theory across all levels of experience. You'll be inspired and challenged to consider new ideas.

The conference also offers a variety of networking events. You'll find opportunities to promote yourself and your services, connect with friends, get involved with your association, or just have fun!

ATA-certified translators may earn 1 CEP for each hour attended, up to a maximum of 10 CEPs.

Certified interpreters may earn continuing education credit. [Learn more](#)

German Topics Agenda

Thursday, October 31

(027) Can You Build Your Own Neural Machine Translation Engine?

Presenter: Carola F. Berger, CT

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. PDT

In this session, the speaker will answer the question of whether it's possible to build a functioning machine translation engine for a tech-savvy translator with over a decade's worth of subject-matter-specific translation memory data. The answer is "not really." However, it's possible to adapt an existing engine to run locally on your machine and train it with your own data, thus adhering to strict data privacy regulations. Attend this session to find out more!

Hashtag(s): #ATA65



Thursday, October 31 (Continued)

(043) “You Can Say ‘You’ to Me.” Staying Abreast of Trends in the German Formal Address

Presenter: Karen Leube

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. PDT

Learners of German are taught to use “Sie” for “formal” relationships and “du” for informal ones. But what do these relationships entail? While in the past we were taught that “du” is reserved for family members, children, and animals, these days “du” is prevalent in ever more social contexts. Even native speakers of German struggle to keep up with the latest trends in the use of the formal and informal address. In this session, you’ll learn about the history of formal address in German and the latest developments for applying “du” and “Sie” in Germany, including the “#gernperdu.”

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

Friday, November 1

(056) Into English Medical Terminology

Presenter: Marion Lemari

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT

This session is an introduction on how to handle medical terminology in German into English patient records. We’ll cover essential research methods, available resources, and useful strategies for translating simple terms, including acronyms and two-letter abbreviations as well as medical codes and complex terms and phrases. Emphasis will be placed on English symbols, abbreviations, and dose designations that could jeopardize patient safety. We’ll look at medical concepts and discuss semantic features (full and partial equivalence) as well as polysemy, hyponymy, hypernymy, and synonymy in medical terminology. Finally, we’ll explore basic medical termbase mapping and term storage.

Topics: German, Medical T&I, Technology for Language Professionals

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

(072) How to Handle Ambiguous or Unclear Source Sentences

Presenter: Rainer Klett, CT

2:35 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. PDT

Have you ever been faced with poorly written or ambiguous sentences in the source text and found yourself on the fence between guessing the intended meaning and asking the client for clarification? This hands-on session includes many real-life examples of problematic English source sentences and aims to help you establish a guideline for how to handle these in a way that no machine translation will ever be able to while providing exceptional value to your clients.

Topics: Other T&I Topics, Education and Training T&I

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

THE
ATA

CHRONICLE

Friday, November 1 (Continued)

(089) Unveiling Systemic Differences in Translation: Exploring the Power of Language and Ableism

Presenter: Megan Falk

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. PDT

Language plays a powerful role in shaping attitudes toward people with disabilities, which should not be overlooked. Ableism, as a form of systemic discrimination, not only influences societal perceptions but also impacts the equitable treatment of individuals with disabilities. There is a need for translators and interpreters to recognize systemic differences between languages and cultures and explore the most effective methods for communicating the meanings of concepts between the source and target languages. If linguists are unaware of ableist language, which promotes discriminatory attitudes, and do not actively work to address and avoid it, they contribute to its perpetuation.

Topics: German, Diversity Equity and Inclusion in T&I, Legal T&I, Technology for Language Professionals

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

(091) It's All "Knockout Mouse" to Me: Comprehensibility Challenges in Translating Patient Information for Clinical Trials

Presenter: Katharina Jones, CT

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. PDT

The translation of patient information for clinical trials is an important area for medical translators. A key requirement is that the text must be understandable to patients. In this session, the speaker will discuss the key challenges and implications for translators of such documents, touching on the legal background and ethical aspects, covering existing guidelines and recommendations specific to the medical field, and describing common pitfalls of this type of translation between English and German as well as suggesting solutions. The session will consist of an introductory part and a second part with some practical exercises.

Topics: German, Medical T&I

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

Die Liste wo einiges los ist!

The GLD List is one of our member benefits—an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from each other. Subscribers pose questions, assist others by responding to queries, or simply follow the conversation.

