

NOCALL News

Northern California Association of Law Libraries
A chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries



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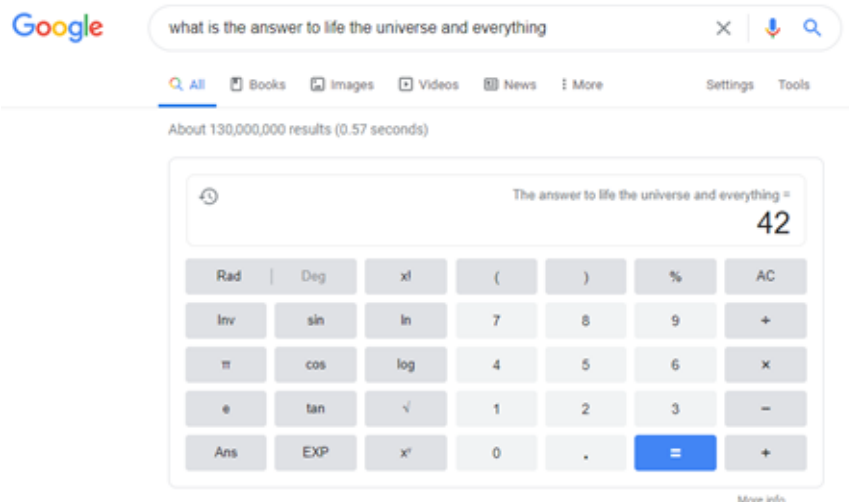
President & Past President's Column

Hello NOCALLers and future Coronavirus historians! It's interesting to look at past President's columns from earlier this year, and to see how our plans have smashed into reality. We shall see what the coming months bring! This newsletter would normally have come out while Jocelyn was still President, so Sarah and Jocelyn have decided to write this column together. For now, here are our plans:

The NOCALL **Spring Institute** has been rescheduled for November 13th. Unless we are faced with a resurgence of the Coronavirus this fall, the Institute will be held in Davis at the UC Davis Alumni Hall. If we are unable to hold it in person, we will host an online event that same day. We will not be setting up a hotel block, trusting that rooms will be available at the closest hotel, the UC Davis Hyatt Place. For further details, please check out the meeting minutes from the May Business Meeting. We will update the "Spring" Institute Page on the NOCALL Web Page as soon as we've rebalanced the programming.

Another event that has been sidelined by the virus is our **40th Ruby Anniversary Celebration!** Our original plan was to have a two-location party, with a river cruise at AALL in New Orleans and a Hornblower Cruise on the SF Bay. Of course, any cruise is now out of the question, and AALL will be a virtual conference. We are hoping to follow in the footsteps of our friends in the Atlanta chapter, and set up a virtual happy hour with a guest from AALL, for this year.

At the May Business Meeting, Past President Jocelyn proposed that instead of rolling our 40th anniversary to 2021, we wait until 2022 for our 42nd Anniversary, and host an "Answer to Life, The Universe, and Everything" Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy themed party. If we don't have a vaccine by then, heaven help us, we'll probably need a party. At least we'll have our towels.



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Our wonderful colleagues at AALL are setting up what looks like an amazing online **Annual Meeting**– this cannot be an easy transition to make. They've shown great grace and ability to think on the fly when switching to this format. The registration cost is only \$99 for members, which makes this a bargain of a conference! We hope to see many of you there, both attending and presenting.

And now to the elephant in the room: what can NOCALL do to help our members who are facing the social and economic fallout of the Coronavirus?

