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A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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LLAM NEWS

MD. STATE LAW LIBRARY

Volume 20, Issue #5

June 2002

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President's Message

Elizabeth Rhodes, University of Baltimore Law Library

LLAMer,

It's time to pass the lamb, and the baton. It could not be with more pleasure or confidence that I pass the Presidency of the Law Library Association of Maryland to Ruth Hodgson! Ruth planned extraordinarily educational and well-attended programs for us this year. She was the architect of a 20th Anniversary Spring Fling that featured fabulous food and Maryland's Court of Appeals Chief Judge Bell as the Speaker. Sincere congratulations Ruth! I cannot imagine what she could do now to top the year she spent as Vice President/Program Chair. But I look forward to finding out!

As we enter our 21st year, we can say "thank you" also to some others who worked so hard to

make our 20th year the success it was, and to those who have committed their time and energy to do the same for our 21st. Last year's Secretary, this coming year's Vice-President/President Elect Jim Gernert, not only took minutes at every Board Meeting, mailed out ballots and proposed Bylaws revisions, but also served as Co-Coordinator of our Legal Research Institute, and as a Faculty Member for it. Go Jim! What a track record!

Our Treasurer Kathie Sweeney will be serving in that position for another year. And LLAM members can therefore continue to rest assured their funds will be zealously guarded. It is largely due to Kathie's work that the organization is solvent. I think

Kathie takes better care of LLAM's money than she does of her own.

Pamela Gregory, while continuing to juggle her many responsibilities as the Director of the Prince George's County Circuit Court Law Library, found time to act as a Board Member for LLAM. That meant driving on many mornings all the way from Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County, to Baltimore City! It was such a pleasure to have Pamela on the Board. As one who had served on the Board of other, much larger, library associations, Pamela brought great insight to our meetings. And she took time out of her busy life to prepare the

(Continued on page 4)

Program News

Ruth Hodgson, Vice-President/Program Chair

LLAM PROGRAM NEWS

The LLAM program year ended with two well attended Brown Bag lunch professional development meetings.

On March 19th, LLAM welcomed Ed Gil-

lespie, Southern Division Technology Manager for West Group, for a brief seminar on the wide range of products and "technology solutions" that enhance the information our libraries provide. Although, as to be expected, there were fre-

quent references to West products it did provide our attendees with an in-depth look at the technology available to our libraries and law firms. We also would like to thank West Group for the scrumptious desserts they

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LLAM Officers 2001—2002

President			
	Elizabeth Rhodes	410-837-4595	erhodes@ubmail.ubalt.edu
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mountain of paperwork necessary to submit our Legal Research Institute for an AALL award. Though we did not win the award, Pamela's efforts are nonetheless greatly appreciated.

Anna Cole kindly served yet another year on the LLAM Board. There were so many issues to address this past year that we had seven Board meetings. And Anna attended them all, as well as serving as a Faculty Member of our Legal Research Institute! Thank you, Anna.

Carol Mundorf will be a familiar face at next year's Board meetings, as she served this past year as the Chair of our Placement Committee. We all look forward to seeing Carol at Board Meetings as one of our new Directors.

Andy Zimmerman will be a new face at next year's Board Meetings. Andy has won the position of Secretary of LLAM for our 21st year. And Sue Edmonson will fill out the Board by serving as our other Director. Though I've not had the opportunity to get to know either Andy or Sue well, I look forward to their contributions as part of LLAM's governing body. There is not room here to thank all of those who made such a difference to LLAM last year. I wish there were. LLAM is a volunteer organization that would not exist without the good will and efforts of its many members. Thanks to all of you. And best wishes to Ruth and the new Board!

Elizabeth ---



Program News (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

provided for our members.

