



# The MITA Reader

- February/March '06

## Aliens ask for April 1 Meeting

*Emissaries from Planet XFDSFG seek audience with Topo Gigio*



With the requisite April Fool's joke taken care of in the headline, please take note: the general MITA meeting to be held this Saturday, April 1, promises to be great. No kidding!

Unless you've been in the business for a very short time, at some point along your professional path, your work has been challenged.

Someone, somewhere, called your translation or interpretation into question and you had to come up with a response. Given the flexi-

bility of language and human nature, it is a natural problem, bound to occur from time to time.

So how do you handle it? What has worked for you? What do you recommend NOT doing?

Come and join the discussion at 2:30 on Saturday, April 1, at the Hackberry Country Club. A panel of peers, chaired by Marilyn Retta, will lead the discussion and your questions and input are paramount!

For directions to the Hackberry Country Club, see our website, [www.dfw-mita.com](http://www.dfw-mita.com).



METROPLEX INTERPRETERS & TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

Serving DFW and North Texas



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## Meet our New Treasurer!

*Profile: María Yolanda Rivera*

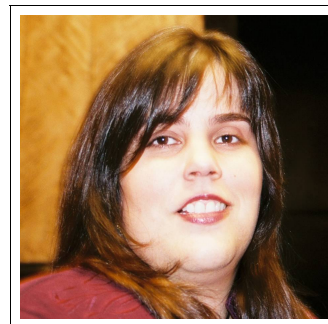
**By Carol Shaw**  
MITA Editor

María Yolanda Rivera is the type of professional who follows through. My first experience with this was during the MITA workshop in May of last year. If she said she could do it, she could. If she promised to have something done, it got done. She has the kind of reliability that makes me look at my own over-cluttered life and want to be like her "when I grow up."

And now MITA is benefitting once again from María Yolanda's commitment. Earlier this month, she and I met at her home so that I could turn over

the keys to the lockbox - or, in this case, the password to the online banking account. As our new Treasurer, María Yolanda will be receiving membership dues and making such payments as are needed.

María Yolanda holds a B.A. in Modern Languages (Italian and French) and an M.A. in Translation, both from the University of



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MITA's **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP** meetings are held on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month.

The **MITA STEERING COMMITTEE** meets on the last Saturday of every even numbered month.

## MITA Meeting April 1

April 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 MITA
2 Daylight Savings	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Passover	14 GoodFriday	15 TAXES!
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 EPITA
30						

**April 1:** MITA Meeting

**April 2:** Daylight Savings — Spring Forward 1 Hour

**April 13:** Passover

**April 14:** Good Friday

**April 15:** Income Taxes Due

**April 16:** Easter

**May 1:** Labor Day for many countries

**May 14:** Mother's Day

**May 29:** Memorial Day

May 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19 NAJIT	20 NAJIT
21 NAJIT	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

### Elsewhere in 2006:

**April 29** (El Paso)  
EPITA Annual Workshop  
<http://ia.utep.edu/universityrelations>

**May 19-21** (Houston)  
NAJIT Annual Conference. [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

**May 27** (Houston)  
ATA Certification Exam

**October 18-21** (Seattle)  
ALTA Annual Conference.  
[www.literarytranslators.org](http://www.literarytranslators.org)

**November 1-4** (New Orleans)  
ATA Annual Conference

## *Steering Committee*

MITA's steering committee met on March 14, 2006, at **Tiina Falini's** home. Present were Tiina, **María Yolanda Rivera**, **Mies de Vries**, **Marilyn Retta**, **Karen Sharp**, **Buddy Strittmatter** and **Mariana Peterson**. Among other business, María Yolanda and Marilyn undertook to schedule speakers for the rest of 2006.

All Steering Committee meetings are open to participation by other members; bring your ideas and bring your energy! Membership on the Steering Committee is open, requiring only the willingness to commit your time.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 29.

## María Yolanda Rivera...

(Continued from page 1)

Puerto Rico. Not content to stop there, she also pursued postgraduate studies in law at the same school and in linguistics at the University of Texas at Arlington. In addition, she has been certified by the ATA (English>Spanish).

She has experience on the other side of the teacher's desk, as well, having served as Adjunct Spanish Professor for Richland College and the Collin County Community College District. As a practicing translator since 1996, María Yolanda has worked with a broad variety of texts, ranging from legal and medical to marketing to cosmetics and the culinary arts.

"I also had the opportunity to work as a project editor, translator and writer in a Spanish literacy program for grades K-2," adds Maria Yolanda. "It was great for me because I got to participate in the process of making a book from start to finish. With other editors, we made decisions about the content of the stories, the illustrations we used, colors, page design, etc. I also wrote a few stories and helped write the lessons."

In addition, the literacy program gave Maria Yolanda the opportunity to fill a need she sees among Hispanic children entering a world of plural languages. The program was designed to help children learn to read in their native tongue, so that they could then learn to read in English and pursue their education in their second language. "It feels great, knowing that our program can help them not only to overcome this [language] obstacle and be successful in school, but also awaken their interest in their native culture and help them become bilingual and bicultural citizens."

