

HALL Service Project—
Urban Harvest

January 18, 2012

South Texas College of
Law

11:45 a.m.

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HALL Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2011

From the President

With the holidays right around the corner, the new year is fast approaching. I have truly enjoyed our HALL meetings. Patti and her committee have not only been able to make them informative, but also fun—and a time-saver as I was able to get part of my shopping done at the HALL-iday luncheon. Looking forward to 2012, I am excited about the Community Service event in January where we get to help with tree sales and our March trip to the George Bush Library in College Station.

One of my personal goals for 2012 is to start a HALL book club. Beginning at the end of January, I thought of lunchtime meetings every other month at different locations and discussing fiction and non-fiction books. I already volunteered Patti but I thought it would be great if more than the two of us get together. So please let either one of us know if you're interested and which day of the week would work best for you. We haven't chosen a book yet, so if you've recently read one that you would love to talk about please share the title.

Looking forward to see you next year, stay safe, and have a wonderful holiday season!

-Saskia



HALL President
Saskia Mehlhorn

Join HALL for our annual Community Service project January 14, 2012 at Urban Harvest!
See page 10 for details.



Continuing Education

Wow! The holidays are upon us. How did they get here so quickly?

If you missed the November meeting, you missed Greg Lambert's moving rendition of "I am a Law Librarian" sung to the Clash's version of "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)." Did I mention he played it on the ukulele? Best line after his performance was from Bob Downie, "I'm more of a Clapton fan." Greg, nothing wrong with your song, Bob is not a big fan of the Clash. J.R. Harris, from the Harris County Attorneys office, gave us an update on the Harris County Law Library.



*HALL Vice-President
Patti Curtis*

The HALL-iday Luncheon and Market was a blast. Hopefully you bought a few gifts. I bought myself one! Thanks to Caren Luckie, Catherine Whitney, Kim Serna, Susan Spillman, and Elizabeth Black Berry for providing the Market.

Many thanks to Blythe McCoy and Thomson Reuters for sponsoring the HALL-iday Luncheon!

Next month we have our Community Service project. Urban Harvest will be our guests for the January 18, 2012 meeting. Our work day will take place January 14th. Catherine Whitney is working out all of the details (see page 10 of this *Newsletter*).

Happy Holidays!

-Patti

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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Austin, TX 78703**

New Job Titles at South Texas College of Law!

Mary Lippold: *Associate Director of Administrative Services.*

Monica M. Ortale: *Associate Director of Reference & Public Services*

HALL Board Meeting Minutes for October/November

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2011
Held by email**

Meeting called to order at noon.

Attending (by email): Saskia Mehlhorn, Nanette Collins, Patti Curtis, Deidra Mulligan, Riva Laughlin, Natalie Lira

Treasurer Genel Moran contacted the Board to resign her position. HALL bylaws state that the Board will appoint someone to fill the term. Sarah Gutierrez was approved by the Board to fill out the Treasurer's term left empty by Genel's resignation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2011
Fulbright and Jaworski**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.

In attendance: Saskia Mehlhorn, Sarah Gutierrez, Patti Curtis, Riva Laughlin, Nanette Collins

Minutes: approved as printed (August and October).

Treasurer's Report: audit of HALL books needed because we changed Treasurer. Sarah will arrange for audit.

Old Business: none

New Business: Changing signatories for HALL - the Board voted to remove Ann Patterson, Genel Moran, and Mary Ann Wacker from the account as they are no longer on the Board and to add Patti Curtis (Vice-President) and Sarah Guterrez (Treasurer) as signatories.

HALL-iday party - \$10 per person, members will have craft tables. Flowers on the tables will be given as door prizes.

Working on holiday mix tape.

AALL visit - Lucky Strike (Tuesday before meeting in February)

Looking at by-laws membership categories.

Community service - Urban Harvest.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

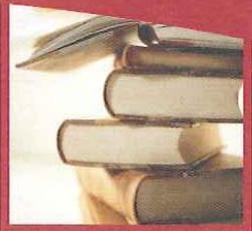
-Submitted by Riva Laughlin, HALL Secretary

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HALL Meeting Minutes - November

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2011
South Texas College of Law Library

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m.

