

LLAM News

A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

President's Message

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By Joan Bellistri
Law Librarian, Anne Arundel County Public
Law Library

First of all, I want to tell you, as I mentioned in my last letter, that I did go to my daughter's career day and spoke to 7th and 8th graders. I admit I was apprehensive, but their reception and interest were encouraging. The librarian action figure was a hit, and combined with my calendar featuring librarians with body art posed on Harleys, I was able to easily talk about what librarians are really like and what a rewarding profession we have.

But back to business: LLAM has a strategic plan for the years 2000-2005. The ending date of 2005 puts LLAM in the company of AALL and its many chapters and SIS's which are addressing the need for new plans.

Those of us who are members of AALL have read President Tori Trotta's columns discussing this planning process and were asked to answer questions concerning our thoughts on the future of our national organization.

A plan is important for an organization in that it can make it easier to focus on what it is that matters to its members. It is important, too, that the plan be reviewed and compared with the organization's goals to make sure that the plan is still relevant.

It is now time for us to review LLAM's plan. We need to consider what LLAM's special niche is. We need to answer questions like the following: What can our organization do better on the local level that maybe cannot be accomplished as well nationally? What does LLAM do that is important to the professional lives of law librarians? Is there something that

LLAM should do but doesn't?

AALL is considering a plan that has a "shorter time horizon" and that can respond to "constant change." Like AALL, we should consider a plan that is flexible, can react to the ever increasing pace of change today, and that can be changed as needed. Perhaps our next plan should not have an end date. It should not be a document that is created and forgotten, but a working document that is used consistently in carrying out LLAM's goals and business.

Janet Camillo, Jim Gernert, and Maxine Grosshans have agreed to take on the task of reviewing and updating LLAM's strategic plan. So, please be ready to speak your mind and join them in this ongoing planning process of mapping the future of LLAM.

And speaking of being ready, it is now time to consider how much fun and how rewarding it would be to serve as an officer or board member of LLAM. So if you get a call from the nominating committee, please be ready to say "yes." (Or if you just can't wait for the call, let them know that you are interested.)



LLAM President
Joan Bellistri

[P]lease be ready to speak your mind and join...in this ongoing planning process of mapping the future of LLAM.

LLAM Brown Bag Lunch Program Series

By Scott Stevens

Associate Librarian, Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library

The snowed-out February lunch program on preservation has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 21, at noon. LexisNexis will provide a deli lunch spread.

Janet Camillo of the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library and Anne Morrison of the Prince George's County Law Library will lead a program on book preservation. Their three-tiered program covers Book Preservation, Basic Book Repair, and Computer File Preservation.

The program will be held at the beautiful offices of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, and Ingersoll, 300 E. Lombard St., 18th Floor. Please RSVP to Scott Stevens slindsey-stevens@co.ba.md.us by April 15, 2005. For further details, visit the LLAM Web site at: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/programs.htm>.

April Brown Bag

Janet Camillo and Anne Morrison on Preservation

April 21 at 12:00p.m.

Ballard Spahr, 300 E. Lombard St., 18th Fl.

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A Tribute to Mike Miller...

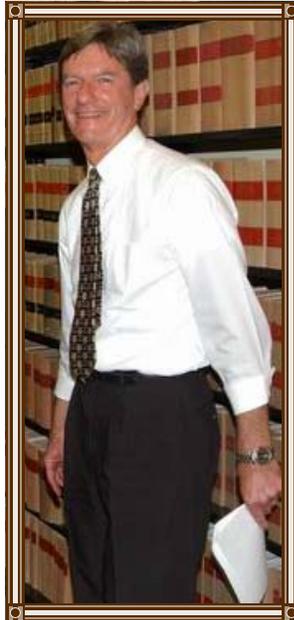
By Pamela Gregory
Director, Prince George's County Law Library

Mike Miller has been our state law librarian during most of my tenure here with the court and county in Prince George's. Early in our days together, we served on the Circuit Court Law Library Committee of the MSBA, which was concerned about the state's county law libraries.

The lack of consistency of funding from county to county, and the less than ideal collections in many county libraries, led to the first state publication of the Maryland County Law Library Standards in 1973. We updated them in 1977, and used them as a basis for assisting other county libraries until the State Court and County standards became available.

