



What do you do in your life outside the library?

*The following responses are available on AALLNET only. For the responses published in the November 2007 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, please click [here](#).

“I spend most of my outside-library time working as a volunteer to preserve the Black Jack Battlefield and promote the story of the battle, what many consider the first battle in the struggle that became the American Civil War. On June 2, 1856, in southeastern Douglas County, Kansas Territory, the abolitionist John Brown led a free-state militia to victory over a pro-slavery militia in an intense three-hour battle. The battlefield was saved recently from suburban development and is part of the emerging Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park (www.blackjackbattlefield.org). I am in charge of on-site tours for the park and am volunteer coordinator for the trust that owns the property. I have also recently begun interpreting/reenacting John Brown for local schools and in public performances.”

- *Kerry Altenbernd, law librarian at Douglas County Law Library in Lawrence, Kansas*

“Our whole family loves to ski and shares a ski house in New Hampshire with other families from December to May. Our son Nathan, who is 10, can now officially pass me on the slopes! We enjoy hiking, bird-watching, and traveling to national parks and have visited Banff, Glacier, Grand Teton, Jasper, Mt. Rainier, Olympic, Yellowstone, and Yosemite. This summer we visited Acadia in Maine and got to see puffins up close for the first time. I’m an avid photographer, and my husband and son know they’ll be waiting as Mom stops to take yet another picture and visit every library we pass. On busman’s holiday, I am a board member of our local library fund raising foundation and also a member of the children’s room advisory committee. Our public library is at

the end of our street, which was a big selling point when we bought our home, and it’s been especially fun reading together as a family. Our family walks in Boston’s 20-mile Walk for Hunger each year and this past year raised more than \$5,000 to help feed hungry folks across Massachusetts. Even though I’ve been a librarian since 1980, it really became official this month when we welcomed Scout, our cat, to the family.”

- *Lisa J. Arm, collection development librarian at Boston University Law Library*

“For the past five years, my husband and I have volunteered at WildCare in San Rafael, California, rehabilitating sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Every Sunday we work as shift supervisors in WildCare’s clinic, where we feed animals, clean cages and enclosures, administer medications, and assist with medical procedures and wound treatments. I have even been able to put aside my persistent needle phobia to suture a deep wound on an opossum. In addition to our Sunday shift, we are members of the raccoon foster care team. We built a cage in our yard and have a very understanding landlady; every summer we raise orphaned baby raccoons at our home, from bottle-feeding through weaning up to their rambunctious teenage weeks before releasing them back to the wild in the fall.”

- *Anne N. Barker, librarian at Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP in Palo Alto, California*

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“Traveling (especially by car) and being with my children are two of my most consistent passions. Developing and realizing these passions has been facilitated by my law librarian career. I have personally driven in every state of the United States, except Hawaii and Iowa. On my longest trip I drove through 23 states on a three-week trip, with my now 15-year-old son, Tyler. This was when I drove from North Carolina (in-between jobs at University of North Carolina and Mercer University Law School) to the AALL conference in Seattle (where my car was stolen!). My oldest son, Jonathan, and Tyler have traveled with me to Maine (after the Boston conference) to Key West (when I was at the Orlando conference) and to San Antonio (via New Orleans, just prior to Katrina). For the latest conference, Jonathan (now in college) traveled down alone to New Orleans to meet and visit me (where he also got a job as a LexisNexis sign-board person). This year I drove from my new home in Lubbock, Texas, to Las Vegas (for CALI) and to Tucson (for the 2007 AALL Leadership and Management Institute). Both trips brought me to some beautiful places, including Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon, Rio Dosa, Saguaro National Park, and Zion National Park. I broke my string of five years driving to each AALL conference by flying to New Orleans, but I plan a road trip to Portland. I can't wait for the adventures it brings (hopefully with my children joining me). I hope my children will also pick up the passion of traveling and seeing this beautiful country.”