On April 24th we were hosted by the Maryland Attorney General's Office for an informational meeting with Ayn Crawley, Director of the Maryland Legal Assistance Network (MLAN). It was a delightful program with Ayn, who was accompanied by Luther Blackiston, Legal-Aid Law - Technology Coordinator. They emphasized MLAN's goal of increasing access to legal information and assistance to low and moderate income persons in Maryland. Also there was a demonstration of two components of the MLAN project, People's Law Library website and the Maryland Justice website.

In addition, Ayn made a plea for law libraries in Maryland to consider sponsorships and collaborations with MLAN in the name of equal access.

I would like to conclude this corner of the newsletter reserved for program news to thank all who helped in anyway to make the 2001-2002 LLAM programs successful. A special thanks to Ronney Manger, Anna Cole, Ginger Gerton and Beverly Rubenstein for making there workplaces available for our brown bag lunch programs. Thanks also to Johanne Greer for planning a wonderful tour of the Maryland General Assembly and to the Maryland State Archives for a peek inside their fascinating facility. And last but not least a thank you to Lexis Nexis and West Group for making available their services in support of LLAM. Now I'm looking forward to seeing what our next Vice President/Program Chair will have in store for us in 2002-2003.

THE BIG MOVE!!!

The Thurgood Marshall Law Library - along with the entire University of Maryland Law School Community - will be moving this June and July to its new facility at the corner of Baltimore and Paca Streets. The entrance to both the School of Law and the Thurgood Marshall Law Library will be at 500 West Baltimore Street.

Please note that because of the move the library will be closed from Mon-

day, June 17th through Sunday, July 7th. It will reopen on Monday, July 8th.

Inter-library loan lending activities will cease on Friday, June 7th and will resume on Monday, July 8th.

The library also has a new mailing address:

Thurgood Marshall Law
Library

501 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1768

Call 410-706-7270 if you have any questions.

Maxine Grosshans
Research Librarian
Thurgood Marshall Law Library

AND THE WINNER IS...

I am pleased to announce that the Officers of LLAM have chosen Bijal Shah as the recipient of the 2002 AALL Chapter Registration Award. Bijal is currently the Circulation/Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the University of Baltimore Law Library. She received her MLS in 2000, and joined AALL toward the beginning of 2001. The entire membership of LLAM was invited to apply for this award. Bijal is the winning applicant. Please join me in congratulating Bijal, and in wishing her well in Orlando!

Elizabeth

EDITORS' CORNER

The lamb has been passed again, another summer is right around corner, and another volume of the newsletter has been completed! We have enjoyed putting together volume 20 of the LLAM News and would like to thank all of you who contributed to the newsletter. Your contributions were invaluable and made the newsletter a useful and informative product for LLAM's membership.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Mary Ann Redman and Betsy Sandison, Co-Editors

CLASSIFIEDS?

MEMBERS, IT'S UP TO YOU! Do you have a tricycle, a house, an antique lamp or a VW beetle you'd like to advertise for sale in LLAM's newsletter? Might running members' classifieds diminish the professional look of the newsletter? LLAM's Board had a preliminary discussion on this issue, and decided to present the question to the membership. Vendors advertise in LLAM's newsletter, and pay for that privilege. It has been suggested that the price for member ads be the same as that for vendors, currently \$80.00 for a full page ad, \$40.00 for a half page, \$20.00 for a quarter page, \$10.00 for an eighth. And those really little ads, just \$5.00. Please contact Mary Ann Redman at mredman@milestockbridge.com with your answer to two questions. 1. Do you think LLAM should accept members' classified ads for its newsletter? 2. If so, at what price? Thanks for expressing your opinion. After all, it is your newsletter!

Elizabeth Rhodes

FROM THE LLAM ARCHIVES

THE COLLECTIVE MINDS OF LLAM

There was a lot of whining and accusations of harassment but eventually 31 members (about 1/3 of the membership) returned the survey that we had sent out as part of the 20th anniversary celebration. Following are a list of the questions asked and a compilation of the answers:

1. When did you join LLAM?

There were members who were pre-LLAM, members who joined in 2001 and everything in between. So we had a good cross-section.