In those early days Mike was available for much good collegial exchange on lots and lots of topics. Our libraries were always at the forefront, but those long first meetings with the "committee of the titles" – which spent an entire year agreeing on which titles were to be added to the ultimate county library list - stayed with us for years to come.

A kind of bond resulted with the librarians having knowledge of the books, and the lawyers and judges having knowledge of the needs. It was mutually beneficial to introduce the value of the opinions of a law librarian to the bar and the judiciary here in our state. Mike saw that first group through publication



of the original standards, and most recently through a much more impressive state-wide effort, which followed right on the heels of his leadership role in State, Court, and County Libraries.

Lots will be written about Mike's accomplishments as a law librarian, and those words will be well deserved. I'd like to write just a bit about how lucky I've been to have him as a friend and a sounding board all these years. There are folks in this world you'd not mind being in a fox hole with, and Mike is one of those for me. I will miss having a chance

to talk with him about problem solving and what's worked and what hasn't, and to just get his opinion about things.

While Mike and I haven't always seen eye to eye on some issues, we have always been able to come to "yes" for the sake of our libraries and our staffs. He's truly a great librarian, but for me he's been an even greater friend. I wish him and his lovely wife and family all the best in the Florida sunshine, and much love as they bounce Joshua on their knees.

It has been my great good fortune to work with Mike, and I wish only that his path is blessed with health and the good grace he has always had.

He's truly a great librarian, but for me he's been an even greater friend.

...A Few Things I Know For Sure

By Emily Greenberg
retired, former Director of the University
of Baltimore Law Library

There's a game being forwarded around the Internet, where someone answers questions about herself and then forwards the Q's and the A's to friends of hers. Recipients are surprised to learn that their friend likes the Gilmore Girls or enjoys riding a motorcycle in the snow.

I've known Mike Miller for many, many years. There's a lot that I don't know about him, but here are a few things that I do know:

1. Mike is what is commonly referred to as *a very nice man*. In danger of losing its meaning from over-use, the phrase really does fit Mike (and besides, he'd frown if I used the words "sweetie pie").
2. *Mike cares*. He cares about his family (I've only once called him "Gramps"), his library, the people and institutions that use his library, and about wrong things in the world that need to be righted.
3. Mike and his truly lovely (in both

senses of the word) wife, Connie, have been married for centuries, but both still look *like children*.

4. *Mike is a joy to work with*. Over the years, we've worked on a number of "interlibrary cooperation" projects, with our trusty pal Barbara Gontrum. We never had conflict or strife; sometimes good food, sometimes whatever was there, but always pleasant times and fun. Co-Chairing Local Arrangements when AALL was in Baltimore was easy: first, we got other people to do the work, and then he helped me avoid being uptight, intense, or otherwise icky. His calm and intelligent perspective is substantial and enviable.
5. *Mike loves the beach*. (OK, it's not news, but it is one of the things I know about him.)
6. Mike doesn't want soupy, prolonged farewells. I think we should honor that request and wish him a low key farewell – with *big buckets of thanks*, and no small degree of *real admiration*.

*Mike is a joy
to work with.*



...A Well-Deserved Pedestal

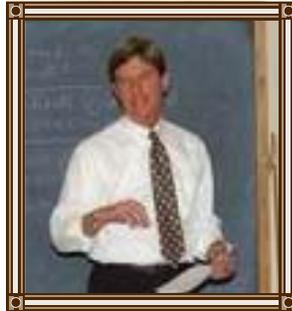
By Catherine McGuire
Outreach Services Law Librarian,
Maryland State Law Library

In my two years doing outreach at the Maryland State Law Library, I have met many different types of librarians - law, public, special, university, etc. Every time I attend a meeting with new faces, I am asked, immediately after introductions, "How is Mike Miller doing? What is Mike up to these days? Why isn't Mike the one attending this meeting?"

It seems impossible to go to any library-related event and not meet someone who knows Mike. And it's not just because he has been Director of the State Law Library for almost three decades. People remember him because of his interest in the profession, his dedication to librarianship, his sincere love for what he does.