- E.H. Uwe “Ed” Beltz, associate director for the law library and computing at Texas Tech University Law Library in Lubbock

“My hobby—also my mid-life crisis—is finding new music. A few years ago I hooked my receiver up to my PC and started surfing for new sounds on radio station streams throughout the world. After listening to Sharon Jones’ soul version of “This Land is Your Land”; Duoud from Turkey take an ironic spin on the theme from ‘Midnight Express’; the Hassidic reggae rap of Matisyahu; the jazz of the polyglot Pink Martini; and the noble blues of Tinariwen from North Africa, I can say that, in a world threatened to be torn

apart by extremes, music is a powerful unifying force.”
- John Cannan, assistant law librarian at Montgomery County Circuit Court Library in Rockville, Maryland

“My life outside the library consists of attempting to stay in decent physical shape, visiting my grandchildren and family, and reading. My hobby is watercolor painting. It is a very challenging medium, and I love it. I got involved after I obtained my MLS from the University of Missouri. I was taking classes at the advent of online learning, so my fellow car poolers and I commuted the 150 miles to Mizzou from St. Louis several times each week. It was a wonderful experience, but exhausting. When I had finished with the MLS I swore off footnotes, and I decided to use my left brain for a while. I had taken art courses over the years and wanted to get back to that. I chose watercolor painting because of the challenge—it is a very unforgiving medium, and I love the transparency and immediacy of paint on paper. I take a painting class each week and have had some success selling a few of my paintings. I work from digital photographs I have taken. This is one area where technology has been extremely useful; I can get immediate images from camera and print or download to copy and paint. I also can keep a digital archive of my work.”

- Helen Capdevielle, librarian at Lewis Rice & Fingersh LC in St. Louis

“In my leisure moments, you will probably find me baking or beading. For both, the process is relaxing, the end result is practical and satisfying, and the short turnaround time ensures immediate gratification. About how many things in one’s life can one say that?”

- Donna F. Cavallini, market research specialist at Arnold & Porter LLP in Washington, D.C.



“Life outside of the library? Are you kidding?!? It’s sad, but I live for library projects. Recently I finally finished coding our library’s virtual tour. For three months I’ve dreamed about this project. For two weeks straight I created HTML code. I tell my wife that I’m playing a game on the computer, and I sneak out 100 lines of code before she catches me. I’ve stopped responding to my wife when she asks, ‘Penny for your thoughts?’ because she knows I’m thinking about HTML code. I’ve lost 10 pounds, and I’m on to the next project. Life outside the library?!? Wouldn’t think of it.”

- *Bret N. Christensen, public services librarian at Riverside County Law Library in Riverside, California*

“Dogs, dogs, dogs!!! Aside from my own rescue dog, Smokey, I have two others. I am a ‘foster mom’ for HART Foundation, which finds homes for companion animals whose owners have died or gone to major skilled nursing facilities. Right now my foster dog is Toby, a 13-year-old, nearly blind terrier mix with a precious personality, who constantly chatters to himself. You can rescue animals of all kinds (from HART and many other public and private shelters and rescue organizations) at www.petfinder.com. In addition, I am a ‘puppy raiser’ for Guide Dogs of America (www.guidedogsofamerica.org), which involves being responsible for the basic training and constant care of a young dog from eight weeks to 18 months—when it returns to GDA for months of guide dog training and then 28 days of intense training with its new master. The puppy raisers get to meet the blind people who have been matched with their dogs at the graduation ceremony. If you ever have a chance to go, bring tissues, as it is a very moving experience to understand what a difference the seeing eye dog makes in a blind person’s life. These little ones keep me busy, entertained, well-loved, and introduce themselves to the nicest people!”

- *Carol Ebbinghouse, California Court of Appeals-2nd District in Los Angeles*

“My involvement in activities outside the library is really an extension of what drew me to library work in the first place—service. The largest share of my

time outside the library is spent with city council business. In the early 1990s I served on the Library Committee for Clive, a Des Moines suburb that had no library but that contracted for service from neighboring communities. The city council did not think a library was needed, so I decided that needed to change. I ran for city council in 1995 and was elected. After taxpayers passed a bond issue, the new Clive Public Library opened in 2000 and now is one of the busiest in the state. I was re-elected in 1999 and 2003 and am on the ballot this fall seeking a fourth term. The skills for serving patrons readily transfer to constituents in helping deal with their problems. In 12 years on the council, that passion for helping citizens and solving city problems is rekindled as each challenge is presented, just as it is in addressing law library problems that arise. Serving in public office, whether on the council or on a metro-wide board, such as the MTA chair, hopefully has provided greater visibility to the contributions librarians make in many organizations. My primary challenge this fall will be to ensure that voters do not confuse me with the ‘other’ John Edwards running for office.”