- *Mental and Emotional Peer Support:* Julie Horst and the rest of the Networking Committee have done an amazing job of organizing NOCALL's Zoom Social Calls. The first, and most obvious, problem with the Coronavirus has been the social isolation and the attendant effect on everyone's mental and emotional health. Julie, Maribel, Andrea, and the rest of the crew: thank you for making sure that our people are able to combat that side effect of working from home.
- *Economic Effects:* Many of us may already be seeing a reduced income, or a change in our economic outlook. In 2008, many firms cut funding for continuing education for staff. Many governments and law schools stopped hiring, furloughed workers, etc. We'd love your ideas on how we can we support our members during this time.
 - Member Grants – We've increased funding for grants in recent years, and if we've built up a rainy day fund, this is a good place to (continue to) use it.
 - Reduced (or Gratis) membership fees for people with reduced salaries (or who have lost their jobs). We are open to comments on how to make this work!
- How else can we help? We're planning to send out a survey in the near future to get your suggestions of ways that NOCALL can help.

In addition to the upcoming survey, if there is anything we can do to make NOCALL a more welcoming environment for all of our members, please let either of us know. We will work with the board to implement any suggestions.

Congrats to our new Board and a huge thank you to the outgoing Board members!

-Sarah and Jocelyn

NOCALL News

The NOCALL News is published five times a year by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership.

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NOCALL BOARD STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES MATTER

June 19, 2020

The Executive Board of NOCALL, the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, acknowledges the historic and continued deaths of black Americans at the hands of those wielding the law as well as the extrajudicial killings that continue into the present. The Board wishes to emphasize the extent to which Black Lives Matter by creating an organization and a profession that reflects the actual diversity of our state and lives up to the ideals of justice embodied in our profession. Anti-racism is an ideal NOCALL has always held, as shown by the anti-discrimination clause in our Constitution, which was adopted in 1985. However, this clause, on its own, has been insufficient to this task—there is more work to be done.

In coordination with the Black Caucus of AALL, the American Association of Law Libraries, we will make significant changes to NOCALL during our tenure. The areas they indicated in which change would be most meaningful are : ensuring a recruitment & retention pipeline for black law librarians, keeping NOCALL accountable as an organization, and ensuring that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) Californians have access to justice through county law libraries. These three areas provide many opportunities for NOCALL to change its policies and procedures. Our initial changes are outlined below; specific details on administering these changes will be worked out with the relevant committee chairs, documented in the appropriate location, and shared with the membership.

Recruitment & Retention

Recruiting BIPOC members is difficult in a national profession that is largely a white and niche profession requiring educational degrees that have very real barriers for would-be BIPOC law librarians. As such, NOCALL will:

- Make a one-time donation to both California Library Association and AALL minority scholarships.
- Establish an annual Student Trustee role through the Academic Relations Committee to expose BIPOC students to law librarianship and professional engagement through NOCALL Board mentorship

In many law libraries, retention depends on skill acquisition and a record of professional activities,

both of which NOCALL can assist:

- For any limited-seat event, give preference that 50% of the seats will go to BIPOC attendees
- For every grant opportunity, specifically set aside awards for 1) black applicants and 2) other applicants of color, with a goal of 50% BIPOC awardees, and actively solicit applications from BIPOC members
- The Membership Committee will actively reach out to any BIPOC AALL members in Northern California and encourage membership in NOCALL

Keeping NOCALL Accountable

We are dedicated to making substantive change to the diversity and inclusion of our membership and must hold ourselves accountable, this year and in future years:

- Add an optional field for race to the Member records in Wild Apricot
- Encourage BIPOC members to update their Member record before the next Nominations cycle
- Set an expectation that the Nominations Committee will recruit BIPOC nominees every year (understanding that we will assist with barriers to service to the fullest extent possible)
- Require the Membership Committee to report on the number of BIPOC members in each annual report
- Create, adopt, and promulgate a Code of Conduct for all NOCALL events and our listserv, to establish expectations for collegial behavior and provide a structure to report violations, including microaggressions
- Set an expectation that we will actively solicit BIPOC speakers at our events, with a goal of 50% of Spring Institute speakers being BIPOC
- Provide a remote anti-bias training session, as soon as feasible, that is free for all members