Librarianship for him is truly an avocation as well as a vocation. Librarians and non-librarians alike know him because he is involved in whatever impacts libraries. Mike Miller is a genuine public servant - one who believes in service to the library's public, in whatever form they, or it, might take.

The Outreach Services Law Librarian position exists directly because of Mike and his service philosophy. Even before the position was created, Mike and his staff were actively involved in reaching out to all areas of library customers. The Outreach position merely firmed up and centralized these efforts.



Those of you who know Mike know he does not believe in the term "patron" for library users, but rather "customer." His use of this term is a hallmark of his service philosophy. According to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition, a "customer" is one who purchases a commodity or service. But the relationship is more than that.

Again looking at Merriam-Webster, the word "custom" is defined, as a secondary definition, as "made or performed according to personal order." This is illustrative of what we as librarians do: each user has individual and specific needs, and our job is to determine those needs and address them to the best of our ability. Mike strives to live up to this tall order, and he has inspired many others, myself included, to achieve the same goal.

I have been incredibly lucky to have had the chance to work with Mike Miller. Two years of a lifetime career may not be much time. But these two years with Mike as a mentor have been the foundation for the whole future of my career. He reminds me daily of why I chose this profession in the first place.

Thanks, Mike, from me and from all those others for whom you set a great example of what a librarian is and can be. We couldn't be who and what we are without your contributions and impact.

He reminds me daily of why I chose this profession in the first place.

LLAM Placement Committee is Here to Help, Part II

By Kirstin Nelson

Research Librarian, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary

We've all been there at one time or another...the job hunt. Whether you are looking for a new position or seeking to fill a position, the LLAM Placement Committee is here to help. The goals of the committee are to assist you before, during, and after your search. This month we will focus on filling an open position in your library.

Before Your Search

Often when an employee leaves the library, we think only of the time-consuming hiring process – writing an ad, weeding through resumes, conducting interviews, calling references, and more. However, this process, if approached correctly, can offer a library a sense of renewal, a chance to bring in new ideas, and a boost to the entire staff.

One step that is often overlooked in the hiring process is a thorough evaluation of the current position. What work was the former employee doing? How can the position description be altered to make it fit better with the needs of the library? What educational or experiential requirements would characterize the most desirable employee? It is especially important to take stock if the previous employee was in the position for a long period of

[F]illing an open position in your library...can offer a library a sense of renewal, a chance to bring in new ideas, and a boost to the entire staff.

time. As we all know, libraries are constantly changing, and job duties change as well. An open position is a perfect opportunity to reevaluate library needs and to rewrite the position descriptions. In order to recruit the best new employee for the position, you must know exactly what you are looking for; further, the new employee needs to know exactly what will be expected. Some libraries do not even have written job descriptions for all positions. A vacancy on the staff is a perfect time to look at the entire library staff and update position descriptions or create descriptions if none exist.

During Your Search

Next, you need to create an accurate job advertisement. The best way to avoid wasting time with applicants who do not meet your library's needs is to write an ad that will attract only qualified candidates. The best guide when creating a job ad is the position description that was just updated or created. Select the top four or five job skills that are most essential to the job and include them in the advertisement. Also include any educational requirements or areas of specialization required for the job (such as interlibrary loan experience or teaching experience). It can be useful to look at library-related job Web sites or in the newspapers to get an idea of both good, and not so good, advertisements. Talk to other librarians who have recently gone through the hiring process and see if they have ads they can share with you as well. Also, be sure to specify how applicants should submit their resume or application. Depending on the situation, you may want to have the person mail, fax, or email a cover letter and resume, or simply call to set up an appointment to come in and fill out an application; alternatively, you may want to request that no phone calls be made to save yourself time and effort.

Once the ad is complete, you must decide where to list it. There are numerous options with library Web sites. Depending on the type of position to be filled and the library's needs, you can choose a local or a nationwide search for candidates. Both [AALL](#) and [SLA](#) have job lists that can be used at no cost to members. Local Web sites such as the [Maryland Library Association](#) and [Law Librarians' Society of D.C.](#) also have online job listings. Another option is to list the opening with the local newspapers. Sunday papers have the largest circulation and will reach the most potential candidates.