- *John Edwards, associate dean for information resources and technology and professor of law at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa*

“When my day job is over, I head for the hills. Well, to the stable, to be more precise. That’s where Angel, my Quarter horse gelding, lives. Horses have been part of my life since I was old enough to know what one was (always item no. 1 on my Christmas list: ‘Pony’), but it has been only recently that I’ve been able to afford one of my own. My favorite days during the work week are Tuesday and Thursday because on those days I bring a change of clothes with me and head to the stable right after work. Nothing beats the welcoming nicker and the warm, clean, dusty smell of a horse’s neck. I saddle him up for our lesson, chat with friends, de-tack, give Angel some horse treats, and head home in the best frame of mind possible. On the weekends we often head out for a trail ride. Even after all the times I’ve hit the dirt, broken a finger, twisted a knee, or had my foot stepped on by

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a 1,000-pound animal, I wouldn't trade it for all the Linden dollars in Second Life."

- *Janet Fischer, collection development/government documents librarian at Golden Gate University Law Library in San Francisco*

"What hobby combines familiar skills, including vendor relations, archiving and preservation, cataloging, collection development, research, reference, acquisitions, and budgeting, with a smattering of geography, history, art, and civics thrown in for good measure? Philately does, defined by *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* as 'the collection and study of postage and imprinted stamps: stamp collecting.' This fascinating pastime, said to be the world's most popular with 100 million plus participants, was born only after 1840, when Great Britain issued the very first postage stamp featuring Queen Victoria (the famous Penny Black). Up until that time recipients paid mailing charges, so this concept was a radical paradigm shift when introduced. Furthermore, Victoria's subjects took some getting used to the idea that they could lick the back of the queen's head! Finally, stamp collecting can be a good investment, is very hot right now, and is an excellent family hobby that can be shared and passed down to future generations (Fries, John, 'Passing on the hobby,' *American Philatelist*, February, 2007, p. 114)."

- *John P. Fries, library technical services manager at Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C.*

"I am a Saturday volunteer at Sun City Library in Sun City, Arizona. Sun City is a well known retirement community in Arizona. Its library is a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation that receives no tax support. The library supports visually-impaired/disabled patrons, as well a home-bound library members. I work with Whitey, who is 91 years old and sharp as they come. The library is more than a reference resource to the Sun City community. It is a source of lifelong learning and a genuine example of community caring about community at its highest level. There are more than 200 volunteers at the library, and I am happy to be one of them. When I first started as a volunteer they asked me if it was

too stressful working at the DVD, books-on-tape desk, which is very busy. I answered that I was also a law librarian and stress for me was definitely not wondering where season four of the 'Sopranos' went (www.sclib.com)."

- *Charlotte Graesser Henderson, library services manager at the Arizona Offices of Quarles & Brady LLP in Phoenix*

"I play with and spoil my shih tzu, Pepper Ann, and her best friend, PB, another shih tzu owned by my friend Daron. They have become such good buddies, in fact, that Daron and I share custody of them so they're never apart. Neither of them are particularly well trained, and they don't do any tricks. They both, however, provide unconditional love, which, at the end of a rough day working with attorneys, is all I can ask for."

- *Mary Kay Jung, director of library services at Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis*

"My life outside the library is much the same as inside the library. I answer questions of great urgency, as in 'What are we having for dinner?' or 'Can we go to the pool?' I provide research assistance to elderly relatives in the form of researching symptoms and conditions on the Internet. I order and categorize books and other materials to best serve my small, but focused, user group. I make decisions for those purchases with a budget in mind, however small that budget seems compared to my work budget. I read and discuss books and make future purchases based on some of those discussions. I investigate new and different forms of media and information: 'Should we get Wii or GameCube?'"