2. Name one thing that came from your membership in LLAM that proved important in your life. (It could be an educational program or someone that you met in LLAM or something that you learned by being an officer or presenting a program, etc.)

It was the people, of course. Jean Hessenauer mentioned friendships that have lasted 20 years. Sally Miles said that the LLAM members are the greatest people "I have ever met...[and] many of them are also some of my best friends." Anne Morrison appreciates the "LLAM friends [who] helped me celebrate my marriage, the birth of my daughter, and helped me many times over the past eighteen years." Pamela Gregory thinks that Mike Miller will always be "Numero Uno in my book." (Although I didn't specifically mention Mike, I certainly second the sentiment.) Others mentioned as especially helpful to new librarians were Gloria Alexander, Steve Anderson, Shirley Aronson, Kate Hobner, Nancy Holden, Carol Mundorf and the staff of the University of Baltimore Law Library. Barbara Karpel appreciated "being immediately welcomed into the group when I started out at the Bar Library fresh out of library school." Mary Ann Redman met Trish Dammen when they both worked in Columbia; they came to meetings together, now work at Miles & Stockbridge together and are still the best of friends.

Bill Grady learned "not to be the Treasurer of an organization bigger than LLAM" and John Fries said that "LLAM ultimately provided the impetus to choose law librarianship as a career path and go for my Masters." Natalie Ellis learned about the Franklin Covey system at a LLAM meeting that changed her life. She cannot function now without her planner.

3. Let us know any anecdotes (funny or mundane or bizarre) that you remember from your years in LLAM.

Did you know that there is a BAA SIS in LLAM? Bill Grady, Anne Garrett and Anne Morrison share the same birthday, July 3. John Fries said that it is no fun being the only guy at a baby shower while Barb Speyser remembered John Nixdorff as a "real trooper when it came to a rash of baby showers in the early '80's." There are no male chauvinist pigs in LLAM!

Several members mentioned the notorious spring meeting where we were seated in two rooms on different floors and half of us could not hear the speaker. Valerie Diamond remembers the Spring Fling on the boat. "It turned out to be a little breezy and cool on the way in and we were huddled around cups of coffee trying to hear the speeches over the wind and the sails flapping." John Fries organized this meeting and described the headaches involved. It was worth it, however, because he got to steer the ship! Looking back on it, he says, "The trip was a blast. If you missed it, shame on you!" (I loved John Fries's anecdotes because I had not heard any of them and I thought that I knew everything.) John Nixdorff has "sat through some bizarre Spring Fling speeches, but that's better left unsaid."

Speaking of bizarre, I described all the things that Fay made me do that were immoral, illegal and fattening so, if you don't have any LLAM anecdotes, you must hang out with Fay. Natalie remembered an early meeting that was a tour of the State Penitentiary. When leaving, she heard someone call her name and worried about who in the Pen knew her. Fortunately, it turned out not to be a prisoner but a guard who had been in her high school class. Another early memory came from Sally Miles who met Yvonne Harris at a Baltimore restaurant. Yvonne arrived first but couldn't get in because she couldn't reach the doorbell. Pamela recalls "some Baltimore law librarians who could put their Washington counterparts under the table at AALL meetings." Unfortunately, she didn't give any details. (Continued on page 7)

News of Members

LLAM would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest members:

Shannon R. Beatty Law Librarian
Shapiro, Sher & Guinot 36 South
Charles Street Suite 2000 Baltimore,
Maryland 21201-31147 Phone: (410)
385-4275 Fax: (410) 539-7611 E-mail:
srb@shapirosheer.com

Lila Faulkner Librarian I (Government
Docs. & Maps) University of Maryland
Libraries 826 West 37th Street Balti-
more, Maryland 21211 Phone: (410)
662-9846 E-mail: LF71@umail.umd.
edu