New members/guests - Beverly Plitt from PLC

Minutes approved and seconded

Recognition of Sarah Gutierrez as Treasurer

Treasurer's report accepted

Old business: None

New business; None

Committee Reports:

Archives: no report

Continuing Education: December HALL-iday Market 12/14

January: Community Service

February: AALL visit

Government Relations: threat to web neutrality. AALL asking members to contact Legislators

Newsletter: next issue after the December meeting

Publications: no report

Scholarships: no report

Website: no report

send new content to Richard

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

-Submitted by Patti Curtis, substituting for Riva Laughlin



HALL Member Spotlight: Dan Baker

Do you need a car that seats 17? Well, ask Dan Baker for a ride. We drove to lunch in his 1992 Buick Roadmaster. I think it was bigger than my office.

Dan is Research/Reference Librarian at the University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library. He has been there for three years. Dan moved here from Detroit not knowing anyone! Dan's voice might sound familiar – perhaps you talked to him when he worked at Lexis Customer Service. He spent six years there right after law school answering the phones and talking people through research projects.

Dan grew up in Ohio in a small town, Pataskala. His father worked at the Anheuser Busch brewery nearby for 20-plus years. Dan is one of six children – he is 5th and youngest boy. He was a good student, played trombone in the band, and also ran on the track team whenever the first-string runners needed a rest! He says his time improved slowly as the seasons went on!

Dan didn't venture far for college – he went to nearby (20 miles) Ohio State where he was a political science major. He continued with music by joining a drum and bugle corps and learned how to play the bugle. After graduation, Dan got a job at the Lane Bryant corporate headquarters in another small town near Pataskala. He worked on the shipping dock and in the mail room, and went on to work on communications between the stores and various departments. After six years at Lane Bryant, Dan decided to go to law school – knowing full well he did not want to practice but wanted an advanced degree. He thought he had three years to figure out what he was going to do.

Dan attended the University of Cincinnati for law school (this time two hours away!) and considered a future in either editing or librarianship. He then went to work at Lexis thinking it would lead to some editing experience, but he spent the six years there in telephone customer service. Dan then decided librarianship might be a better fit, so he went to library school at Wayne State University in Detroit. He stayed in Detroit and worked at a law firm there that had about 200 attorneys.

Dan saw an ad for a job in Houston and decided to try for it despite never having visited here. He is happily settled now and lives in the Rice Village area. He loves movies, the Houston Zoo, and has many favorite TV shows. Dan does travel to see his parents and family (his brother and sisters and 12 nieces and nephews are scattered all over the U.S.) for holidays. He likes to travel to other locales as well and his last big vacation was a week in Dublin, Ireland. Dan admits he needs to explore Houston more so if anyone has a favorite restaurant to share with Dan please let him know!



-Mary Ann Wacker



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HALL-iday Party!

Thanks to party girl Patti Curtis for planning such a fun and festive HALL-iday party. Not only did we have delicious food, we had several vendors selling gifts and treats. Alonti provided sliders with all the trimmings, empanadas, and cookies for everyone to enjoy.

Many thanks to Blythe McCoy and Thomson Reuters for sponsoring the luncheon!



Clockwise: Above: (l-r) Cathleen Buzzetta, Susan Yancey, Marianne Sears and Kim Serna; (l-r) Catherine Whitney and Margo Davis; HALL President Saskia Mehlhorn; (l-r) Marianne Sears, Blythe McCoy, Kristina Lambright





Left, (l-r) Patti Curtis and Margo Davis; Right, Laurie Gaas; Below, Kim Serna



Left, the University of Houston gang: Emily Lawson, Chris Dykes, Dan Baker and John Butler

The HALL Newsletter, published 6 times a year by the HALL Publications Committee, is the official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, news items, or advertising queries to Mary Ann Wacker, Editor, maryann.wacker@bglp.com.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Jeannie Mazzone at jmazzone@stcl.edu or 713-646-2908.

Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: *What Do YOU Want? The Hidden Problem of Compassion Fatigue.*



As librarianship is a service profession, the issue of compassion fatigue is a very common problem. Compassion fatigue is not the same as "burnout." Even while you are still motivated and committed to your job and your mission of service, and even while you like your job, you can be traumatized by your work if you don't give time and attention to caring for yourself and your emotional well-being. Emotional exhaustion can be traumatizing, and it can be caused by the entire spectrum of law library work—from the high stress and demanding atmosphere of the law firm to the often difficult nature of serving pro se patrons in a public law library. The effects of compassion fatigue can be as severe as post-traumatic stress disorder, but there are ways to address the symptoms and avoid the problem.

