

NEXT

MEETING

- **October 13, 2010**

Speaker:

**Roberta Shaffer,
Law Librarian of
Congress**

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From the President



*HALL President
Natalie Lira*

Being in a service profession, I was once asked to state my "service" philosophy. I thought it through and came up with the following: "service excellence in my job, my profession and my community." I think we all strive to provide the best service in all three of these aspects, but with the ever-pressing demands of the fast-paced industry in which we all work, I've found that achieving the full extent of this philosophy is much easier said than done.

Roberta I. Shaffer, Law Librarian of Congress, is one who I believe emulates every bit of the service philosophy I can only strive to achieve. Roberta has such a diverse background and strong ties to Texas which includes her service as Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin. She was also Director of University of Houston's Research and Writing Program, and during her time in Houston, was an active member of HALL. She was named a Senior Fulbright Researcher in Israel and Portugal and involved in government-sponsored projects dealing with constitutional reform and legislative draft-

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Continuing Education

I am sure that everyone will agree with me that our September meeting was marvelous! Rhonda Beassie, Assistant Dean for Career Development at the University of Houston Law Center, gave an excellent talk on presentation skills and was kind enough to share her presentation with us. If you would like to see it again, the slides have been posted to the member section of the HALL website at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/Member/Presentations/Perfect_Presentation_web.pdf



*HALL Vice-
President
Saskia Mehlhorn*

As for the next events - in October the Law Librarian of Congress, Ms. Roberta Shaffer, will come and talk to us, and for November please plan on attending our Fall half-day seminar. It is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and a hearty breakfast will be provided. The topic of the Fall Seminar is "Business Immigration" and the program will include a session on legislative efforts in immigration law, a presentation by the USCIS Chief Counsel on the face of business immigration, and practical research advice.

Please keep watching for further details.

- Saskia

(Continued from page 1)

ing. For several years, Ms. Shaffer was an active volunteer lawyer and advocate for the arts. In addition to this, Ms. Shaffer has served as an officer of the International Association of Law Libraries and as the chairperson of the Information Policy Committee of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information. To top all of this off, she was appointed as Law Librarian of Congress in 2009. Talk about excellence in service! I am extremely excited to welcome Ms. Shaffer as the keynote speaker for our next meeting.

I urge you all to take advantage of the meeting programs, seminars, community service opportunities and vendor forums being offered through HALL as opportunities to grow professionally. We recently enjoyed a webinar offered by Barbara Fullerton and Jennifer Stephens on Utilizing RSS Feeds. The webinar was well received and I would like to thank Barbara and Jennifer for extending the webinar invitation to HALL members.

Saskia is working very hard on the upcoming meeting presentations as well as the Fall and Spring Seminars. The details of the Fall Seminar should be out soon. Please try to attend the seminar as I am certain it will be a wonderful program. In addition to that, Monika is busy planning our HALL community service event while Colleen is hard at work lining up vendors for our vendor forum. I appreciate all of your hard work!

We have a very busy year ahead of us and I hope you will take part in all that HALL has to offer!

-Natalie

Volunteer for an AALL Committee Today!

AALL is now accepting applications for 2011-2012 committee volunteers. Committees carry out AALL's Strategic Directions of leadership, education, and advocacy, which in turn drives our professional future. AALL thrives because our members get involved. Visit AALLNET to explore the variety of committees available, as well as to get an idea of the work of each group before you fill out the volunteer form.

Please submit your application by December 1. However, if you are volunteering for the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC), please submit the form by November 1. Your efforts will ensure the vitality and future of AALL. Don't hesitate – volunteer today.

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/>

The Executive Librarian
(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)



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l-r: HALL Vice-President Saskia Mehlhorn; September speaker Rhonda Vickers Beassie; HALL President Natalie Lira at the September meeting

HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) September 8, 2010

Balance forward 08/11/10			\$ 12,623.78
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2010-2011	\$ 137.50		
Newsletter			
Luncheons/Receptions/			
Aug-10	\$ 238.00	\$ 359.96	
Scholarships/Grants			
Donation from LexisNexis	\$ 1,500.00		
Administrative			
Office Supplies		\$ 16.23	
Total	\$ 1,875.50	\$ 376.19	
Balance 09/08/10			\$ 14,123.09

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
September 8, 2010

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HALL Member Spotlight: Emily Clement



If you ever get a reference question about folk dancing in Bulgaria, Emily Clement will probably know the answer. Emily and her husband John are members of an international folk dancing group (it's how they met actually) and have traveled to all parts of the world on dance tours. Their last trip was in August when they visited Bulgaria for a special dancing festival that takes place every five years. They have also taken riverboats from Moscow to St. Petersburg and from Kiev to the Black Sea with dance tours.

Emily grew up in Durham, North Carolina. Her parents met at Duke University as students and stayed there after completing their degrees. Emily attended the University of North Carolina where she got her degree in German Language and Literature. She was able to study in Germany for a year and also received a Fulbright Scholarship to spend an additional year at the University of Vienna. After college, Emily

decided to work at the library at Duke. John was a post-doc lecturer in physics at the time at Duke and the two met when Emily joined an international folk dancing group to which John belonged. Emily thought John was welcoming, kind, and intelligent.

After their wedding in 1974, the couple moved to Houston so John could take a position at Rice University in nuclear physics. Emily was happy and excited to go to the big city. When she got to Houston, Emily decided to go to Library School. At that time there was one option: Sam Houston State University. A few of the classes were offered in the Houston area, but students had to go to Huntsville for most of them. Emily and many other students took a bus to school. They tried to organize their schedules so they would have all their classes on two or three days a week. Emily was hoping to tie in her library career to what she already knew—research, universities, or perhaps archives.