LLAM members Joanne She, Mike
Miller and Janet Camillo have been
busy sharing their expertise with the
members of the Maryland Library As-
sociation. Joanne She, Head of Techni-
cal Services at the Maryland State Law
Library, presented a program at the An-
nual Maryland Library Association
Conference in Ocean City on May
10th. Her program entitled, "From

Dewey to LC and Beyond—Reclassi-
fying the Maryland State Law Library
Local History Collection", provided a
detailed description of the major rebr-
ganization and reclassification of over
5000 volumes in the library's histori-
cally significant Maryland history and
genealogy collection. Mike Miller, Di-
rector of the Maryland State Law Li-
brary, also presented a program. His
program, entitled "You Can Lead a
Horse to Water But...Refocusing on
Access Points to Library Information
Resources", highlighted the importance
of libraries focusing their energies on
making it easier for their customers to
find information (either remotely or in
person). The program concentrated on
the importance of identifying customer
needs and fine tuning websites and
opacs to meet those needs. Janet
Camillo, Assistant Librarian at the
Montgomery County Circuit Court
Law Library, participated as a member
of a panel discussing the topic "It's a
Legal Question".

Vivian Shern has been promoted to the
position of Reference Assistant in
Venable's Baltimore library. For the
past ten years, Vivian has been in the
position of Acquisitions Assistant and
during that time has played an increas-
ingly more responsible and responsive
role at the reference desk. Congratula-
tions, Vivian!

Fay Sauchelli, Saul, Ewing, is now
working three days a week, Wednes-
day-Friday. The other two days she will
be taking care of her new twin grand-
children. Congratulations, Fay and
good luck!!

LLAM would like to extend get well
wishes to Jean Hessenauer, Tydings
and Rosenberg, who recently under-
went surgery to repair a broken wrist
caused by a horseback riding accident.
We hope you are "back in the saddle
again" very soon, Jean!

From the LLAM Archives (continued)

4. What is the biggest change that you
have seen in libraries since you became
a law librarian?

The answer is technology.
What is the question? To a
man (and woman), the an-
swers were the web, automa-
tion, electronic media, com-
puters, the Internet. Bill
Grady and I were the only two
to have negative comments
about the Internet, but then
Bill is the LLAM curmudgeon
and I am the curmudgeoness.
From the view of a librarian, I
thought that, in many ways,
the Internet is the greatest dis-
aster since the burning of the
library at Alexandria. Speak-
ing as a lawyer, Bill thought
that the Internet "has so totally
corrupted the learning process

of new attorneys, that they
have neither the time, the at-
tention span nor the inclina-
tion to learn any process that
is not internet-related."

On a happier note, Mary Rice
is pleased to notice an increas-
ing "interest and concern for
the pro se user." On a more
practical note, Mike men-
tioned that a volume of the
A2d cost \$7.50 in 1967 and
about \$100.00 in 2002. How-
ever, Anne Garrett and Mary
Ann Redman described the
reduction of physical space
and the cancellation of publi-
cations in print so, perhaps,
we don't need to worry about
the prices. Ha!

5. Look into your crystal ball and

make one prediction for the future of law
libraries and/or LLAM.

I, see above, thought that there
would be no law libraries in ten
or fifteen years. Fortunately, no
one agreed with me. Anne Mor-
rison wrote that "many of us felt
that we were becoming like the
blacksmiths who watched the
first horseless carriages roll off
the assembly line....To the con-
trary, librarians have proven that
we are essential conduits to in-
formation in our society." Judy
Nixon said that the "physical
library will shrink to 1/10th its
present size – if not disappear
completely" but Pamela and Ed-
ita Butler believe that law librar-
ies are here to stay. Stephanie
Papa sees "less people more

(Continued on page 10)

Career Spotlight

Anna Cole, Miles & Stockbridge Law Library

Working over the computer, with the telephone in one hand and a piece of paper in the other, typing as best she can on the keyboard, Anna Cole is the quintessential law librarian. If you did not know her, you might think that she is a typical mild-mannered librarian. However, she has been known to let her ideas be known to those who work with her on committees or work in the library with her.