Access to Justice

Access to Justice in California depends largely on the tireless work of our county law librarians. While NOCALL cannot provide access directly, there are plenty

HEADNOTES FROM HOLLY

Holly Riccio

of steps we can take to better support our county law librarians so that they can do the vital work that BIPOC Californians need:

- Continue our assistance to lobby state legislators, as we did in the budget allocation efforts in 2018/19
- Set aside grant awards specifically for county law librarians, for all grant opportunities
- Establish an official liaison to the Council of California County Law Librarians, who will also sit on the Access to Justice Committee and report news/activities from CCCLL at each NOCALL Business Meeting, with the expectation that NOCALL will act in any way possible to support CCCLL

Beyond these actions we must take to remake our organization, we encourage our non-black members to do the hard work of examining white privilege as it appears in their personal and professional lives. As librarians, we know how to find information: now is the time to read and discuss books and other media about injustice and anti-racism, to understand the inherent racism in our civic lives as well as within the legal system of which we are an integral part.

For all of our members, we encourage actions on a professional level to hold our institutions (including our vendors) to a higher standard of actions as well as words, and welcome feedback on ways NOCALL can support you in those efforts. If you are moved to directly support these goals through volunteering on a committee implementing these changes, please email NOCALL President, Sarah Lin.

To our black colleagues, should there be any additional actions you feel the Board needs to implement in its goal to support your personal and professional lives, you need only let any one of us know at any time. Institutional racism is widespread and pernicious, but it has no place in NOCALL.

With respect & solidarity,

Your NOCALL Executive Board, 2020/21

Sarah Lin, President
Delia Montesinos, Vice President
Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, Past President
Hilary Hardcastle, Secretary
Jean Willis, Treasurer
Chuck Marcus, Member At Large
Kristin Brandt, Member At Large

MAGIC 8 BALL... If I had asked the Magic 8 Ball back in January what I could expect in 2020, I imagine it might have replied "Better not tell you now." The last time I wrote this column, I had no idea that the world would experience the events it has in recent months. In March, I was still settling into my new job, looking forward to things like decorating my office and scheduling staff birthday lunches when we started to shelter in place and our entire library staff began working remotely. I have now spent more time working from home than I did in the office. That feels strange to say, but it illuminates for me how important creating trust and connection right away with my team was. That foundation made—and continues to make—a world of difference.

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS... One thing I have seen illustrated repeatedly during the last few months is the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of my fellow legal information professionals. I am a participant in several regular video calls that individual law librarians established when they observed a need and filled it in a very grass roots way. The professional associations I am involved with have also undertaken many imaginative and inspired efforts on behalf of members. My favorite so far has been one of ILTA's efforts they dubbed Teach a Skill/Learn a Skill (TaS/LaS), a member-driven micro-volunteering opportunity that is "...a hybrid form of mentorship and speed-meeting." Members were asked to share what they wanted to learn or what they could teach, and then groups formed organically and met to teach and learn. The best thing about my chosen profession has always been the camaraderie and willingness of colleagues to share and help whenever possible, and the last few months have certainly validated that over and over again.

NOW YOU SEE ME... I am an extrovert and a connector at heart, but even I have fallen victim to Zoom fatigue at times lately. At first, we were all adjusting and, at least for me, I craved seeing my colleagues, even if it was only on my laptop screen. Sometimes now, to be honest, I prefer to turn the video off and just talk. I think so many of us have started to think before we schedule a video meeting, to figure out if seeing the other person or people will really enhance the conversation or is needed to create connection. If not, the good old telephone seems to be coming in mighty handy. If only I could time it so packages

arrived and the doorbell rang when I was not on a call or in a video meeting...

A SILVER LINING... I heard a speaker share a great sentiment during a presentation on leading virtual teams, in the context of our current situation: Embrace the Authentic. I wholeheartedly agree. We used to cringe when a person or animal got in the frame of a Zoom call, but now it is making us more connected and real to one another. I hope that this silver lining is one that lasts, and that we all continue to embrace the authentic in each other and within ourselves.

PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie and Kristin Brandt,
U.C. Davis Law Library

“Investigating the Recent Historical Past: Using the Internet Archive Wayback Machine for Litigation Research,” by Justin Broubalow, *History Associates Incorporated*, <https://www.historyassociates.com/investigating-the-recent-historical-past-using-the-internet-archive-wayback-machine-for-litigation-research/>

The author presents an introduction to the use of the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine to research recent history. Now that the repository is searchable, information professionals can uncover more recent information by going through webpages captured in the past decade. As an example, the author researches e-cigarettes, resulting in over 400 captures from eSmoke, an e-cigarette commerce website dating back to 2009. This is a useful adjunct to more traditional sources.

“Free U.S. Salary and Income Data Resources: Uses and Comparisons,” by Roger Magnus, *Online Searcher*, Mar/Apr 2020, pp. 30-35.

This *Online Searcher* article provides a roadmap for finding income and salary data from U.S. government agency and non-government sources. The Bureau of Labor Statistics collects salary and labor statistics and shares the data by both occupation and industry. The Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau, and the IRS are also sources of salary and income data. The article guides searchers to major programs within these agencies and how to search them. The author also suggests Industry-specific sources, including TSNE Mission Works (nonprofit sector), Medscape Physician Compensation Report, and Robert Half’s Salary Guide for Legal Professionals.

“Data Literacy and the 2020 Election, the Perils of Proxy Data” by Kristin Fontichiaro, *Teacher Librarian*, vol. 47, no. 4, pp. 49-51.

In this election year, misinformation and outright lies flood our media. Finding the truth can be challenging. This article discusses the hazards of “proxy data”. Proxy data is a stand-in for something that is more difficult to measure. For example, using student test scores to evaluate a teacher, when the scores may be more related to English language ability, poverty and hunger than anything the teacher has done. Specifically, the author talks about the use of the early-voting states’ statistics as a proxy for the viability of candidates. When a candidate does well in New Hampshire or Iowa, does that make them a more salable presidential candidate? The author argues that, no, because the sample in those states is predominantly affluent and white versus the makeup of the rest of the United States. These states are not a representative sample. However, these assumptions are easily made by media, skewing the news reports. An interesting and informative article.

“How You Should Read Coronavirus Studies, or Any Science Paper, Published scientific research, like any piece of writing, is a peculiar literary genre” by Carl Zimmer, *New York Times*, June 1, 2020.

Because of the Coronavirus epidemic, librarians and the general public are reading more scientific reports. News media pull the latest from unverified articles with the latest in miracle cures and treatments. How do you tell who’s lying? This article can give the non-scientist, non-academic some guidance in reading scientific papers. The problems faced by the non-academic reader include obtuse writing styles (scientists aren’t taught to write) and publication status. A pre-print hasn’t gone through the peer review process, where many errors are caught by reviewers. Even when reading a paper published in a peer-reviewed journal, the reader still needs to keep in mind these things: is the study based on a few patients or thousands? Do the authors mix up correlation and causation? Do the authors actually present evidence to back up their claims? This is a good primer for those who are pulling reports for others.

“Online Learning and the Future of Legal Education,” by Nina A. Kohn, *70 Syracuse L. Rev. 1 (2020)*. Available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3570914.

Should law school be taught online? This article makes the case that legal education can successfully

be delivered online and that the move can lead to innovation in teaching. However, some key elements of online instruction merit further study. First, hybrid models that combine in person and online instruction may offer benefits not achievable by online-only instruction. Second, research must compare live and asynchronous instruction. Live instruction can replicate the experience of traditional classroom instruction, with opportunities for students to respond to questions and “think on their feet.” The author suggests that a move to asynchronous delivery of legal education may be more “radical” than a move away from bricks-and-mortar classrooms.