There are many other options for spreading the word about an open position in the library. One of the best ways is word of mouth with library colleagues in the area. One great place to do this is at LLAM meetings and other LLAM functions. Submitting the job ad to the LLAM listserv is also a good way to get the word out. Other options are to contact the local library school placement offices, use your employer's employee referral program, contact a professional library placement agency or turn to print trade publications such as *AALL Spectrum* or the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Once the accurate job ad has been posted, resumes will begin coming in. Hopefully, most will be from qualified applicants who meet the requirements listed in the ad. Those that are

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LLAM Placement Committee is Here to Help, Part II, continued

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clearly not qualified can be immediately placed into the "no" file. The others can be set aside for a more thorough examination. Depending on the size of the library, you may have a committee that is responsible for the hiring process. Be sure to utilize all members of the committee and split the work up if a large number of resumes are submitted. It is a good idea to create a standard ranking or comment sheet for the committee members so that you are all evaluating similar aspects of the candidates' resumes.

When screening the resumes, it helps to have your job description and specifications in front of you so you can keep the qualities and skills you are looking for clearly in mind. Since there is no standard form for resumes, evaluating them can be very subjective. However, there are certain components that you should expect to find in each resume, such as brief descriptions of employment and educational experience, including dates. Many resumes include a "career objective" that describes what kind of job the prospect is pursuing, while other applicants state their objectives in their cover letters. When reading the resume, try to determine any career patterns. Look for steady progress and promotions in past jobs. Also look for stability in terms of length of employment. At the same time, be aware of how economic conditions can affect a person's resume. During a climate of library downsizing, for example, a series of lateral career moves may not be a negative sign.

Once you have narrowed the list of candidates, it is time to set up interviews. Few people truly enjoy the interview process, but there are several things that can be done to keep it as productive as possible. As the interviewer, you should be certain to have fully prepared questions for your candidate. Just as the interviewee should be prompt and prepared, so should the interviewer. Give the candidate your undivided attention, clear your desk, close your door, and let people in your office know you prefer not to be interrupted during the interview. Some other helpful tips are to listen more than you speak, ask open-ended questions, ask for details about past jobs or education and training, and know what questions are illegal to ask of any candidate.

Once you have found the ideal employee, it is time to do a reference check. Reference checks have become increasingly difficult, as many employers have adopted policies that forbid releasing detailed information. Often, the potential employer is referred to a personnel department, which supplies only dates of employment, title, and salary. One way to work around this is to request both professional and personal references. A personal reference is not limited in what he can say, but may not be as objective as an employer or have much knowledge about the applicant's work related activities. Another good option is to reach out the LLAM community who may know an applicant and ask for their input.

Now you are ready to extend an offer and to welcome your new employee to your library. Don't forget to call or write the applicants who were not hired; also, consider keeping their resumes on file. Another position may open and you will have some resumes to work from when starting the next new employee search.

After Your Search

But wait - the process is not yet complete! The search is over, but the job is really just beginning. Getting a new employee off to a good start is essential to making you happy, making the new employee happy, and keeping the rest of your staff happy. Build on the momentum and excitement of the hiring process by having an office or work space set up in advance, and by making your new colleague comfortable and welcome.

Don't just dump him/her in an office and shut your door. Be prepared to spend time explaining job duties, getting tasks started, or even taking him/her out to lunch. By doing so, you're building rapport and setting the stage for a long and fulfilling working relationship. One other important step is to get the new employee involved in LLAM. This is particularly useful if you've hired an employee who is new to the Baltimore area. This enables your colleague to begin networking and to get to know many of the helpful law librarians in the area.

Hiring a new employee can be a long and even difficult process, but by following some basic steps, you can navigate the process and end up with the ideal employee!

The search is over, but the job is really just beginning.

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Entering the Blog Age, Part II

By Trevor Rosen
Librarian, Shapiro, Sher, Guinot, & Sandler

Part I of this series on blogs appeared in the February '05 edition of the *LLAM News* available at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/publications/llamnewsletter/llamnews0205b.pdf>

In the first installment in this series, we took a “survey of the literature” approach to blogs: what blogs are and why they should be of interest to librarians. In this article, I’d like to take a “case study” approach and focus on one blog in particular, named [Maryland Law](#). Here, I’d like to share my personal experience gained from creating and maintaining the Maryland Law blog with the hope that you can learn from my experience and build on it.