The job that awaited her, however, was at Baker Botts. She was hired initially to abstract and index the firm's memoranda. This was in 1979, and they had exactly one Lexis terminal. The paper used was silvery and sticky. For a while Emily was the firm's Lexis operator. Eventually more terminals were added—and Emily became a reference librarian.



Emily and the Houston International Folk Dancers performing Bulgarian dances during the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio in 2005.

During this time, Emily and John had their children Marie and John Jr. Emily was glad to be able to work part-time while they were young. Marie eventually attended the University of Oregon. She remained in the Pacific Northwest after graduating and now works as a chemist in Tacoma, WA. John is currently a student at the University of Houston studying computer hardware engineering. Emily reports he also has an interest in solar power.

Emily loves to read—mostly mysteries and science fiction. She keeps up her language proficiency by reading novels in German. At one time Emily had read all of the German language novels in the downtown Houston Public Library that interested her; then she discovered that she could order

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new ones through Amazon's German affiliate. She and John also have three cats: Nuanda Silverfox, Parsifal III, and Chaise. Emily is a true cat lover and feeds a family of feral (and spayed/neutered) cats that lives near the parking garage on Rusk by the courthouse.

Emily and John travel with folk dance tours and also with the St. Anne's Catholic church choir, of which John is a member. With the choir, they have been to Italy and various parts of Eastern Europe. Their next trip will be to Egypt on a dancing tour.

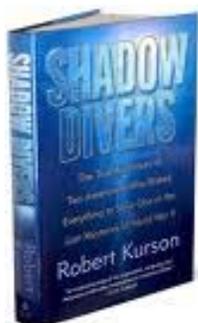
John is retired now but stays busy. He is involved with furthering ideas to reform physics and science education. He also spends much time on the computer where his projects include managing the music for the folk dancing group, organizing the photographs from all their trips, and also preserving film footage of his grandparents who were both actors. He occasionally teaches courses in physics at community colleges in the area.

In January of 2008, after working at Baker Botts for close to 28 years, Emily left to work at the U.S. Courts library. She misses her longtime colleagues at Baker Botts, but enjoys working with her new colleagues in the courthouse library. She still enjoys reference work—only now her customers are mostly law clerks and judges.



Parsifal III

You Must Read This.....



I enjoyed the non-fiction book *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson. It tells the story of two deep water divers, Richie Kohler and John Chatterton, who explore the undersea wreck of a German U-Boat from World War II. The men go to great lengths in terms of time and money spent—and also endure tremendous physical danger exploring the sub deep beneath the ocean. John and Richie start off as rivals, but grow closer to solve the mystery regarding the identity of the U-Boat. Kurson writes in a breathless and exhilarating style and I could not put the book down. By the end, you consider John and Richie as your friends, and I even got teary-eyed as they go to Germany to meet the families of the long-lost U-Boat soldiers. Enjoy!

-Mary Ann Wacker

2009 AALL Price Index for Legal Publications

The 2009 AALL *Price Index for Legal Publications* is now available in the Members Only Section of AALLNET. The table-based report includes details for the mean cost of titles and percentage increases over previous years for serial publications, legal periodicals, loose-leaf services, commercially published court reporters, and supplemented treatises.

The purpose of the *Price Index* is to provide members with comparative information about past price changes in order to help with budgeting and collection development decisions. In gathering information for the *Price Index*, the AALL Price Index for Legal Publications Committee asks publishers to provide their pricing. If a publisher declines to do so, its pricing is not included in the index.

http://www.aallnet.org/public/index.asp?reason=denied_empty&script_name=/members/price_index-2009.asp&path_info=/members/price_index-2009.asp

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month:

Information without Borders? Copyright, the Internet and Librarians
<http://www.softconference.com/aall/sessionDetail.asp?SID=169223>

This 54-minute MP3 recording features William F. Patry, author of *Patry on Copyright* and *Patry on Fair Use*. Beginning with an overview of his career path and the growth of his interest in copyright law, Patry relates how his experience of research—and specifically research for his books—has changed through the growth of the internet. His premise is that access to information is far greater now through the internet than through the physical law library, allowing differing perspectives on legal topics. He finds this increase of information from sources beyond the standard law library leads to more interesting legal writing.



Patry goes on to address the misconception that the internet is not bound by any country or any country's laws. He discusses how countries are able to regulate the internet by blocking access and enforcing local laws and even regulate outside their own borders by enforcing judgments over other countries. Copyright law is one example of how the internet as a borderless entity is an illusion.

Find this and more than 60 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!
<http://www.softconference.com/aall/default.asp>

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@bgllp.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>



REUTERS/Kim Kyung Hoon

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September HALL Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2010
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting were not available – they will be printed in newsletter and approved at the next meeting.

New Members: Lisa Westbrook and Julie Samms. Both are UNT students.

Treasurer's Report: On the tables.

OLD BUSINESS: Remember to attend the DALL/SWALL webinar on RSS feeds.

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No Report

Bylaws: No Report

Continuing Education: Nothing new since Saskia's last column in the newsletter. Speaker for the October meeting is Roberta Shaffer, the Law Librarian of Congress. November will be a half-day seminar on international and immigration law.

Government Relations: Ann forwarded AALL Washington E-bulletin to HALL-L.

Library School Liaison: No Report

Membership: No Report

Nominations: No Report

Placement: No Report

Publications: No Report

Newsletter: Deadline is 9/24. Requested book reviews for "You Must Read This."

Scholarships and Grants: No Report

Vendor Relations: The Deal Pipeline. RSVP by 9/10.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin, HALL Secretary

Houston Area Law Librarians

P.O. Box 61648
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.

<http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com/>

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