



## Language Connection

### DLS Cultural Event: Persian Norooz

Please join us for our Persian New Year event, a celebration of life! We have the pleasure of welcoming our staff to present the history and customs of this honorable day.

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Diplomatic Language Services, 1901 N. Ft Myer Drive, 6th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209.



Refreshments will be served.

**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2010

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### New Faces at DLS by Tiffany Williams

With the new year, we have some bright additions to our staff.

Tyler, our new Student Services Coordinator, hails from the great state of New Jersey. Like all Jersey girls, she has big hair and an even bigger heart. She is one of six children in an Italian/Irish Catholic family. She graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, with a BA in Spanish for International Service. She has travelled to Mexico, Honduras, and Spain. In her spare time, Tyler enjoys shopping, listening to Rod Stewart, and watching "The Office".

Paul Adetunji, our IT Support Specialist, was born in Nigeria and grew up in different countries, including Nigeria, England, Gambia, and the U.S. He has spent the last 14 years living in New York, and he absolutely loves travelling. Paul is also an amateur 2D animation character designer.

Jill, our Materials Coordinator, is originally from Kansas and spent her formative years in Upstate New York. After a year in Grenoble, France, Jill attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, graduating Magna Cum Laude in Art and French. Jill spent time studying in Bordeaux, France, and one term interning at the DC's National Portrait Gallery. Jill enjoys performing Spoken Word and other acts of cultural production, experimenting with food and drink, and hula-hooping.



Tyler, Caitlin, Jill, Nas, Fleur, and Paul

Caitlin, our Recruiting Coordinator, grew up in Reston and graduated from William and Mary in 2008 with a major in Classical Civilization (archaeology, Latin and Greek.) The past few years have seen her digging up Etruscan ruins, living in a sixteenth-century Italian castle, and working in a gelato shop. She's happy to be settled at DLS, where every day is a cultural lesson.

#### Special points of interest:

- Celebrating Persian New Year!
- New Staff Members
- Interpretation Class
- Afghan Music
- Languages Cross-word

In her spare time, Caitlin is working on a creative experiment, a line of screen-printed t-shirts inspired by world cultures.

Fleur Raphael, the Language Training Coordinator, was born in Paris, France where she lived for nine years until her family decided to move to America. Coming from an old fashion family, they sailed to America on the QE2 cruise liner and were lucky to avoid collisions with icebergs. After spending a summer digging up relics from a colonial settlement on the island of Barbados, she decided to major in Physical Anthropology at the University of North Carolina. After college Fleur acquired a

TEFL certificate in Barcelona, Spain and taught English to locals until she returned to the states to marry her Turkish fiancé.

Fleur continues her love of languages by raising their son in a trilingual household. She spends her summers with her family at their summer villa in the south of France and most recently, visiting her favorite coastal cities in Turkey.

Nasrat Sepahizida, our Project Coordinator, was born in Afghanistan.

Nasrat used to work for the President of Afghanistan as a Protocol Assis-

Counter Narcotics Police Forces as Director of International Relations for CNPA. Nasrat has a degree in Special Criminal Investigations from Kabul, Afghanistan, Security Management from Zhejiang, China, Scientific Criminal Investigation from Chandigarh, India and also has his bachelor's degree in English Literature. Nasrat has visited more than 30 countries, and participated in over 26 International Conferences. He fluently speaks Dari, Tajiki, Pashto, Urdu, Hindi, and English.

## U.S Navy & DLS First Consecutive Interpretation Class by Monique Roske



Monique, Eve, Kirsten, Kurt, Marie-Lise

"You speak French, why don't you translate this letter for me." So many of us have heard this phrase in one iteration or another. Very few people realize that interpretation and translation are separate skills, not an automatic part of language ability.

US military services, are beginning to see the light.

To support Navy linguists who will soon serve as translators and interpreters overseas, DLS organized a brief "Introduction to Consecutive Interpretation" course. As a former Georgetown University teacher of translation and interpretation, I had the pleasure of teaching this 30-hour course in both French and English. The brevity of this course restricted us to merely scratching the surface of the many intricacies and "tricks of the trade," but lay the groundwork for future courses that will provide more comprehensive instruction.

All four Navy students completed the course successfully (see attached graduation photo).

The anticipated next step is to teach a more extensive 3-week course to US Navy linguists touching on consecutive and simultaneous interpretation as well as on translation itself. Future courses will be more subject-specific, focusing on foreign policy, medical terminology, navigation, meteorology, oceanography, and other maritime topics. The first language combinations for the future 3-week course are anticipated to be French-English-French and Portuguese-English-Portuguese. DLS teachers (experienced interpreters and translators) will be ready to teach these and other courses, both here in Arlington, VA and aboard US Navy ships en route to foreign ports of call.

## Raclette by Jill Carlson

Raclette is a traditional wintertime meal from the French Alps, ideal after a cold day of playing in the snow.

What should you serve for your wintertime fete?

Look no further than a French Raclette.

The perfect snowy-cold February treat

With simple ingredients (spuds, cheese, and meat).

Simply boil five pounds of potatoes, small and golden, (Uncork a white wine, your senses will embolden),

Make friends with your butcher when you visit the deli

For medium slices of ham, prosciutto, or salami.

And now for our star player, not too soft and not too hard,

A meltable cheese, a delicacy Savoyarde.