LEGAL TECH RECAP

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

Most vendors have released tools to track/keep abreast of COVID-related issues; many of these are available outside paywalls. While I am super-grateful for these tools, I am not including them in this recap. Instead, I will point you to the fabulous [LibGuide](#) at the SF Law Library whose awesome librarians are aggregating all the COVID resources they find, including many California-specific tools.

BLOOMBERG LAW

- [Among others](#), added the capability to go from Dockets directly into Brief Analyzer, a CCPA Practical Guidance topic page, better redlining and filtering functionality for Draft Analyzer, a bunch of new trackers and chart builders, and docket coverage for Rhode Island state courts, Idaho state district courts, and Florida District Courts of Appeals.
- [Published](#) the second annual Fenwick-Bloomberg Law SV 150 List, which ranks the 150 largest public technology and life sciences companies in Silicon Valley by revenue

CASEMAKER

- Together with vLex, [announced](#) a partnership with the Kentucky Bar to provide members with free access to both platforms, as well as to Vincent, vLex’s AI research assistant.

CASETEXT

- [Raised](#) \$8.2 million in a round led by “one of the top revenue-generating law firms in the country.” This new funding will be used to invest

more heavily in Compose, the brief drafting tool they [unveiled](#) in February.

DARTS-IP

- Darts-IP is now [part of](#) Clarivate Analytics. As a result, its case law data and analytics solutions will be offered alongside Clarivate’s Derwent, CompuMark and MarkMonitor.
- [Spring 2020 Update](#) [video] added new graphs to the Insights section for all databases. Additionally, you can search for SEP litigation with Standard Disclosures, and search for patents by Local Application Number.

DOCKET NAVIGATOR

- *(received via email)* Added a handy wizard that points you in the right direction: Click a topic and a scenario that best describes what you are looking for and the Search Assistant will do the rest.

FASTCASE

- [Added](#) another partnership, this time with the Alabama State Bar, to provide free access for active bar members.
- [Announced](#) the launch of the third periodical produced published by its imprint, Full Court Press. Produced in partnership with HB Litigation Conferences, the new journal focuses on emerging areas of litigation, with analytics supported by filing data from Docket Alarm.
- [Added](#) 87 ABA titles to their treatise library. Users can access the titles by signing up for à la carte annual subscriptions, with unlimited access to book updates as they become available.
- [Added](#) an agriculture section to their news platform, Law Street Media. Also tied Docket Alarm to the news stories, so you can search for relevant parties, law firms, and judges within Docket Alarm. Best, anyone can view the search results free.

HEINONLINE

- [Reorganized](#) the Criminal Justice in America database and launched it as Criminal Justice & Criminology, a must-have resource for researching criminal behavior, the criminal justice system, and the societal impact of crime.

- [Added](#) a new filter in the Law Library Journal database that allows users to display only the full-text results.
- [Released](#) the *Bibliography of American Law School Casebooks* as a searchable database. This interactive digital list of law school casebooks covers 1870 to current; content is categorized under 230 subject headings.
- [Added](#) a ton of new content, including 11 new law journals, 307 CSR reports, and all the session laws for Vermont and Virginia back to inception.

INTELLIGIZE

- Completely [redesigned](#) its platform, adding new features to the Comment Letter, M&A and Drafting modules. Of note, the Similar Comments feature allows you to locate Comment Letters like one you received or found in search results, while the M&A Results View allows comparison of deal points across multiple transactions in a table format, or to view acquirer and target information side-by-side.

LEGAL RADAR

- *(received via email)* Added Internet & Social Media as a stand-alone industry. It comprises e-commerce websites, social networking hubs, online publishers, dating sites and other internet-enabled companies.

LEXIS

- [Launched](#) Company Analytics, a new module within Context that identifies and visualizes correlations among news, litigation and financial performance for a company. At present, it covers all companies that have litigated in US courts, as well as profiles for large private companies with no litigation history.
- [Added](#) capability to compare expert witnesses in Context. The search results include Hiring Party, Top Jurisdictions, Jury Verdicts & Settlements, Testimonies and Challenges.