The Law Librarians Association of Maryland, known as LLAM to all you Maryland law librarians, just celebrated its 20 year anniversary. Many of the founding and charter members were at the 20 year celebration a few weeks ago. Anna Cole was at the celebration, but is technically not a charter member. It seems that she was on maternity leave at the time, having given birth to twin girls in May of 1981.

Anna has spent many years in the law library profession. She started working for Miles & Stockbridge more than 22 years ago. Before that she spent 7 years at Weinberg & Green. She has been around to see many changes in the profession.

When the idea for a branch of the American Association of Law Librarians was being bantered about, Anna was instrumental in helping LLAM get off the ground. She worked with the other librarians in the greater Baltimore area and attended many informal meetings of the group in the years before the group met officially as LLAM. She served two terms on the LLAM executive board in those early years: 1991-1992 and 1994-1995.

In later years, she was vice-president/president elect in 1996-97, president in 1997-98, immediate past president in

1998-99, and then served 2 years on the board, from 2000-2002.

Anna's calm nature prevailed throughout those years on the board and as president. She felt that "every dog has his right to bark." Her worst nightmare is when folks don't give other folks a chance to talk or when folks talk over one another. Anna has a way of making everyone feel comfortable discussing issues, even ones that are not popular. Her feelings were that issues brought up in board meetings to be discussed were legitimate issues that needed to be talked through.

Throughout the years Anna has had a deep commitment to LLAM. She believes that it comes from an old liberal point of view. "You get something from the profession, so you must give something back". As a whole, librarians tend to be very helpful people. They depend on others and therefore help one another. LLAM provides the opportunity to participate in an organization to learn how to promote ideas and garner support for projects in a nurturing environment.

Anna encourages and supports her staff to attend meetings and volunteer with LLAM and other professional organizations. Her encouragement is always forthcoming when a member of her staff runs for office or volunteers to help with something. However, that could be because of her good-hearted nature, always trying to help others.

The LLAM organization has not been the only recipient of Anna's time and expertise. She is a past president of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and has been a member of their board.

The wind beneath Anna's wings has been provided courtesy of Miles &

Stockbridge. The firm has supported her volunteer work with LLAM and other professional activities. For LLAM this has meant, in addition to Anna's time, providing a place to meet along with snacks or meals, and financial help with photocopying and mailings. In addition to being grateful to M&S for their whole-hearted support, she is grateful to her twin daughters and husband for their support of her work.

"Being a law librarian is still fun and exciting and there is nothing I would rather do than be a law librarian." For next year, Anna has no commitments in the works. She plans to help out where her talents and skills can best be used, even on an unofficial or behind-the-scenes basis.

Written by
Mary Ann Redman
Reference Librarian
Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

AALL News and Announcements

The Flamingo Wants You!

For Immediate Release
May 30, 2002

Care to lend a hand while you're in Orlando? Volunteering at the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference is a great way to create connections and be a part of the action!

The Local Advisory Committee is looking for volunteers who like:

- People! Would you like to interview speakers for the Annual Meeting's daily newspaper, *The Orange Peel*? Would you like to welcome attendees to the conference?
- Reaching out! Would you like to spread the word about a program you enjoyed? Would you like to catch up with both new and established colleagues?
- Fun! All those conference bags don't stuff themselves, you know! It's an informal way to get an early taste of all that the conference has to offer.