"My passions are my family, photography, reading and book club, tennis, the beach, and bicycling. While I love my job, my passions go a long way to keeping me grounded. I enjoy seeing the photos from the contest that AALL sponsors. I hope to find time to enter the contest next year."

- *Leslie C. Leach, head librarian at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Wilmington, Delaware*

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“In my other life, I ride, breed, and train horses. I have a small breeding farm (it’s a business, honest, d/b/a and all) and own a broodmare, a couple of show hunters, some miniature horses, and stand a stallion at a nearby breeding farm. Between farm chores (which never end!) and my other life as a law librarian, there aren’t many free hours in the day. I’ve been known to do conference calls from my cell phone at the barn, while getting horses ready to load on the trailer to go to a show, but I’ve not yet had to handle a research request while on horseback (I’m sure the day will come).”

- *Caren Luckie, librarian at Jackson Walker LLP in Houston*

“My life in the law library tends to be fairly sedentary. As the years went by, it became apparent I was going to have to abandon my sedentary lifestyle outside the law library. About four months ago, The Lopers came to town. They train runners and walkers to complete (note: not *compete* in) the Los Angeles Marathon. Moved by an unfamiliar burst of confidence and enthusiasm, I joined. Now, fresh off the couch, I’m training to walk the LA Marathon. Every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. I’m at the park with about 150 other determined individuals, cheering each other on as we work our way up to 26.2 miles by March 2. During the week I walk three miles on Tuesday and Thursday and cross train Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I’m loving it!”

- *Betsy Manouchehri, associate director at the Riverside County Law Library in Riverside, California*

“Outside of the library, I serve on the governing board of a local advocacy group for persons with disabilities and serve on its scholarship committee, to mention just one. I like to swim laps in any swimming pool I can find. And in my aquatic Walter Mitty life, I’ve swum the English Channel, the mighty Mississippi from St. Paul to New Orleans, rescued children from choppy seas, and won several Olympic gold medals in the freestyle. I wake up and see the water has drained in the tub.”

- *Anne McDonald, librarian at the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General in Providence*

“I am exploring letter boxing. My daughter and I will design and make stamps for ourselves and our family this fall.

“I used to ride horses, but had to reluctantly give that up as I become more disabled with arthritis. My last riding efforts ended in 2004 when I discovered that even ‘gaited’ breed horses, like Rocky Mountain horses, are too rough for aging bones. I still have a dog, and he is my personal trainer, getting me out to the park each day.

“Aside from that new hobby of letter boxing, I began writing poetry rather suddenly at the end of 2005. I made a poetry blog, originally as an archiving mechanism. I blog with a group of other law librarians at Out of the Jungle, so it was an easy step to create a new blog for my poetry at <http://Poyetry.blogspot.com>. Some of it is better than others, but I have been enjoying doing it and learning. I went to a writing workshop this past summer, the Juniper Institute at University of Massachusetts Amherst, and had a wonderful time. There was a wide range of ages in the participants, with most being late teens and early 20s to early 30s. There were a few older participants, and it was so nice to see interaction across all age groups and backgrounds.”

- *Betsy McKenzie, director of Suffolk University Law Library in Boston*

“One of my favorite hobbies is studying about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. I am a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Civil War Preservation Trust, so I spend a lot of time visiting battlefields and historic sites associated with the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln (the one lawyer everybody likes). When I was in New Orleans for the recent AALL conference, I visited Memorial Hall Civil War Museum, the second largest collection of Confederate memorabilia in the world. Other places I have visited recently include Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln’s oldest son, and Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C., the site of Lincoln’s assassination. On one of my more memorable vacations, I sailed down the Illinois River on the famous steamboat, the Delta Queen, where I listened to a Civil War historian tell stories about Abraham Lincoln (traveling eight miles an hour down

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river on a beautiful boat is the very best way to study history). In 2006, I even attended a re-enactment of the wedding of Abraham Lincoln's parents in Springfield, Kentucky. I am especially looking forward to all of the upcoming celebrations being planned to commemorate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 2009 and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011."