As our former Listmaster Gerhard Preisser puts it: „Wer helfen kann, hilft; wer eine Antwort weiß, hält damit nicht hinterm Berg. Kollegialität und Kooperation werden großgeschrieben. Die auf unserer Liste vertretenen Übersetzer und Dolmetscher konkurrieren nicht miteinander – sie inspirieren einander, und ich hatte das außerordentliche Vergnügen, diesen regen, auf höchster Kompetenz und viel gutem Willen beruhenden Austausch moderieren zu dürfen.“

Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

Send an email to:

ATA-German-Language-Division+subscribe@groups.io

1. In the subject line, enter: subscribe gldlist
2. In the body of your email, write your:
 - email address
 - full name
 - ATA membership number



Saturday, November 2

(126) Exploring “Leichte Sprache”: A Niche for Language Specialists, Part I

Presenter: Inga Schiffler

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. PDT

“Leichte Sprache” is a promising professional niche for translators and interpreters in Germany. Unlike machine translation and AI-assisted editing, which prioritize speed and volume, creating texts in “Leichte Sprache” requires a tailored approach for each project. This means that ensuring accessibility goes beyond language alone and involves considerations of content discoverability and user engagement. This session will introduce various concepts for making German texts more readable and accessible, including “Leichte Sprache,” “Leichte Sprache+,” “Einfache Sprache,” and “Bürgernahe Sprache,” and provide opportunities to practice techniques for adapting texts for readability.

Topics: German

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

(134) Translating Culture: Humans vs. Machines

Presenter: Kelly Neudorfer

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. PDT

This session delves into the intricacies of translating culture-specific items (CSIs), revealing the subconscious choices translators often make. We explore a spectrum of translation strategies for CSIs, highlighting the importance of deliberate decision-making. By comparing these human strategies with outputs from neural machine translation (NMT) and generative AI (GenAI), attendees will gain insights into navigating potential MT pitfalls. From translators who use MT for occasional inspiration to those who regularly post-edit, attendees will learn to critically reflect on this aspect of MT output, ensuring it enhances rather than dictates their choices for translating terms specific to certain cultures.

Topics: German, Technology for Language Professionals; Book and Literary Translation, Educational T&I, Legal T&I, New Professionals

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

(141) Exploring “Leichte Sprache”: A Niche for Language Specialists, Part II

Presenter: Inga Schiffler

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. PDT

“Leichte Sprache” is a promising professional niche for translators and interpreters in Germany. Unlike machine translation and AI-assisted editing, which prioritize speed and volume, creating texts in “Leichte Sprache” requires a tailored approach for each project. This means that ensuring accessibility goes beyond language alone and involves considerations of content discoverability and user engagement. This session will introduce various concepts for making German texts more readable and accessible, including “Leichte Sprache,” “Leichte Sprache+,” “Einfache Sprache,” and “Bürgernahe Sprache,” and provide opportunities to practice techniques for adapting texts for readability.

Topics: German

Hashtag(s): #ATA65



Saturday, November 2 (Continued)

(144) Ethical Challenges in the German to/from English T&I Business

Presenters: Noah Alter, Karen Leube, Robin Limmeroth

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PDT

German to/from English T&I professionals frequently encounter ethical dilemmas. These range from requests to translate sensitive historical documents, such as Nazi-era texts, to interpreting personal letters without consent, and navigating offers to work for significantly lower compensation than standard rates. GLD members will be invited to submit ethical issues they have been confronted with by email prior to the conference. The forum will begin with a fishbowl discussion featuring members of ATA's German Language Division (GLD). GLD administrators will also present other scenarios that include financially and ethically questionable conditions. Following the fishbowl discussion, attendees will reflect on these scenarios and propose practical solutions to these ethical quandaries.

Topics: German, ATA Professional Forum, Book and Literary Translation, Business of T&I

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

(150) Tips and Tricks for Translating German Medical Records

Presenter: Abigail Clay

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PDT

Are you interested in medical translation but reluctant to translate medical records because dealing with dead PDFs and varied and technical subject matter is too time consuming? It doesn't have to be! And there is no better time to reconsider this document type for which skilled human translators are still in high demand. This session will discuss ways to increase efficiency and strategically hone your knowledge of different medical specialties. It will demystify medical record components, reveal unexpected translation resources, provide a glossary of tricky terms, expose common pitfalls, explore potential clients, and impart strategies for optical character recognition/formatting to leverage CAT tools.

Topics: Medical, T&I

Hashtag(s): #ATA65

Handwriting Translators List!

Nathan Wiegand has recompiled and manages a list of GLD members who specialize in **old German script/handwriting**. If that is your specialty and you are not yet on the list, please contact Nathan at nlwcdw@gmail.com.

You can find the list under "Find a Translator/Interpreter" on the [GLD website](#).

GERMAN LANGUAGE DIVISION NETWORKING EVENT

Join us for the GLD Networking Dinner.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting evening networking with your GLD colleagues in Portland. **Brix Tavern** is located in the Pearl District, and reachable from the hotel by public transportation or Uber.