In “Entering the Blog Age, Part I” we discussed four primary reasons why blogs should be of interest to librarians: (1) blogs are a new communication medium, (2) blogs are a marketing vehicle, (3) blogs can be used as a knowledge management tool, (4) and blogs are a source for serious research. So, with these four reasons as my guide, I felt justified in monitoring this new information trend. But this wouldn’t necessarily explain why I would actually create a blog. So, why did I do it?

I had three principal motivations in creating the Maryland Law blog. First, on the most basic level, some people never truly understand something unless they experience it, and I’m one of those people. As a result, if I truly wanted to get a sense for this new information medium, I couldn’t just read about it—**I had to experience it**—and that meant creating a blog of my own.

Second, having recently landed my first full-time position out of library school, I realized I had a lot to learn. Moreover, as a librarian in a law firm, I had a lot to learn about legal research in particular. Put these factors together with the fact that I’m a solo librarian with no direct mentor to learn from, and it becomes apparent why I needed a formal mechanism which would motivate me to **teach myself** and **stay current** in legal sources online. What better way to get up to speed and keep up with developments than to make it a priority to collect legal resources and publicly

post them in a blog on the subject?

At the same time, I wanted to test whether the blog would be useful to others. To test its usefulness, I did some cursory research to find what blogs exist on the topic of Maryland law. As far as I know, the only other similar resource out there is Harvey Morrell’s [The University of Baltimore Law Library Weblog](#). When I realized that my blog could actually fill a niche and act as a resource for others, I decided to try it.

Although titled “**Maryland Law**,” my blog contains content of interest to the legal community more broadly. As such, I include postings on relevant business and political developments. The subtitle of the blog is “**An information resource for researchers, librarians, and attorneys searching for useful websites related to Maryland law**,” and I do indeed have all three groups in mind when I write.

Many authors have a particular image of an anonymous reader in mind when they write. I’m no exception. My image of my intended reader is someone who’s familiar with many of the basic online resources related to Maryland law, but is looking for something more. Even with this image in

mind, though, I’m aware that there are readers who may have a greater or lesser degree of background on the subject. I therefore try to alternate postings which provide more basic resources with those that are more detailed. Occasionally, of course, one finds resources which would be useful to both groups. The posting I wrote entitled “Comprehensive Maryland Legal Sites,” which suggests a number of portals to Maryland law and government, is one such posting.

J. Craig Williams, the author of [May It Please The Court](#), a legal news blog, quotes another blogger who lists 10 points for bloggers to follow to ensure successful

Although titled “Maryland Law,” my blog contains content of interest to the legal community more broadly.

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Entering the Blog Age, Part II, continued

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blog content. Among the points he lists are the following: write often, write tight, and write for a reason.

To the first point, **“write often,”** unlike some bloggers who write incessantly, I generally post about once per day. Whether that constitutes “often” is up for grabs, but, quite honestly, it’s pretty much all I have time for.

The second point, **“write tight,”** I think speaks to the characterization between two types of bloggers: thinkers v. linkers. Thinkers are those bloggers who consider each posting carefully and are willing to spend another few words to flesh out the idea; linkers, on the other hand, would rather post more often with less text. As we discussed at the LLAM presentation on blogs, there’s no right way, it’s simply a matter of style. Nonetheless, of the two, I’m definitely more of a thinker: I’d rather tilt towards being wordy but have a coherent paragraph.

Of the three points, I believe the third point about **“writing for a reason”** is ultimately what distinguishes blogs that provide worthwhile content from those that do not. In this, I hope I succeed. I honestly try to post only material that I think may be useful to my readers.