Dr. Charles R. Figley is one of the leading experts in compassion fatigue and traumatology. In this recorded program from the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting, he presents a careful overview of the nature of compassion fatigue and offers the main strategies and tips for reducing the problem and its effects.

Program link: <http://www.softconference.com/aall/sessionDetail.asp?SID=178209>

Save the Dates: *Environmental Scanning & Teaching Legal Research* Webinars

Environmental Scanning as a Change Management Tool

January 26, 2012, 11 a.m. CDT

<http://www.aallnet.org/Home-page-contents/Events/Environmental-Scanning-as-a-Change-Management-Tool-2.html>

Developing and Using Stories to Teach Legal Research

February 22, 2012, 11 a.m. CDT

<http://www.aallnet.org/Home-page-contents/Events/Developing-and-Using-Stories-to-Teach-Legal-Research.html>

Planning to Attend AALL in Boston? Apply for a Grant!

Need assistance to travel to AALL's Annual Meeting in Boston? The postmark/email deadline for travel grants to the meeting and all scholarships to library school/law school is Wednesday, April 4th.

Applications are available at the HALL website in the Members Only (please contact Jeannie Mazzone if you need the login and password) section:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/members.htm>

Please send the application to:

Judith Jackson
Harris County Law Library
1019 Congress, 17th Floor
Houston, 77002

Before applying, please review the qualifications at the website

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/grants.htm>

and please note that an applicant must be a member of HALL for at least two years at the time the application is made.

-Judith Jackson

HALL Community Service Project January 14th – Urban Harvest

We have chosen Urban Harvest as this year's community service project. Urban Harvest is a nonprofit organization that uses fruit, vegetable, and habitat gardens to improve the quality of life in the greater Houston area. The group promotes healthy communities, sound nutrition and respect for the environment by educating children and adults and by facilitating harvest and habitat gardens. You can learn more about their programs, gardens, and local farmers markets on their website: www.urbanharvest.org.

The speaker for our January meeting will be Gary Edmundson, an Urban Harvest staffer. **He has asked that we move the meeting back one week to January 18th (same location and time) because of a conflict with preparations for the organization's annual Fruit Tree Sale, a major fundraising event.** In fact, when I told him that we wanted to volunteer some time in support of Urban Harvest, he all but begged for us to help out at the Fruit Tree Sale on Saturday, January 14th.

This annual sale is a huge undertaking--around \$140,000 worth of trees are sold in just a few hours. (See the Urban Harvest website for more info.) They depend on 150-200 volunteers to set it up, implement it and take it down. One area where they need a lot of help and where our group could work together is in the cleanup and breakdown process, starting around 11 a.m. on January 14 and continuing until 3 - 4 p.m. If anyone is available Friday morning or afternoon, they could also use help with setup.

As a gardener myself, I know what a major and important event the Fruit Tree Sale is. We will be supporting a worthy cause and a worthwhile organization by helping with the sale. I hope that you will take some time to explore the Urban Harvest website and plan to spend a few hours at the Fruit Tree Sale on January 14th. Patti Curtis will be sending an email shortly with more information about volunteer opportunities and scheduling. A few enthusiastic gardeners amongst us have already signed up!

One final plug: Any volunteer who commits to a 3 hour shift is entitled to reserve a fruit tree for purchase. Since the trees sell out quickly, this is a real boon if you are considering adding a citrus, pear, plum or more exotic tree to your yard or patio. There will definitely be a Meyer lemon tree with my name on it.

If you'd like more information, please feel free to email me at catherine.whitney@att.net.

-Catherine Whitney



Houston Area Law Librarians

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Houston TX 77208

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law. We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors and Library School students.



HALL Officers and Committees

President: Saskia Mehlhorn
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Tracy Timmons

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Patti Curtis

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Kristina Lambright

Placement:

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Government Relations:

Heather Waltman

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Blythe McCoy

Community Service:

Catherine Whitney

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

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