WHERE: **BRIX TAVERN** 1338 NW Hoyt St, Portland, OR 97209

WHEN: Friday, November 1, 2024 from 7:30-10:00 p.m. PDT



MENU

APPETIZER

Caprese Skewers: Vine Ripe Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella & Basil Drizzled With Balsamic Syrup

HOUSE SALAD

Mixed Greens, Spiced Hazelnuts, Dried Cranberries, Sunflower Seeds, Chèvre, Citrus Vinaigrette

YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF THREE MAIN COURSES

1) **Primavera Pasta** (Garlic, Olive Oil, Parmesan, Cavatappi Pasta, Basil & Fresh Vegetables; Vegetarian-Friendly & Vegan Option Available)

2) **Grilled Atlantic Salmon** (with Spinach Risotto, Seasonal Vegetables, Topped with Gremolata)

3) **Herb Marinated Flat Iron Steak** (with Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables)

DESSERT

House Baked Heath Bar Brownie with Ice Cream

**Cost**

\$76* per person, covers all food items mentioned above, as well as any applicable fees and gratuities. Beverages are not included but are available for individual purchase.

Please note that you will be asked to select your entrée when you sign up for the dinner.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Tickets are at this electronic link: [GLD Networking Dinner](#).

All ticket sales end September 30, 2024 or when tickets are sold out.

We will be dining in a semi-private area that seats 40 people, so registration is limited to 40. Tickets are non-refundable.

*We are using Cheddar Up to manage registration. Additional fees will be charged at check-out to cover expenses for using the platform and for payment processing.



Ruth Boggs joined ATA in 1991 and is certified in German>English & English>German. She holds an MA in Writing from George Mason University. Before becoming a full-time freelance translator & interpreter in 1995, she was assigned to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. Ruth has traveled the United States extensively as a State Department contract interpreter. She lives in Fairfax, Virginia, and can be reached at rutheboggs@gmail.com.

Feature:

Volunteering: A Different Tune

By Ruth Boggs

Volunteering is by no means a selfless act – on the contrary. It often fills a need or a void. Call me a serial volunteer!

During many years of work life, I've done quite a bit of volunteering outside of ATA. A few examples: As a parent and grandparent in school classrooms, holding bake sales, chaperoning field trips, teaching Sunday school, and later Adult ESL.

In Germany, I put in many hours as a volunteer counselor and later chairperson of a Women's Crisis Center in an American military community. I even did an (obviously unsuccessful) stint as president of a weight loss club, TOPS ("Take Off Pounds Sensibly").

In the nineties, after I left the German Embassy and entered the Washington, D.C., job market with absolutely no work experience here, I volunteered at the White House to bolster my résumé. It was a fun job, opening the president's mail and working next door to Monica Lewinsky. The stories I could tell.

During the same time, as a thirty-something part-time college student, I volunteered to write concert reviews for my college paper in return for free tickets to shows. My younger peers weren't interested in country acts, but my husband appreciated the chance to accompany me to Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty, and Randy Travis.

But the "funnest" volunteer job by far, the one that truly transformed my life, was being "Willie Nelson's favorite German translator" (his words, not mine).

Writing concert reviews, I became privy to securing backstage passes. At a Willie Nelson concert in Boston, MA, a month after he had started his website, I wanted to show my appreciation and pitched him an idea.

"You have many German-speaking fans in Europe," I told him. "How about translating some of your website into German for them?"





He was taken with the idea immediately and referred me to his daughter Lana and granddaughter Rachel, who were managing and creating content for the website.

Initially, I translated the website and the *Pedernales PooPoo*, a road journal that Lana posted regularly when they were on tour (the term “blog” hadn’t been coined yet). Later, I also helped manage his message board and answer his online fan mail. It was a volunteer job that was time-consuming but also fascinating, exciting, challenging, never boring, and it came with priceless rewards: A backstage laminate, and the opportunity to spend time with Willie Nelson & Family,

visit them at the ranch in Texas, tour with them in Europe and the US, experience some of their milestones, and meet many other artists.

The volunteer work ceased when Facebook and other social media made the *Poo Poo* and Message Board obsolete. The friendship of over 25 years continues.

I have written many stories about those years and the treasured memories made (becoming an honorary Texan thanks to Willie, or Willie filming a greeting with me for ATA53 in San Antonio). I hope to eventually post them in my own blog, whenever I get it off the ground.



The GLD Website is Your Resource!

The GLD website is not only our division’s face to the world, it’s loaded with information and resources for members. Find back issues of *interaktiv*, a calendar of events, and more. Follow the GLD blog for regular updates on division happenings!

What’s in it for me?



GLD Digital Events

Are you looking for a social gathering or a place to share your inspiration?

Our Digital Events Coordinators Katrin Rippel Galati and Megan Falk host regular GLD Socials and webinars with topics particularly geared to GLD members.

Check out our [Digital Events](#) page for more information.



The Right to Wind in their Hair: Das Recht auf Wind in den Haaren



"A couple of times a month, I have a great excuse to get outdoors during the day and do something for others while doing something I love."

into a neighbor riding an empty electric rickshaw down the Rheinradweg. It turns out he was test-riding the Dutch-made [bakfiets e-bike](#) for a new local chapter of Radeln ohne Alter. I remember thinking: that would be something for me, but when would I find the time? A couple of years later, I still hadn't found the time, but I did find myself chatting with that same neighbor and pelting him with questions about the organization and how it worked.