If you would like to get involved in Orlando, fill out the Volunteer Opportunities Registration Form in your Preliminary Program or online at http://www.aallnet.org/events/02_volunteer_opportunities.asp

Placement Listings to Be Discontinued in *AALL Spectrum*

The AALL placement listings are making their last appearance in the July issue of *AALL Spectrum* in favor of a more prominent presence online. The *Law Library Journal* and AALL *Spectrum* Editorial Board and Advisory Committee and the AALL Placement Committee are discontinuing the placement listings in the Association magazine because the listings are often outdated when they are published. The copy deadlines for *AALL Spectrum* are two months prior to the issue's publica-

www.aallnet.org/events/02_volunteer_opportunities.asp. Please send your form before June 10 to:

Gregg Gronlund
Head, Law Department
Orange County Law Library
101 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: 407/835-7390
Fax: 407/835-7646

AALL Joins Amicus Brief Challenging Copyright Term Extension Act

The five major library associations, including AALL, and other interested organizations jointly filed an amicus brief May 20 in a U.S. Supreme Court case challenging the constitutionality of the *Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act*.

In supporting the challenger's case in *Eldred v. Ashcroft*, the brief asks the Supreme Court to rule that the extended term of protection for copyrighted works is unconstitutional. The brief explains how the *Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act* exceeds the "limited times" of protection authorized by the Constitution's Copyright Clause and how it stifles the public domain by keeping works under al-

most perpetual copyright protection. The 1998 *Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act* extends the copyright term for an additional 20 years. A commercially produced work is now governed by the provisions of copyright law for 95 years. For an individual's work, the term is "life of the author" plus 70 years.

Joining the brief of the American Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association and Special Libraries Association are the following organizations: American Historical Association, Art Libraries Society of North America, Association for Recorded Sound Collections, Council on Library and Information Resources, International Association of Jazz Record Collectors, Midwest Archives Conference, Music Library Association, National Council on Public History, Society for American Music, and Society of American Archivists.

The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments this fall. For more information about the amicus brief and the case, please go to Washington Affairs Online at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/pr05212002.html>.

tion. Thus most of the job openings are already filled by the time the listings appear in the magazine.

However the placement listings will be posted exclusively on the AALL Web site, AALLNET, at www.aallnet.org. Both committees deem AALLNET an appropriate venue because the site provides timely access: The job ads are posted on the site as soon as they are received and are updated weekly. In addition, the placement listings database will be enhanced with interactive capabilities by September. Users will be able to search the listings by geography or job title. Currently all placement

listings are posted in chronological order. The listings will also be archived on AALLNET for future reference. To promote the placement listings, the weekly e-mail announcements remind members to view the listings on the Web and placement listing icons are posted throughout AALLNET. Starting in September, each issue of *AALL Spectrum* will include a notice directing readers to AALLNET for the placement listings.

For more information about the placement listings, please contact Membership Coordinator Rachel Shaevel at rshaevel@aall.org

MY MARYLAND PROBLEM: LEXIS' RESPONSE

Dear Elizabeth and LLAM members:

Thank you for letting me know that MY is still a problem in the law reviews. I have discovered the root of the problem. The "technical" explanation is that when they originally programmed Lexis someone mistakenly used MY as the abbreviation for Maryland. They temporarily or partially fixed the problem in June 2000. However, when you do a search for Maryland in any source, if My is capitalized, it will appear in your results. I requested they look into correcting it again - pleading for researchers in Maryland. One way to avoid this is using the term and connector And not (My) at the end of your search string (it has to be at the end to be effective). Hopefully this will help to resolve this problem. I'll let you know if I hear anything additional about this.

Traci Douma Basaman, Esq. Account Consultant LEXIS NEXIS (202) 857-8216 or (800) 253-4183 ext. 216 traci.basaman@lexisnexis.com

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The following rates apply per single issue:

Full Page: \$80.00
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Quarter Page: \$20.00
(3 1/4" W x 4 1/2" H)

We are on the web at www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam

From the LLAM Archives (continued)

computers." Ruth Hodgson thinks that we "need to be more aggressive in promoting ourselves and our libraries." According to Harvey Morrell, "someday in the not-too-distant future we will all be working for the West/Thompson/Kluwer/BNA/Lexis conglomerate."

