

An award winning year ends for The Wells Point

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My year 2016 came to an end in India, where I am enjoying warm weather, good food, and great light. I couldn't ask for much more. I was reminded that I have a lot to be thankful for. My life and work are good. My wife is happy, healthy, and creative as ever. My daughter has started her adult life with a fabulous job in her field in New York City. My family and friends are well, so I am happily counting my blessings. I hope your year ended on a similar good note.

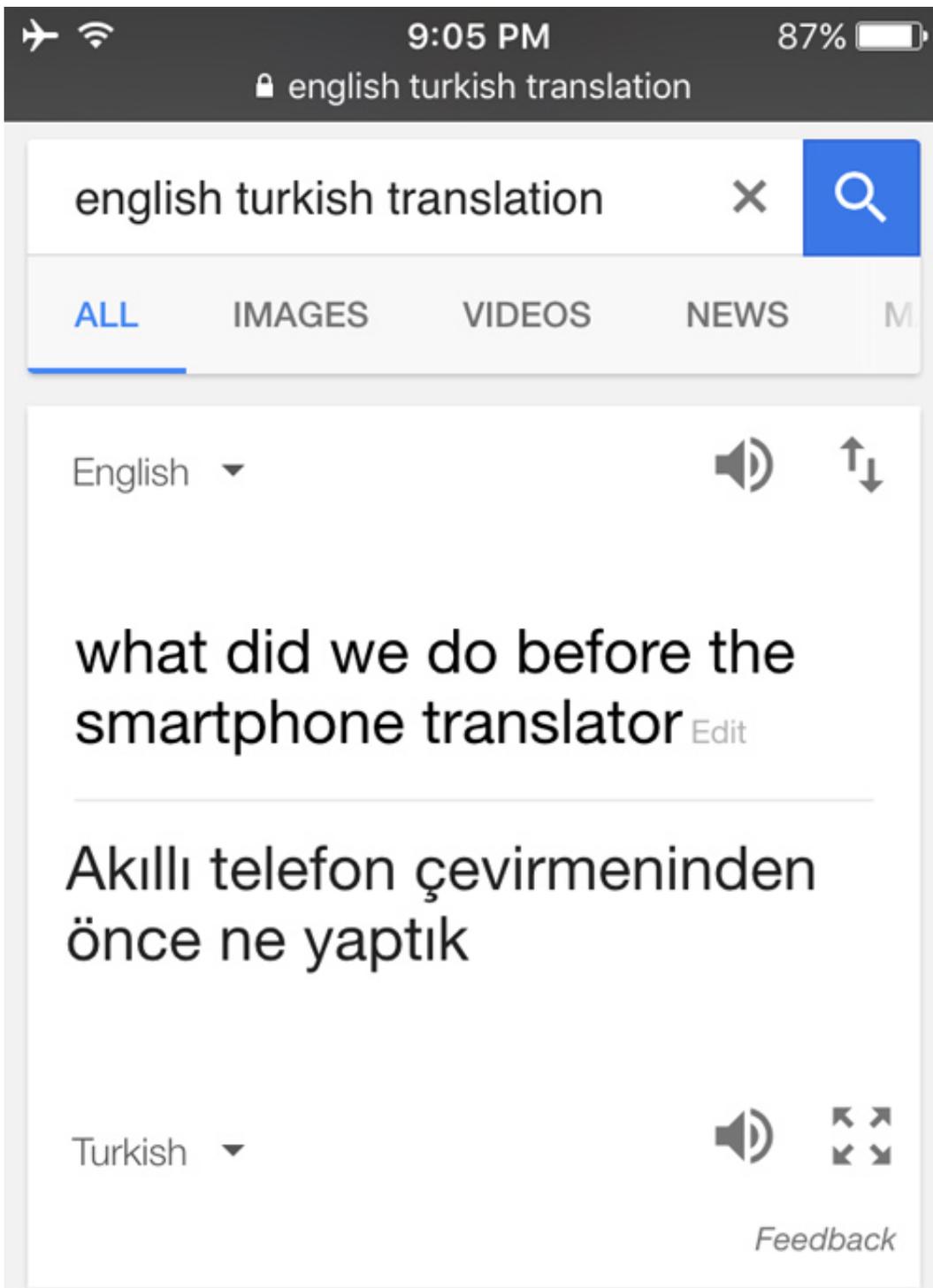


2016 was such a good year that I actually had money on hand to make donations to groups who are fighting the good fight around the globe. There have been plenty of years when my business was not that well, as it was during the recent recession, when the best I could do was donating my time and photographic skills rather than money. [Shutter Mission](#) is a great resource for photographers wanting to do the same - donating their expertise to help others.



We donated to number of worthy causes at the end of the year in honor of my nieces and nephews, who are spread out across the world and who are fortunate enough to not really “need” anything. We supported the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) which employs a three-pronged strategy to battle racial and social injustice by fighting hate, teaching tolerance, and seeking justice. We also donated to the [Global Emergency Care Collaborative](#), which works to reduce disparities in global health by collaborating to create access to quality emergency care in resource-limited settings.

The other big news at the end of the year was that my short video, [Blending into the American Dream](#), won a prestigious international film award. In early December I was stunned to learn that, from 6033 films submitted, my short video won the [Necati Celik Prize](#) from the [Hak-Is, a Respect for Labor International Short Film Contest](#). Hak-Is, a major labor union in Turkey, sponsored the festival, flew me to Turkey for the awards ceremony and gave me a small money prize, as well as a snazzy-looking trophy. Images from my brief three-day adventure in Ankara, Turkey are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

The [CatchLight Fellowship](#), as they say on their site, is to be awarded to leaders in the field of visual storytelling, who have demonstrated excellence in the novel use of photography to depict and bring awareness to challenging social issues.

Over the last few years, I have taught classes at Peter Miller Fine Art Photography Gallery, and I have worked on projects with Peter Miller, the proprietor. So, I was thrilled when he and a group of artists in Rhode Island came together to form a non-profit collaborative organization – the [Providence Center for Photographic Arts](#). I immediately joined, and I hope others interested in supporting

photography centers (and exhibiting their work) will join, as well.



Creative Consultant, Jennifer Kilberg of Agency Access, has released a brief publication of value to any creative visual storyteller titled, [Pocket Guide: Finding Your Vision](#).

NEW BLOG ENTRIES:

Long-time readers of this newsletter know that I teach workshops, as well as photographing around the globe. My latest blog entry is about the one skill that I practice over and over when I am photographing and/or teaching, internationally or domestically. That skill, [situational awareness](#), is the one skill that every photographer must master.



WORKSHOPS NEWS:

I'll be basking in Florida's warmth March 3 – 5 of 2017, in stunning Key West, FL, while teaching my favorite [Tools of Travel Photography](#) workshop at the Key West Art & Historical Society.

If the cold winter weather has you down, I hope you will join me in sunny [Cuba for a great photo workshop](#) in April of 2017.

April 12-23 of 2017, I will be back in [Italy, Sicily in particular with the Los Angeles Center of Photography](#).



On September 6 - 11 of 2017, I will be teaching my [Tools of Travel Photography at the Wooden Boat Festival](#) in Puget Sound, Washington via the Pacific Northwest Art School

I hope you enjoyed my monthly newsletter. I welcome your feedback. If you know photographers who would be interested in getting these updates, please encourage them to [sign up](#).

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[David H. Wells](#)

[11 South Angell Street #171](#)

[Providence, Rhode Island 02906](#)

[Our telephone: 401 261 4528](#)

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