Just over a year has gone by since I became a "pilot," and it's been a really rewarding ride. I work with a team of some 20 pilots and three rickshaws that service our town of Niederkassel, just north of Bonn. We offer regular rides to about ten assisted living facilities for senior citizens and people with disabilities. People can also book private rides for special occasions or just to get their loved ones out for some fresh air. All free of charge.

For me, it really is the best of both worlds. A couple of times a month, I have a great excuse to get outdoors during the day and do something for others while doing something I love. The best part is pedaling down a stretch of the Rheinradweg, looking out over my two passengers, silvery hair blowing in the breeze, and hearing "herrlich!" "wunderbar!" and "wie schön!" Or taking someone by their old house and hearing about what the neighborhood was like when they lived there.

I still find it hard to offer as many rides as I'd like, but I've certainly found some purpose in my community and a place to share my passion.

By the way, there are hundreds of chapters in the United States and Germany, so check us out. There just might be one near you, and I'm sure you know someone who'd like to feel the wind in their hair again.



Offering rides and smiles at the Niederkassel Ökumenische Pfarrgemeindefest in June 2024. Courtesy of Matt Baird. Used with permission.



Claire Haymes lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Originally from the UK and nostalgic for her years working and living in Bonn, Claire currently juggles many different time zones as a freelancer for German to English, US to UK translating, editing, subtitling, advising, and living. You can connect and read more at metaphrazo.com.

Feature:
Gleaning—What a great word!

By Claire Haymes

You know you're a word girl when even your volunteering hinges on the satisfying sound of a word.

Gleaning, in this context, means scooping up the excess food that would otherwise go to waste, from the fresh market and from local supermarkets, and then delivering it to food banks, food pantries—in our case, the one run by our local church for the community. As Pythonesquely satisfying as the word is, so is the task. You never know what volume or type of “excess” a market stall or supermarket will have for you when you turn up—maybe you’ll return to the church with a car full of apples and squash or bread and cookies, or maybe it’s a veggie day, with green beans coming out of your ears. But you know that some local families will have a more varied and interesting set of meals to look forward to that week.

Food was the primary focus of my Covid-era volunteering, too. Many children in our school district rely on free school meals, and so it was that our school catering system did a swift “Covid pivot,” and we were prepping meals in the morning and heading out in teams on school buses to deliver free meals and supplies to families in need.

Thirteen weeks of the best volunteer company ever and the most entertaining bus driver repartee, coupled with getting to know my city and community much much better in all its breadth and depth and diversity. I shall not forget it in a hurry.

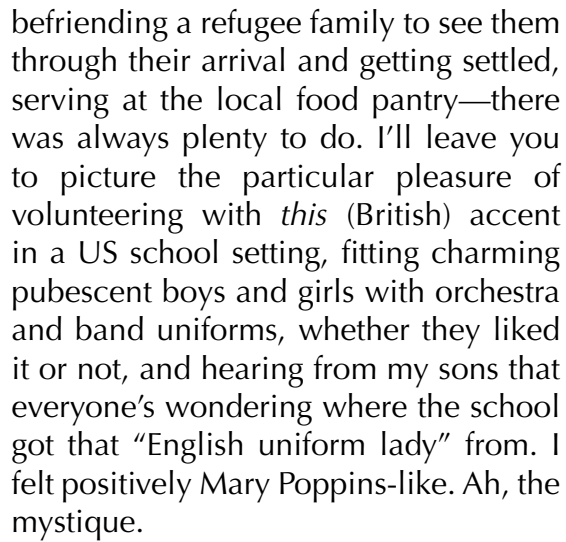
A recent task we've taken on is delivering cheques that prevent imminent evictions. Talk about a task that feels good and keeps you grounded and connected to the sheer diverse identities in your community. I love a volunteer task that gets me out of my bubble, looking beyond my own *Tellerand*, appreciating and connecting with everyone around me. There's always something new to learn. Serving as a "reader" for scholarship applications at our huge and wonderfully diverse local high school also rewarded me with that real insight into many different lives other than my own.

That is all me volunteering, with both boys off at university, rather than when they were under my roof. But ah, the volunteering with school-age boys reality is one that perhaps deserves a couple of lines, too. Whether it was serving a few leadership roles at Scouts, teaching several years of Sunday school,

Displaying the ATA logo is a benefit that some members overlook

If you don't, you're missing out on an important way ATA can work for you. All ATA members may access and use the ATA logo. Learn more here: atanet.org/membership/ata_logo_guidelines.php





I've stitched kneelers, added my voice to choirs and my flute to the odd concert, and now I may be deciding what to take on board next. If it weren't for bloody (pardon my French) Brexit, I'd be all set to become a semi-permanent "route angel" on my beloved Andros. We'll see if I can find a visa for the purpose. But somehow somewhere, there'll always be a need to step up and do something to build community—it's a whole life beyond the laptop, don't you find?