6. What are your hopes or wishes for the future of the organization and/or the profession?

Edita and Sally both hope that librarians get the respect they deserve. Andy Zimmerman hopes for more respect and better pay. Yeah, Andy! Barb Speyser would like to see our employers realize "that we are an integral part of the whole and significantly contribute to the success of the whole." I liked Melissa Maxfield's comments on our contributions to

maintaining the library. "Attorneys have no idea of how much we have to do re: management of the collection and how time consuming it is, and how we have to keep abreast of all the new research software and be experts at it as well." Viola Williams hopes that future generations "will appreciate the trails forged by today's librarians." Steve Anderson wants "our professional skills [to] keep pace with what we need to become." Paul Watson would like to see "the pace of law and business...slow down enough so we could enjoy a 'kinder, gentler existence.'"

As for LLAM, Kathie Swigeney hopes that "it will continue to provide learning opportunities to assist us in staying ahead of the curve." Shirley Aronson wants LLAM "to continue to present infor-

mative, timely programs relevant to our profession." Jim Gernert wants more of the membership to become involved in the organization and Harvey wants to attract "young and innovative people." Joan Bellistri hopes that "LLAM continues to be" and Bill says simply, "May we continue to prosper in whatever strange permutation of books and web."

As the old Yiddish proverb says, "From your mouth to God's ear."

It is not too late. If you have not sent in your survey, you can still do so and become part of LLAM's permanent record. Many thanks to all who responded. Reading these survey answers has been the most fun I've had in LLAM (since the transvestite bar).

Beverly Rubenstein

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LLAM Celebrates With Style!

On Friday, May 10th LLAM members gathered to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our chapter in grand style! The setting for the gala was the Court of Appeals building in Annapolis, home to the Maryland State Law Library. Imagine a full-service kitchen being housed just twenty feet from your library's reference desk, add a few waitresses serving hot appetizers to mingling guests imbibing in assorted light (and a bit heavier) beverages, and what do you get? Definitely a party to remember!

Guests were greeted in the lobby of the Courts of Appeals building. Circular tables lined both sides of the lobby. At the rear, a bartender waited for your drink order. (Thank you to West Group for sponsoring our beverages!) In the center, guests chatted amongst themselves and with our Guest of Honor, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert Bell. Some perused the memory book and photo album that Beverly Rubenstein put together for everyone's enjoyment. Dinner was a delicious treat. Salad and tasty breads were followed by the main course of rockfish stuffed with crab imperial, rice and asparagus. (Had guests gone further down the street into downtown Annapolis, they would have paid twice as much for the same delectable fare!)

After dinner, outgoing LLAM President Elizabeth Rhodes spoke of the accomplishments of the past twenty years. Of particular note was the recent accomplishment of LLAM's Legal Research Institute in January, which drew a "full house!" Elizabeth recognized all the LLAM members who had contributed to the success of the Institute, and the outstanding volunteers that continue to serve LLAM in a variety of other roles.

The LLAM was then officially passed to our new President, Ruth Hodgson. In her first official act as President, Ruth announced she has named our evening's special guest, Judge Bell, as LLAM's first "Honorary Member," due to his continued devotion to law libraries and for encouraging access to legal information for all citizens of Maryland. She then welcomed him to the podium.

Judge Bell spoke of his appreciation of libraries and reminded us all of the important role that we serve in the legal community. We are the access points for legal information, whether the patron is a pro se litigant, a lawyer at a law firm, or a judge. His brief words encouraged us to continue through our next twenty years as diligently as we have the past twenty. As the evening came to a close, the guests were given special wineglasses engraved with a LLAM 20th Anniversary logo, compliments of the Lexis Library Relations Group. (Thanks go to Linda Hutchinson for the great souvenir of a wonderful evening!) If you weren't there, you missed a great party – see you in 2007 for our 25th Spring Fling!

Written by Anne Morrison