Finally, there is one last issue in terms of content. One of the aspects of blogs which makes them so appealing is their ability to provide an interactive user experience. On blogs, users can post comments and react to the content they are viewing. As such, they provide a forum for dialogue between author and audience. I would love to have more of this in my blog. Indeed, in my first posting describing my intent in creating Maryland Law, I wrote: “I intend this to be a collaborative project--one that we can all contribute to and benefit from. So, I welcome your postings!” In this way, I had hoped that just as I would inform my readers, they too would inform me. On a few occasions, readers have responded to my postings, but, unfortunately, this has not been typical. I’ve even tried to motivate responses by asking open ended questions (eg., “Does anyone know anything more on this?”) but with little result. So maybe I’ll try my luck at making this article interactive: does anyone know how I

can successfully make my blog more interactive?

For librarians who decide to create their own blogs, the rewards can be substantial. For one, blogs provide researchers with a content management tool. Instead of keeping separate Word documents on various research projects, you can simply scroll through your blog and find the info you posted last week. Then, if someone asks you for it later, you can simply email them the URL to that posting.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, blogs help leverage librarians’ visibility in their host institutions. In my firm, for example, after I mentioned to one of our attorneys that I’d created a blog, he went to check it out. He’s been monitoring it on and off since. Likewise, after hearing that I’d done a presentation on blogs for LLAM, our COO suggested I might do the same for the firm. Finally, when one of our attorneys decided to create a blog himself, I could speak to him as someone who’s “been there, done that.” Since then, I’ve been contributing to the content and format of his blog on an almost daily basis.

[B]logs help leverage librarians’ visibility in their host institutions.

The fact is, whether we librarians like it or not, what people consider “cool” or “cutting edge” is what’s new and what’s technological. To some extent, if we wish to be successful in our host institutions, we have to cater to that image. Granted, if there’s no substance to the “new tech tool,” we as librarians should be the first to point out its flaws; but if it does have substance, we should be the first to champion its strengths. Regardless of whether it’s worthwhile or useless, though, what’s important is that we gain familiarity with it. Through this way we can truly sell ourselves as masters of the information landscape—no matter what the format.



At the LLAM presentation on blogs, Harvey Morrell and I created a blog for LLAM at <http://llamlog.blogspot.com>. To get information on how to contribute to this blog contact either me at tr@shapirosher.com or Harvey Morrell at hmorrell@ubalt.edu.

What LLAM is Reading

By Janet Camillo

Assistant Librarian, Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library

In the last issue I asked people to let me know what they were reading for a new column in our newsletter. I borrowed the idea from several other library publications. These other newsletter columns fall into two categories - work related books and books for pleasure. One of my favorites is the "Quick Bibs" column by Bill Ott in the ALA journal, *American Libraries*. The Law Librarians of New England newsletter column is titled "What are You Reading?" This month LLNE'ers were reading *Oryx & Crake* by Margaret Atwood and *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger. AALUNY will have "A Legal Fiction" article in their upcoming July issue, discussing members' favorite literary lawyers. If you want serious/work-related suggestions go to the CALL Bulletin for a professional reading column by Mike Robins and Levenfeld Perlestein.

So far, only the folks from my office shared what they were reading with me - some of them willingly. The new grandmother among us is reading *A Grandparent's Gift of Love* by Edward Fays. This is a collection of

stories about the loving presence of grandparents in our community and our lives. One of our library assistants is reading Anne Tyler's latest, *The Amateur Marriage*. This is a novel about a mismatched couple and the consequences of their marriage. It includes Tyler's usual group of quirky characters and a nuanced picture of everyday life in Baltimore over three decades. Our other library assistant has just finished *Unless*, the last novel by Carol Shields. The book presents the narrator's grief over a daughter's break with the family and the effect it has on her feminist sensibilities and her writing. I just finished reading *The Kite Runner*, by Khalid Hosseini, for my book club. It is a wonderful story of friendship, betrayal, and redemption, but it also provides an interesting look at life in Afghanistan, both before the Russian invasion, and after, during the Taliban era.

My book group friends universally enjoyed it. (An unexpected first for my club!)

If you would like to pass on your suggestions for "good reads" contact me at:

jcamillo@mcccourt.com.

[P]ass on your suggestions for "good reads"...