On the stove, melt each slice; see it bubble and slide

Toss in a few onions along for the ride.

Assemble potatoes, meat, and cheese as you wish.

(Personally, I chop all parts evenly and stir in a dish).

Eat until you're so full you must loosen your pants And enjoy knowing you've experienced a small part of France.



Raclette cheese can be found in the DC metro area at Whole Foods, Cowgirl Creamery, the cheese monger at Eastern Market, or other fine cheese retailers.

## A Brief Introduction to Afghan Music by Caitlin Marshall

The music of Afghanistan is colored by the country's unique history as a cultural crossroads:

Alexander the Great, the Persian

Empire, and the Arab and Mongol

invasions all brought

new influences.

Tradition has it that the

Greeks

brought drums to Afghanistan,

and even the national dance, the

attan, is believed to come from

the word "Athens." It originated

as a celebratory dance performed

around fires after victories.

Afghan music also owes much of its structure to the ragas (scales) and taals (tempo structures) of Indian music. Indian music focuses on emotion, incorporates improvisation and is not very meticulously structured. The notation is not as detailed as in Western music. Ragas are Indian scales, but are based on an emotion rather than the succession of notes. They exist for emotions as specific as regret or loss. Rhythm communicates emotion—sad songs are slow with minor notes, and major notes with an upbeat tempo connote happiness and celebration.

The instruments of Afghanistan are built to last from natural materials like wood, animal skin, and metal. The three instruments original to Afghanistan are the rubab, a stringed instrument held in the lap, the tanbor, a long-necked lute, and the ghichak, similar to a small vio-

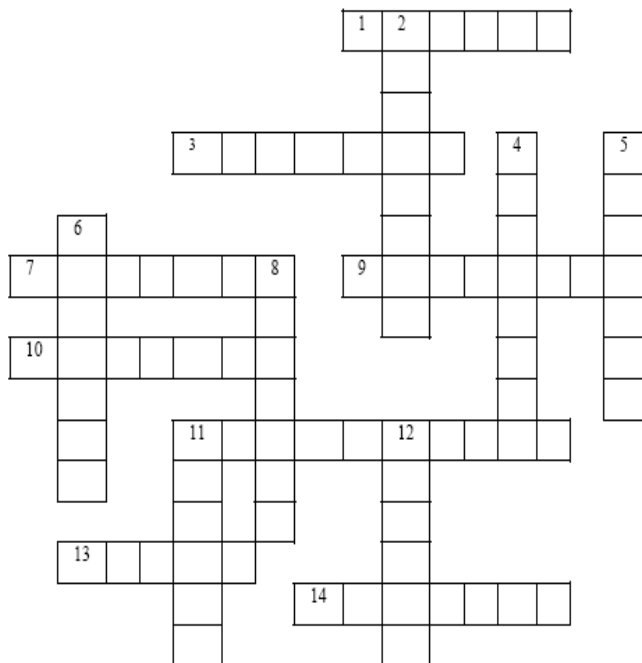
lin. Other instruments are borrowed from the Arab tradition.

The most popular genre of song is the ghazal, or a ballad based on poetry. Since literature has been a pillar of eastern culture for hundreds of years, Sadi, Rumi, and many other poets provide starting points for songs. Classical music offers a more complex take on life compared to the pop music that is popular with younger people. Folk music can be more cross-generational and consists of original songs with sweet messages about the good old days of village life, beautiful scenery, and innocence.

Afghan music is characterized by regional variations. In general, southern music holds fast to its traditions, while northern music shows more versatility and creativity. This is due to the greater influence in the north of the melodies and instruments of the former Soviet republics.



## Languages of the World by Molly Sampson and Doug Craig



### ACROSS

- 1 a major Afghan language
- 3 la bella lingua
- 7 an original language of Mexico
- 9 igpay atinlay
- 10 the global language
- 11 the language of Brazil
- 13 Tigers speak this language
- 14 Mr. Worf's native language

### DOWN

- 2 a biblical language
- 4 karaoke and karate for example
- 5 spoken at Arthur's court in Tintagel
- 6 a billion native speakers and counting
- 8 the language of Ethiopia
- 11 West African language spoken in Guinea Bissau and Senegal among others
- 12 the native language of Ireland

For over 20 years, Diplomatic Language Services (DLS) has been a **leading full-service provider of language services to U.S. Government, military and commercial clients**. Since 1985, DLS has provided over 1.5 million class hours of language training, and more than 30 million words in translation.

In 1999, DLS was the **first language service company** to be **awarded a GSA Schedule** and in 2001 the Department of Defense selected DLS to translate the Osama Bin Laden tapes for public release. **More than 150 language professionals** currently support our wide range of on- and off-site language and cultural training, government-authorized testing, curriculum development, translation and interpretation services.

For all services provided, DLS uses the same **approach** to meet and exceed client expectations: unparalleled service **quality** and **responsiveness**.



### DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE SERVICES

LANGUAGE TRAINING \* TESTING \*  
TRANSLATION \* CURRICULUM  
DEVELOPMENT

1901 N. Ft. Myer Drive, 6th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: 703-243-4855

Fax: 703-243-7003

E-mail: [info@dlsdc.com](mailto:info@dlsdc.com)

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CAGE/NCAGE: 4P1F5