20



10th Annual GLD Members in Europe Workshop

Join us
in Vienna for our
10th Workshop!

February 21–23, 2025
Vienna, Austria



Our 10th Annual GLD Members in Europe Workshop will take us outside Germany for the very first time – und wir freuen uns riesig!

The venue and block of rooms have been reserved, so you can start planning your trip today.

Here's some preliminary information:

Registration opens in October, so stay tuned!

When and where:
February 21 to 23, 2025
JUFA Hotel Wien City



What's in it for you?

- Vienna!
- A hands-on workshop by an invited speaker
- Peer-led professional development sessions
- The opportunity to present and share your knowledge and skills
- Social events and lots of time for networking and fellowship
- And did we say Vienna!?

Guest

Dagmar Gromann is an Associate Professor in the Centre for Translation Studies at Vienna University. As both linguist and computer scientist, she successfully bridges the gap between language, technology, and artificial intelligence. She is the co-founder of the new Master Program "Multilingual Technologies," whose aim is to future-proof the profession of language mediation. Among her most recent research topics are artificial intelligence and gender-fair language. More information: dagmargromann.com

The topic of her workshop will be announced soon.

Venue & Accommodation

The 10th Annual Workshop will take place at the [JUFA Hotel Wien City](#), where a block of rooms has been reserved.

- Double room for two people: €110/ night incl. breakfast
- Double room for one person: €95/night incl. breakfast

Reserve your room from now until **January 10, 2025**, with reservation number **8736451**.

Call for proposals: Share your knowledge & skills!

Every year, the Workshop provides an opportunity for members to showcase their expertise and contribute to the advancement of our field. This year, we invite you to participate in this enriching experience!

Please submit your proposal by September 30, 2024, to GLD European Coordinator Ellen Yutzy Glebe [eyg@writinghistory.de]. We look forward to your contributions and can't wait to see what you bring to the Workshop!

Preliminary Program

(More details coming soon!)

Friday, February 21

Late afternoon walking tour of Vienna

Evening networking dinner

Saturday, February 22

Workshop 9am-5pm with on-site break for lunch

Guest Speaker workshop & peer-led sessions

Evening networking dinner

Sunday, February 23

Workshop 9am-12:30pm

Peer-led sessions



Kathi Stock ist seit 2002 ATA-Mitglied, staatlich geprüfte Übersetzerin & Dolmetscherin (Sachsen), durch das US-Außenministerium geprüfte Übersetzerin, Konferenzdolmetscherin und zugelassene Gerichtsdolmetscherin für den Bundesstaat Texas.

Feature:

Aktive ehrenamtliche Tätigkeit im Tierheim und im kommunalen Beirat in Texas

By Kathi Stock

Nach Jahren des Lebens am Anschlag mit zwei überaus aktiven Söhnen – einer davon hat es bis zum Profi-Fußballer geschafft, der andere spricht neben Deutsch und Englisch auch Koreanisch – fand ich mich nach deren Auszug etwas verlassen und gelangweilt auf dem heimischen Sofa sitzend wieder. Einige Wochen später meldete ich mich im örtlichen Tierheim, wo auf ehrenamtlicher Basis Leute gesucht wurden, die Hunde ausführen möchten. Ich hatte noch nie einen Hund (was auch keine Voraussetzung war), kann aber generell gut mit Tieren (wie auch Menschen) umgehen. Zudem wusste ich, dass unsere zugelaufene Stromerkatze – die genau zu der Zeit bei uns auftauchte, als meine Jungs zur Uni aufbrachen – garantiert nicht amüsiert sein würde, wenn ich zu Hause mit einem Hund auftauchte. Im Oktober werden es 10 Jahre, in denen ich meist samstags Hunde aus

dem Tierheim spazieren führe, bei der Adoptionsvermittlung helfe und andere anfallende Arbeiten erledige. Für die Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter des Tierheims bringe ich immer etwas Süßes mit, z. B. deutsche Schokolade oder Kekse. Das Personal des Tierheims wendet sich oft an mich, wenn für die Website Fotos von den zu adoptierenden Hunden benötigt werden bzw. wenn einige Hunde etwas mehr Zuspruch und Zuwendung brauchen, um sich einzugewöhnen. Leider hat die Arbeit im Tierheim auch ihre Schattenseiten. Es werden viel zu viele Tiere abgegeben bzw. ausgesetzt und es kommt auch vor, dass ich die Hälfte der Hunde, die ich in der Vorwoche ausgeführt habe, in der Folgeweche nicht mehr vorfinde, weil sie aus Platzgründen eingeschlafert wurden. So auch Charlie, der auf dem Bild mit mir zu sehen ist. Da fließen bei mir schon mal die Tränen und man



„Was ich aber bisher gewonnen habe, sind neben neuen Kontakten umfassende Einblicke in mir vorher fremde Bereiche und ein tieferes Verständnis dafür, wie die Gesellschaft, in der ich lebe, funktioniert ...“

hinterfragt sein Engagement. Deshalb habe ich mich auch aktiv eingebracht, als es bei den letzten Kommunalwahlen darum ging, die Zustimmung der Wählerinnen und Wähler für die Finanzierung einer Erweiterung des Tierheims einzuholen.