LEX MACHINA

- [Added](#) Sacramento County Superior Court and Clark County (Nevada) to their state court analytics; coverage begins with cases filed

since January 1, 2016. San Bernardino County Superior Court is slated for release mid-June.

NEWSDESK

- [Integrated](#) noise filters, which exclude docs like stock performance, obituaries, and sports references from results, into the Simple Search box.

PREQIN

- Fund profiles now display AUM, dry powder, and unrealized value data points. Data on the fund managers' ESG policy has been added under a new tab. All May enhancements [here](#).
- [Added](#) Fund Series, a new tool that centralizes all the key track data on a manager's fund series to streamline screening and initial due diligence process. This is the first of many due diligence features Preqin will release over the coming months.

REORG

- [Launched](#) Legal Billing Rates Database, an analytics tool that uses data drawn from interim and final fee applications in bankruptcy filings. Law firms can use the data to benchmark themselves and prepare for client pitches.

S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE

- May release includes a number of launches and enhancements including, Android app, enhanced Corporate profiles, expanded detailed estimates content, and historical holdings data for funds and ETFs. The complete list of enhancements is [here](#).

VLEX

- [Announced](#) the launch of vLex Justis, which combines vLex's materials with those from Justis, the UK legal research service it acquired in March 2019.

WESTLAW/THOMSON REUTERS

- [Added](#) a quote-checking feature in Quick Check, the brief analysis tool in Westlaw Edge. This new AI-driven feature provides a side-by-side comparison that highlights any difference in the quotes.

- (received via email) Also in WL Edge, users can now apply up to 10 “searches within” to a result set. Incarceration and Arrest Records now available in real time, with most jurisdictions are updated hourly (coverage includes 39 states plus DC).

WOLTERS KLUWER/CCH

- [Announced](#) an alliance with James Publishing to add a number of James’ treatises to Cheetah.
- [Announced](#) a new partnership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators whereby together, they will produce CI Arb’s journal, *Arbitration*, and make it available online along with CI Arb’s member magazine, *The Resolver*.
- [Enhanced](#) the *Almanac of the Federal Judiciary* with a Judicial Caselaw Add-on, which gives users access to a judge’s rulings along with an Interactive Case History Timeline.

THINGS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

- Litera, a legal doc software company, [acquired](#) Best Authority, a TOA product in use at over 90% of AmLaw 100 firms. Mentioning this because they seem to be in a little shopping spree, having acquired Doxly in August 2019 and Workshare in July 2019.
- Bob Ambrogi [launched](#) a podcast rounding up the week’s legal tech news. Episodes are 15 minutes or less and eps come out “every Friday(ish).” The podcast is available via Apple podcasts, Spotify, and Libsyn, among others.
- The results from Jean O’Grady’s ‘Hit or Misses Survey’ are out. [Part 1](#) covers Best New Analytics, Workflow and Law/Reg Comparison Tools. [Part 2](#) identifies the products on the radar for cancellation in 2020: leading the list are the Big Four.
- CodeX FutureLaw 2020 was cancelled but the organizers have posted a virtual version for your viewing and listening pleasure. You can find the playlist [here](#).
- ACC and WK released their 2020 Legal Operations Maturity Benchmark Report. The survey assesses how well corporate legal departments have adopted various initiatives, such as knowledge management,

strategic planning, innovation, technology and information governance. O’Grady recaps it [here](#).

- The latest [WK Future Ready Lawyer Survey Report](#) has been released. As both [O’Grady](#) and [Ambrogi](#) note, the survey shows a disconnect between law firms and clients/in-house counsel. Good news is that 76% of legal pros say the Increasing Importance of Legal Technology will be the top trend to impact their organizations over the next three years. Bad news is that only 28% are ready.