Board Updates LLAM Bylaws: Retired Membership Category

By Jean B. Hessenauer

LLAM Membership Committee Chair, Librarian, Tydings & Rosenberg

The next time you renew your membership there will be a new category on the membership form. LLAM has changed its bylaws to include a Retired Member category. Anyone who has retired from at least five years of active membership in a law library association is eligible. Dues will be \$10 (50% of active member dues). The same rights and privileges of active members will apply to retired members also.

My 10 Favorite Things About Texas

By Mary Forman

Semi-Native

My great-great-great uncle, [Thomas Jefferson Chambers](#), came to Texas in the 1820s. Chambers County in east Texas is named after him. I, however, am a relative newcomer. Although I've only lived in Texas for 10 years, I have compiled quite a list of things I love about Texas. Here are 10 of them focused almost exclusively on San Antonio – 10 reasons for you to come to AALL in July – and to come back and visit again. As Texas singer/songwriter Gary P. Nunn (famous for the *Austin City Limits* theme song – *London Homesick Blues* aka *Home with the Armadillo*) would say, “You ask me what I like about Texas.... Well, I could tell you, but we'd be here all night long.” So I've limited it to 10....

10. **Patio dining** – Eating outside – good Mexican food – a cold beverage – well, it's a favorite pastime of many. When it's hot, you sit under an umbrella. When it's cold they fire up the heaters. We eat outside all year long.

9. **Boat cruise on the San Antonio River.** Yep, even the locals ride it! It's great fun and you always learn something new.

8. [Gruene, Texas, and the Guadalupe River.](#) Great shopping (and I don't even like shopping!), lunch at the Gristmill Restaurant, and a stop at Gruene Hall (Texas' oldest dance hall) to listen to whoever's playing, or tubing down the Guadalupe

River, taking out at Gruene and then doing the above. Old or young, it's a fun way to spend the day!

7. Walking through the [King William District](#) and having breakfast (preferably on the patio) at the [Guenther House](#).

6. **Music, music, music.** Country, symphony, you name it, we've got it – and I love it all.

5. [Steak Night in Waring, Texas.](#) Wednesday night is steak night at the country store in Waring, Texas. Come back sometime and experience it!

4. [The Majestic Theatre.](#) Arguably the most beautiful theatre in Texas (maybe the world?).

3. Visiting any [Texas State Park](#). Three of my nearby favorites include Garner, Lost Maples, and Enchanted Rock.

2. [Wildflowers.](#) They start in March with bluebonnets, but they continue on throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Lady Bird Johnson was on to something....

1. [The people.](#) They come in all shapes, sizes, colors, cultures, and personal beliefs, but despite their differences, there is something that draws them together – something my buddy, Gary P. Nunn, calls “the spirit of the people who share this land.”

Welcome to Texas!



The AALL Mentor Project: Get Networking!

By AALL Mentoring Committee

Visit us at: <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/>

Are you new to law librarianship, looking to move to another type of law library, or need advice advancing in your career? Are you an experienced law librarian interested in meeting and advising those who are new to the profession? Then find a mentor or become a mentor through the AALL Mentoring Committee's Mentor Project!

The purpose of the Mentor Project is three-fold: to provide an informal, personal source of information for newer members; to provide an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession; and to provide a network for members who are contemplating a move to another type of library.

If you previously participated in the Mentor Project and would like to be matched in a new mentoring relationship, you are encouraged to reapply; since it is up to the individuals to decide how long to continue their mentoring relationship, participants may reapply for a new match in subsequent years.

The Mentor Project is open to librarians from all types of libraries. Applications will

be reviewed by a Mentoring Committee member and representatives from ALL, PLL, and SCCLL Special Interest Sections so that each participant will be assigned a member whose profile matches, as closely

[F]ind a mentor or become a mentor through the AALL Mentoring Committee's Mentor Project!...

[T]hose who apply by May 2, 2005 will be guaranteed a match in time for the Annual Meeting....

as possible, to his or her request.

Although attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting is not required for participation, **those who apply by May 2, 2005 will be guaranteed a match in time for the Annual Meeting** during which the Mentoring Committee will host a Mentor Project reception to provide a meeting place for the participants. Applications are available at: http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html.

We look forward to hearing from you!