María Yolanda's experience ranges from staff employment to freelance. When asked about the funniest assignment, she drew on a period when she served as in-house talent at a research company. The company president had presented María Yolanda's department with a "great" translation software program to "aid" their work. Asked to write a memo explaining why machine translation can actually add to the burden, María Yolanda enlisted her co-workers' help in feeding phrases to the software and recorded the disastrous results. Her favorite: *strawberries and whipped cream*. The Spanish "translation" was *fresas con crema fustigada* ["fustigar" means to flog or criticize savagely.]

It was in a writing class at the University of Puerto Rico, while studying for her Master's degree, that she met Tomás Ayala-Torres. The couple married, and in 1998 jointly founded A & R Traductores ([www.artraductores.com](http://www.artraductores.com)).

In 2000, María Yolanda and Tomás moved to the Dallas area, but they retain strong ties to their native Puerto Rico. "Family is important," says María Yolanda, who returns to the island at least once a year. "I try my best to keep in touch despite the distance, but the truth is, I wish I could visit more often!"

In addition to MITA, María Yolanda is a member of the American Translators Association (ATA) and Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AATIA).

*All members of the MITA Steering Committee are volunteers, offering their time and service to the association for whatever time and capacity they can. We are grateful that Maria Yolanda Rivera has chosen to serve by taking on the Treasury at this time!*

## Eta Trabling: on MITA Recall

The old saying goes, "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

Then there is MITA's own Eta Trabling, of the Berkana Language Center. She's the exception to the rule: someone who both can and does, and also teaches. MITAns gathered on February 4, 2006, and found that 2 ½ hours was simply too little time to learn what this talented and entertaining speaker had to share.

Using an extensive checklist, we were walked through the dos and don'ts of handling the business end of our enterprises. We looked at right (and wrong) ways to invoice, scheduling and planning, setting aside funds for taxes and insurance, and much more. From "newbies" to old-timers, we all learned and laughed together and wished we had time for more.

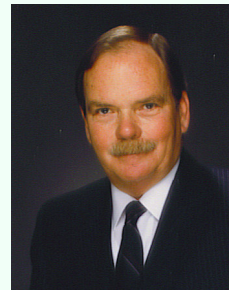
Apparently, Ms. Trabling enjoyed herself as well - she has agreed to return at a later date and provide a longer workshop. Stay tuned for more details, and come prepared to fight for seats on the front row.

## In memoriam:

MITA mourns the loss of member **William (Bill) Lokey**, who passed away in Dallas on February 19, 2006. A translator since 1998, Bill's wit and sharp understanding of terminology endeared him to all. (When asked once what his translation specialties were, Bill considered for a moment, then responded, "Legal - and Mexican bad words!")

Terry Stadelman commented, "[we] will always remember Bill's sense of humor, incredible generosity and willingness to help."

Bill's love for his wife and children was apparent even to those who never met him in person but benefited from his expertise online. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Lokey family, in their loss and ours.



*The editor found the following article to be of interest for its explanation of the meanings of color in the English-speaking world and culture. Readers are reminded, however, that the language of color is subject to cultural differences.*

## The Language Of Color

*By: Maricon Williams, reprinted by permission*

Colors do not only exude character or attitude. They can also represent moods, holidays and enliven language.

Here are some of the widely used colors and their language:

1. Red. Red means passion, love, battle and celebration. 'To see red' means to be angry. In connection to business parlance, 'to see red' means losing money.

2. Blue. Blue connotes loyalty and faithfulness. This is the reason why most brides carry with them something blue on their wedding day. This color also means of noble descent. A color used by the 'blue-blooded' individuals like aristocrats and persons of equivalent echelons. The color blue is also used in some phrases like 'out of the blue' or from an unknown source or unexpected time and 'into the blue' or into the unknown.

3. Purple. This is a royal color. A lot of royalties use purple robes as an emblem of authority and rank. In addition, even Cleopatra, the Egyptian queen loved the color purple. In order to acquire the same she orders her servants to soak 20,000 Purpura snails for ten days. Purple is also good to enhance imagination. In fact, artist like Leonardo da Vinci believed that this color heightened the imagination ten times. Same thing with Richard Wagner. For him purple serves as an inspirational color. In speech and writing, we have the phrase 'purple speech' which means profane talk and 'purple prose' which is a writing of exaggerations and ornamentations.

4. Green. Green symbolizes jealousy, victory, nature and youth. It is also considered as a healing color. We have phrases like 'a person with green thumb', 'green

with envy' and 'green-eyed monster'. The first phrase means that a person is good in growing plants. The second means full of jealousy or envy and the last means jealousy.

5. Yellow. Yellow means deceit, warning and danger. It may also mean brightness and jolliness. In communication, if someone says you have a 'yellow streak', he means you are a coward.

6. White. It means peace, purity, truce, innocence, devotion and enthusiasm. When we say 'white heat', it means intense passion or anger.

7. Black. Black means elegance, sophistication, darkness, secrecy and evil. In business, 'in the black' means it is making money. Other phrases using this color are 'black sheep' and 'black humor'. The first means an outcast and the last means unhealthy or gloomy humor. In history, 'Blackshirts' was the name for the security troops of Hitler. They were also known as the S.S.

Everyone must know the meaning as well as the significance of colors. This is to avoid misrepresentation especially in the field of marketing. Printers and web designers as well must also be acquainted with this to give the right impression in their web designs as well as color printing services.

### About the Author:

Please visit Wholesale Printing Services site at <http://www.wholesaleprintingteam.com> for comments and inquiries regarding this article.

Source: [www.isnare.com](http://www.isnare.com)