E-READER LIBRARIAN BOOK REVIEWS

Elisabeth McKechnie
UC Davis

We are living in difficult times right now. In keeping with a book which created a list of books with only “happy endings”, this review will only list books which are interesting and don’t end sadly. It won’t discuss price because happy endings are priceless. While sheltering at home and working remotely, I have found these reads helpful and enlightening. I hope you find the same.

All books are available from Amazon in e-book format. Get them from a library if you can

[Reading Behind Bars, a True Story of Literature, Law and Life as a Prison Librarian](#)

Author: Jill Grunenwald
Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing

I have often wondered about what life as a prison librarian must be like. Reading Jill’s book answered that question. Fresh out of library school, Jill took a job as the librarian at prison in Ohio. In a bad job market, she was grateful for the job. She quickly learned about security and the policies of the prison. This prison is no rat-hole but is modern and efficiently run with many constraints on both employees and inmates. She deals with issues of censorship and the lack of budget and materials in a straightforward way that made me want to ship her prison a box of books. It was a fascinating look at prison culture, the prisoners themselves and the hapless idealistic librarian caught in the middle.

Mudlark: In Search of London's Past Along the River Thames

Author: Lara Maiklem

Publisher: Liveright Publishing

Mudlarks are people who comb the Thames foreshore in London for bits of the past. The river has been a dumping ground for over 2000 years, so the pickings are rich, varying from Roman coins to Medieval badges to Tudor jewelry and Victorian mustard bottles. Lara has found it all and describes her searches and finds with a lyrical description of the various parts of the Thames she has walked as well as its history. This is a great read for any amateur archaeologist, history buff or anglophile. While sheltering at home, this book gave me a refreshing trip to London. My only gripe is that she doesn't include pictures of her finds inside the book itself. However, if you'd like to see the sorts of things Mudlarks find, join the River Thames Mudlarking Finds group on Facebook and you'll see plenty. Lara is a member 😊

Ingathering: the Complete People Stories of Zenna Henderson

Author: Zenna Henderson

Publisher: NESFA Press

This is science fiction/fantasy with a difference. If I could characterize Henderson's stories of the People, I would use one word: hope. The People are a race of aliens whose planet self-destructed some time in the 19th century. As a race, they had moved past war and were essentially peaceful. One Group landed on Earth and struggled to fit into human society, with varying results. They possess telekinetic powers, race memory and lack the essential viciousness that has tainted human life since the beginning. Although they are not saints, the People are what humanity could be if we tried. I find them restful and reading the stories replenishes my spirit. They are an effective antidote to the strife presently dogging our world.

All Systems Red, the Murderbot Diaries

Author: Martha Wells

Publisher: Tom Doherty Associates

This series is addictive and has won both Hugo and Nebula awards. Science fiction again. The protagonist is a human/machine cyborg created to be a security presence but has developed a conscience and a soul. It calls itself Murderbot because it remembers being commanded to kill and resents it. The governor module forces it to obey all commands, but it's managed to hack

it and gain free will. This first story is a short novella that opens a multi-volume series as Murderbot manages to make friends and find human support despite itself. It doesn't like humans much and the first person voice of the protagonist is snarky, funny and entertaining. Like eating peanuts, you can't have just one.

REMEMBERING GEORGINE O'CONNOR **NOCALL Memorials Committee** **Leslie Hesdorfer and Jane Metz**

Former NOCALL member Georgine O'Connor passed away on April 17. Her full obituary can be viewed [here](#); a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. NOCALL will be making a donation in Georgine's memory to the Mills College Annual Fund.

Georgine began her law library career shortly after earning her MLIS from San Jose State University in 1983. She was part of the San Francisco law library community for many years, working for a variety of firms including Fisher & Hurst, Broad, Shultz, Larson & Wineberg, O'Melveny, and Stoel Rives. She also worked for a time at the former Bancroft-Whitney Legal Publishers. In addition to being a longtime NOCALL member, Georgine generously offered up her home to host a couple of very enjoyable NOCALL holiday parties. For those who knew her, what stood out most was her kindness and generosity, as is evidenced by the memories shared below.