- Diana Mercer, public services/government documents librarian at the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library in Columbus

"My family is my hobby, my passion, and my life outside of the library. My wife, Mary, and I have four wonderful children aged 1 to 5. Needless to say they keep us extremely busy, but also extremely happy. Whether it's reading books, doing puzzles, playing ball, or changing diapers, there's never a dull moment around our house. While I can honestly say I love my job, the highlight of my day is going home."

- Shawn G. Nevers, research librarian at Brigham Young University Howard W. Hunter Law Library in Provo, Utah



"I draw portraits in pencil and pen."

- Shawn Pierce, technical services librarian at Arkansas Supreme Court Library in Little Rock

"My life outside the library is filled with many things—my family, reading for pleasure, some travel, and quilt making. This last item fills my evenings and uses up a good deal of my disposable income. Most of the quilts I make are small items—wall hangings and lap throws. This allows me to complete 12 to 15 projects per year. Most are given away as gifts to friends and family members. I learned to quilt the same year I became a law librarian, in 1985. I had just moved to Columbus, had no friends yet, and was looking for something to do with my time. I took a class offered at a local high school and was hooked. In the last 22 years I've amassed a good sized hoard of

fabric, dozens of books and patterns, countless tools, and three sewing machines, not to mention some very special friends. I found a creative outlet in a craft that also has a place for precision; it's not so very different from being a cataloger during the day."

- Phyllis Post, head of technical services at Capital University Law Library in Columbus, Ohio

"I serve as the president/secretary of a nonprofit organization, Asian Women's Self Help Association (ASHA), an all-volunteer organization that provides culturally-specific support and services to women and children of South Asian descent who are victims of domestic violence. Asha means hope in Hindi. We serve the Washington metropolitan area. Our dedicated volunteers contribute thousands of hours teaching our clients life skills, such as how to open a bank account, take public transportation, and fill out online job applications so they can attain self-sufficiency. We have provided help with referrals for psychological and legal counseling, translated legal documents, and accompanied them to court and medical appointments. So far this year we have donated a car, bought computers, and provided financial assistance for tuition, rent, groceries, and children's uniforms. When I first started volunteering in 2002 I had absolutely no experience in any kind of social work, had never served on any board, and wondered what a law librarian could do to help victims of domestic violence. I was in for a pleasant surprise. I helped update the bylaws, created the organizational structure with different committees and wrote job descriptions, took clients to court for their Protective Order hearings, and searched legal aid clinics and bar associations to find legal help in their child custody battles and immigration status. Since January of this year I have assumed the fancy title of president (no one else wanted to do it). Now I spend my time doing fund raising, looking for corporate sponsors and donors, writing newsletters, and doing outreach. We raised \$30,000 in April at our first fund raiser gala! I was able to invite Neal Katyal, the Georgetown Law Professor who won *Hamdan v. U.S.*, as our keynote speaker, all pro bono! Next year's dream is to invite Senator Mikulski (D-Md.), a

women's issues champion, to be our keynote speaker and raise \$50,000. Wish us luck!"

- *Nalini Rajguru, manager of library services at Caplin & Drysdale in Washington, D.C.*

"Relaxation is a must for me when not working for the federal courts, so my passions outside my work environment include Hatha and Kundalini Yoga, Tai Chi, and walking. Reading mysteries and nonfiction, as well as working on photography, help to take me into new settings and experience new adventures. Traveling to at least one distant locale once a year keeps me in touch with life outside our own country and gives me the opportunity to meet new and interesting people and learn more about foreign politics and cultures. My volunteer work with Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM) is done as a way of giving back to the community, the joy of helping families reconnect, and seeing second chances happen for troubled women and mothers."

- *Evelyn Ortiz Smykla, court librarian at the Library of the U.S. Courts 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Mobile, Alabama*

"My previous life was in theatre, and while it's been a long time since I've acted or directed, I still write plays, a couple of which have been produced. My hobbies include scrap booking, photography, and collecting stray animals. Online, I spend most of my time on MySpace and in Second Life."

- *Terri Wilson, librarian at Underwood Law Firm in Amarillo, Texas*