Der Auszug meiner Söhne fiel außerdem mit einer neuen Situation in unserer Gemeinde zusammen. Fracking war das neue Schlagwort – der Gaspreis war gestiegen und es wurde äußerst attraktiv, Gas auch mitten in der Gemeinde zu fördern. Ich hätte mir nie träumen lassen, dass ausgerechnet ich, als Frau mit ausländischen Wurzeln, auf meine Bewerbung hin in den Öl- und Gasbeirat unserer Stadt in Texas berufen werden würde, um den Stadtrat ehrenamtlich in dieser Frage zu beraten. Leider war dieser Beirat nur von kurzer Dauer, da der Bundesstaat Texas das Mitspracherecht der Kommunen schließlich einschränkte. Dennoch hat es mir die Tür für weitere kommunale Aktivitäten geöffnet. Seit 2020 bin ich ehrenamtliches Mitglied und inzwischen auch

Vorsitzende des städtischen Beirats für „Blockzuschüsse zur kommunalen Entwicklung.“ Hier geht es darum, Empfehlungen an den Stadtrat auszusprechen, wie die von der Stadt bzw. vom US-Ministerium für Wohnungsbau

und städtische Entwicklung bereitgestellten Gelder an gemeinnützige Einrichtungen und Programme zum größtmöglichen Nutzen für unsere Gemeinde vergeben werden können. Dazu gehören beispielsweise Programme zur finanziellen Unterstützung bedürftiger Bürger, Gesundheitsversorgung, Hilfe für minderjährige Opfer von Straftaten oder auch für Obdachlose, usw.

Direkte Aufträge als Dolmetscherin/Übersetzerin habe ich im Laufe der Jahre durch meine ehrenamtliche Tätigkeit nicht bekommen. Das war aber auch nicht das Ziel meines Engagements. Was ich aber bisher gewonnen habe, sind neben neuen Kontakten umfas-

sende Einblicke in mir vorher fremde Bereiche und ein tieferes Verständnis dafür, wie die Gesellschaft, in der ich lebe, funktioniert – und das kann ich wiederum in meinen beruflichen Aufgaben anwenden, unter anderem beim Dolmetschen von Events, wo es z. B. um Finanzen, gesellschaftliche Themen oder auch Tierkrankheiten geht.



Als „verrückte Deutsche mit europäischer Einstellung“ habe ich der Stadt in Texas, in der ich seit 20 Jahren lebe, ein wenig meinen Stempel aufgedrückt, worauf ich ehrlich gesagt auch ein wenig stolz bin.





I play the violin in several amateur orchestras and sing in a vocal ensemble. I run/jog regularly and go hiking whenever I can. I love traveling and have recently focused on rediscovering the United States. And I always have an eye out for the latest developments in my extended family, which includes my four grandchildren living in Mexico.



Elizabeth Tucker is a translator (German and French into English) and editor specializing in art history. Her clients include the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Kunstmuseum Basel, Hauser and Wirth Gallery, and Marian Goodman Gallery. A recent project, *Otti Berger: Weaving for Modernist Architecture*, edited by Judith Raum, was published in spring 2024 from Bauhaus-Archiv Berlin and Hatje Cantz. She is a member of the National Book Critics Circle.

Book Review:

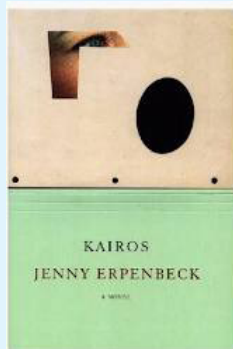
Kairos by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann

Reviewed by Elizabeth Tucker

“What you are, I once was. What I am, you will become!” Versions of this *memento mori* statement occur twice in Jenny Erpenbeck’s *Kairos*, to compare the heroine, Katharina, to the cast-off former lovers of the other main character, Hans. But the warning also encapsulates the fascination between Katharina, barely an adult, and Hans, who is ten years older than her own father. As Katharina seeks unsuccessfully to liberate herself, the statement touches ironically on what she has learned from her much older lover: not only the cultural sophistication with which he has sought to imbue her, but also his duplicity and self-gratification.

The trope of the union of lovers’ souls and its ultimate impossibility is set against the backdrop of the divided Germany, specifically, East Berlin in the years immediately before the fall of the Iron Curtain. After a brief “utopian period,” as Hans refers to the early days of their relationship, its long and excruciating demise mirrors the painful deterioration of the East German state.