LLAM SpringFling to be Held on May 20th

By Jim Gernert, Information Management Librarian
Pat Behles, Govt. Documents/Reference Librarian
University of Baltimore Law Library

LLAM's annual SpringFling will be held this year on Friday, May 20th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the historic 4 East Madison Inn. The Inn is located in the heart of the Mt. Vernon Cultural District. For those considering a longer stay and interested in exploring the area, it is within walking distance of the Walters Art Museum, the Maryland Historical Society, and Center Stage, and is convenient to downtown and the Inner Harbor.

The menu for the evening will feature an enticing array of heavy hors d'oeuvres, including grilled shrimp and salmon, petite tenderloin sandwiches, pasta primavera, an assortment of desserts, and wine, beer, and soft drinks. Our annual business meeting will be held at the beginning of the SpringFling, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.,

so that members will be free to enjoy the Inn, including its lovely side garden, the food, and the companionship of fellow LLAM members for the rest of the evening.

The cost for the event is \$20.00, which includes free nearby parking. For more information on 4 East Madison Inn, see their Web site at <http://www.4eastmadisoninn.com/>.

LLAM acknowledges the generous support of LexisNexis' Librarian Relations Group, West Librarian Relations Group, and CCH for this event.

SpringFling

*On Friday, May 20th,
from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at 4 East Madison Inn,
4 East Madison St.,
in Mt. Vernon, Baltimore*



LLAM Giving in 2005

By Joan Bellistri
Law Librarian, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

The LLAM Board voted to send a donation to aid victims of the Tsunami of December 26. The donation will be sent to the Library Disaster Relief Fund, which is an organization of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the American Library Association (ALA), Association of Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE), Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Medical Library Association (MLA), and Special Libraries Association (SLA).

Closer to home, LLAM will sponsor a book drive to take place in conjunction with our annual meeting and SpringFling this year. Attendees will be encouraged to bring a

book or books to donate to the Village Learning Place. Books should be in excellent condition. All children's books and adult titles published after 2000 are accepted.

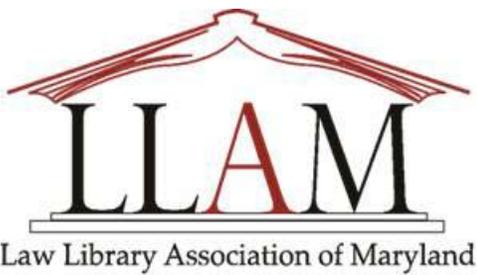
The Village Learning Place is located in the Charles Village neighborhood in downtown Baltimore, at a former branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that was closed in 1997. Members of the community have joined together to keep the resource alive. Today it is a library, learning center, computer lab, and educational garden. The VLP library is an [Outreach site of the Peoples Law Library of Maryland](http://www.villagelearningplace.org). You can visit the Web site at www.villagelearningplace.org to learn more.

This is great opportunity for LLAM to achieve its goal of promoting law librarians through community involvement.



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Law Library Association of Maryland
 c/o Susan Herrick & Jenny Smith
 University of Maryland School of Law
 Thurgood Marshall Law Library
 501 W. Fayette Street
 Baltimore, MD 21201

Requesting Submissions for LLAM Newsletter

The LLAM Newsletter Committee welcomes submissions from LLAM members on a variety of engaging topics, including but not limited to legal research tips, member news, and local events. Submit your contribution by March 15 for inclusion in the April 2005 issue!

LLAM News is a quarterly publication of the Law Library Association of Maryland, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. LLAM members are the most important part of this

newsletter. The articles appearing herein are by us and for us.

We encourage all members to submit articles to LLAM News. Please share your experiences and your insights into our profession. The editors will be glad to assist with the process of bringing your ideas to print.

Send articles, letters to the editor, news updates, advertising inquiries, photographs, comments, and suggestions to the Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs Susan Herrick and Jenny Smith, preferably via e-mail. Photographs and print-only materials are also welcome by post mail.

of membership. Electronic archives are available on the [LLAM Web site](#).

For membership inquiries, please visit the [LLAM Membership page](#) or contact Membership Committee Chair Jean Hesse-auer by e-mail at: jhessenauer@tydingslaw.com.

Deadline	Issue
May 15	June 2005

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