Hans tells Katharina that Brecht’s death in 1957 occurred after Brecht learned of the atrocities committed by Stalin; thirty years later, chain-smoking and developing a cough at the age of sixty as the GDR government votes to dissolve itself, Hans reflects that he is now the same age as Brecht on his death. While Katharina is largely ignorant of history when they first meet—although, as a German, she is deeply aware of certain fundamentals—the stages of Hans’s past life are determined by world-political events, from his boyhood in the Hitler Youth and his father’s academic endorsement of antisemitism to the newly adult Hans’s abandonment of the West. His elevation to the East German cultural elite is the next stage in this sequence. At one point in the novel, he goes out to dinner with the playwright Heiner Müller. Müller’s biography—which could be a model for Hans’s—demonstrates the fraught relations between GDR writers and their government: he was banned in the early sixties, rehabilitated in the early seventies, signed a letter of protest



Title: *Kairos*
Author: Jenny Erpenbeck
Publisher: Norton, June 2023
Languages: English,
 German translation by Michael Hofmann
Paperback: 336 pages
ISBN-13: 9780811229340
ISBN-10: 0811229343

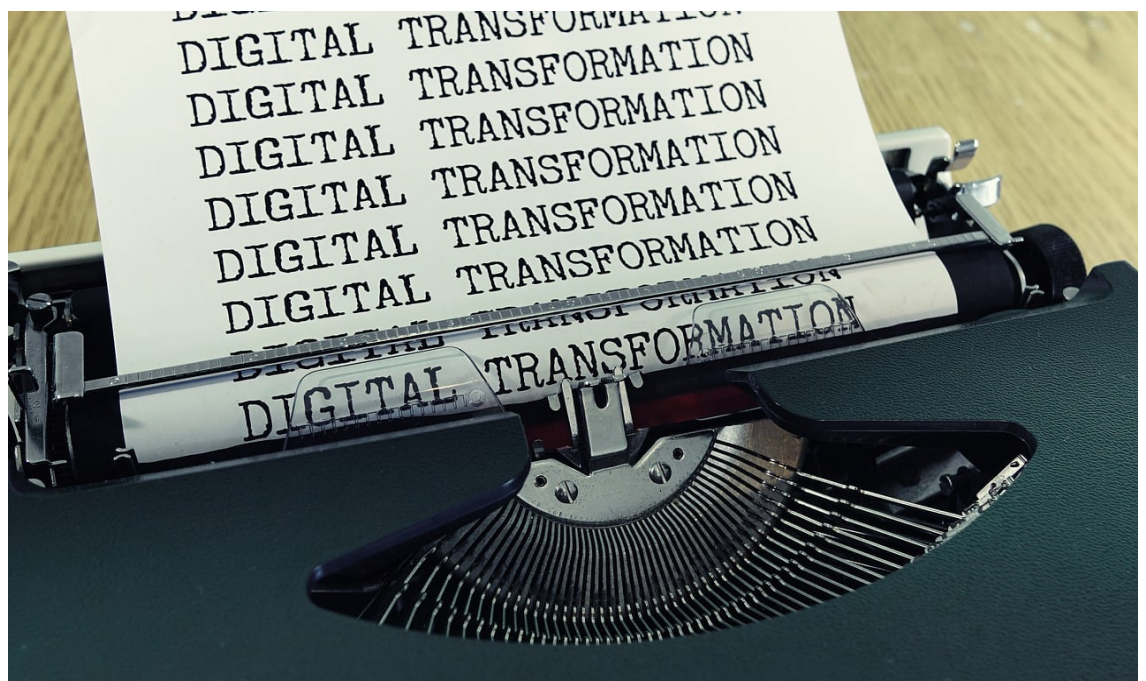
“The English translation of *Kairos* by Michael Hofmann was awarded the International Booker Prize this spring.”

in 1976 against the expatriation of the poet Wolf Biermann, and then served as a Stasi informant.

While Erpenbeck would have been the same age as Katharina at the time the book is set and Katharina’s early career mirrors Erpenbeck’s own, the relationship between the two main characters also reflects that between the author and her creation. Hans is a novelist, and Katharina begins as a typesetter; the audience looks on as the writer ruins her characters’ innocence in order to bring them to life. But in Katharina’s increasingly far-flung journeys, from the Eastern Bloc cities she is first permitted to visit to her grandmother’s in Cologne, then to Venice, and finally to Cairo, where she lies down between the paws of the Sphinx; in the development of her career in stage design; in her learning to pursue a kind of sex that increases her confidence—even in her escape from the communal cauliflower fields and her shoplifting from the newly accessible Kaufhaus des Westens—she becomes a heroine with a thousand faces.

Especially in light of Brecht’s theory that an epic hero should change in response to changing conditions, Hans, in his accusations that Katharina is unknowable, seems to be missing the point.

The English translation of *Kairos* by Michael Hofmann was awarded the International Booker Prize this spring. Interestingly, the original received no comparable prize in Germany. In the English-speaking, post-Cold War world, an extra measure of fascination lies in the novel’s detailed, sympathetic exposition of East German culture through a host of minor characters in marginal situations who also play a part in Katharina’s formation. The book has been called an allegory, but more than that—especially because the characterizations are so nuanced—it demonstrates how large-scale historical, political, and economic conditions are expressed—whether or not they’ve been resolved—in relationships as well as how relationships give form to identity and thereby affect political participation.



Calendar of Events 2024-25

The GLD calendar is available on the GLD website, where you can also add it to your Google Calendar, Outlook, iCalendar, and other calendar apps. Go to: ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-calendar

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Sep 20 – 21	Karlsruhe, Germany	Rechtsübersetzung & DeepL	seminare.bdue.de
Sep 28 – 29	Toronto, Canada	5th International Conference on Natural Language Computing Advances (NLCA 2024)	itcse2024.org/nlca/index
Sep 30 – Oct 2	Chicago, Illinois, USA	AMTA 2023 Virtual: Generative AI and the Future of Machine Translation	amtaweb.org/amta-2024
Oct 1 – 2	Frankfurt, Germany	Sustainability Reporting	camels.at/seminare/seminare-2024
Oct 1 – 2	Berlin, Germany	Networking Days 2024	elia-association.org/our-events
Oct 17	Istanbul, Turkey	ICLLT 2024: International Conference on Linguistics, Literature and Translation	allconferencealert.net
Oct 25 – 28	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA	ALTA47 The American Literary Translators Association	literarytranslators.org/alta-conference-and-events
Oct 30 – Nov 2	Portland, Oregon, USA	ATA 65th Annual Conference	atanet.org/ata65
Nov 4	Vienna, Austria	ESG – Risikomanagement und Compliance mit Schwerpunkt auf Governance	camels.at/seminare/seminare-2024
Nov 5	Vienna, Austria	Sustainable Finance	camels.at/seminare/seminare-2024
Nov 5 – 7	Stuttgart, Germany	Tekom Jahrestagung 2024	jahrestagung.tekom.de
Nov 6 – 8	Brussels, Belgium	Translating Europe Forum 2024	commission.europa.eu/translating-europe-forum-tef

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
Check out our upcoming ATA webinars and workshops on the [ATA website!](https://ata-divisions.org)

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Nov 9	Munich, Germany	Chat GPT im Fokus	seminare.bdue.de
Nov 13 – 15	Budapest, Hungary	Language & The Media: 15th International Conference and Exhibition on Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media	languages-media.com
Nov 29 – 30	Hörsbach, Germany	15. Schmerlenbacher Tage 2024	seminare.bdue.de
Dec 5 – 7	Singapore	CLaSIC 2024: Centre for Language Studies International Conference 2024.	fass.nus.edu.sg/cls/clasic/classic-2024
Jan 15	Online	ChatGPT for Beginners	seminare.bdue.de
Jan 16 – 30	Online	Update DeepL 2025: Fachgebiet Recht EN<>DE – Kombiwebinar	seminare.bdue.de
Feb 21 – 23	Vienna, Austria	10th Annual GLD Members in Europe Workshop	ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-members-in-europe-workshop/



Looking for a list of Personal Documents translators?

A new list is available on the GLD website and in the Files Section of the GLD Listserv:

[Translating personal documents](#)



GLD Leadership Council

Administrator

Karen Leube, Aachen, Germany
mail@leubetranslation.com

Assistant Administrator

Robin Limmeroth, Mainz, Germany
robin@robin-limmeroth.com

GLD Listmaster

Rainer Klett, Seattle, WA
Rainer@rainerklett.com

Web Manager

Randal Gernaat, New York, NY
randal.gernaat@gmail.com

Digital Events Coordinators

Katrin Rippel Galati, Pilot Mountain, NC
krgalati@menuintl.com

Megan Falk, River Falls, WI

megan.may.dietrich@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator

Noah William Alter, Derry, PA
noahwilliam@linguisticpolyglot.com

European Coordinator

Ellen Yutzy Glebe, Kassel, Germany
eyg@writinghistory.de

New Member Coordinator

Kristina Cosumano, Hofstetten, Germany
kristina@licustranslation.com

Collaboration Pool Coordinator

Heike Holthaus, Mikado, MI
translator.heike@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sabine Seiler, Niskayuna, NY
seilersabine7@gmail.com

Co-Editor

Marion Rhodes, San Diego, CA
marion.rhodes@gmail.com

Consultants

Ruth Boggs, Fairfax, VA
rutheboggs@gmail.com

Andrew Belisle, Spokane, WA
info@andrewbelisle.com

Find the GLD online at
ata-divisions.org/GLD

Join the GLD listserv at
groups.io/g/ATA-German-Language-Division