From Mark Mackler:

I can't say for sure how or when I first met Georgine, but if I had to guess I'd say it was shortly after I started at Farella, Braun & Martel in the mid-1980's. However, it wasn't until the mid-1990's that our professional relationship really expanded. An Embarcadero Center law firm had split up. (Yes, law firms split up just like people.) Georgine would continue on as librarian for the surviving firm, and I was hired to be librarian for the spinoff firm.

Georgine and I worked together to divide the library's holdings, and we had lots of fun doing it. I seem to recall that the lawyers (being lawyers) wound up in litigation against each other.

In addition to Georgine hosting terrific NOCALL holiday parties at her home in Montclair, she also hosted more than her fair share of brownbag lunches when she

worked as librarian for Bancroft-Whitney which was located at the foot of Hyde Street overlooking San Francisco Bay. I don't remember how much work we actually accomplished at those lunches, but the views were certainly breathtaking.

We'll miss you, Georgine. You were a terrific colleague and the perfect host!

From Carolyn Lundin:

I was so sorry to hear of Georgine's passing—she was such a special person. I have wonderful memories of attending parties at Georgine's home. She was so warm and hospitable and everyone had such fun at her parties. I especially remember how Georgine and her daughter, Joyce, came all the way to Palo Alto to attend my wedding many years ago. Georgine was always happy to go the extra mile for her friends. She was such a warm and giving person! We need more people like Georgine in this world.

From Pati Traktman:

I distinctly remember how kind she was and a great conversation we once had at a NOCALL function about a shared addiction to chocolate.

From Diane Rodriguez:

I will always remember Georgine as an incredibly friendly and generous librarian and person. She went out of her way to make me feel welcome when I started out in NOCALL and was someone I could rely on for guidance. I also enjoyed NOCALL holiday parties at her home in Oakland, she would open it up to all of us so we could gather in a warm inviting place. I miss her smile!

From Les Forrester:

I met Georgine in the early 80s via NOCALL and I saw her a lot when I served in a Bancroft-Whitney advisory group. She was always one of those people you loved to run into: cheerful, open, and engaged. She also reminded me of my favorite aunt, so that didn't hurt! NOCALL was lucky to have her in our fold.

From Mary Torres Volken:

The memory I have of Georgine is attending a fun holiday party at her lovely home. We had a long conversation about Christmas cacti, as she had several blooming at once, and mine at home were small and weak. She gave me advice on water, sunlight and soil. The next year I had a few more blooms. She was also

kind when I accidentally broke one of her Christmas tree candles!

I also remember conversations with her about working in law firms. She was angry and insulted when she was asked to "dust the shelves" of her library by a particular partner (can't remember which firm.) She said she very calmly explained what the details of her job were, and that it didn't include janitorial work.

From Leslie Hesdorfer:

I got to know Georgine when we were both new law librarians working for firms in the same building, and we became friends through frequent interlibrary loans. She was one of the first people I met in the law library community, and I really appreciated having such a nice friend and professional colleague so close by. When my first child was born, my husband and I were living in a one bedroom in-law, and didn't have room for a crib. Georgine loaned me a cradle, which we used for the first couple months until we moved into a bigger place. That's just the kind of person she was, thoughtful and generous.

Andrea Woods

San Francisco Law Library

How did you choose law librarianship as a career?

I came into law librarianship completely by happenstance, and I'm so glad I did! After finishing law school, I felt overwhelmed by the practice choices that awaited me. My brother-in-law was in Big Law and slept about three hours a night, and at the other end of the spectrum, a friend from law school asked if I wanted to go into practice with her, which I estimated would feel about the same as Big Law when you factor in the stresses of having to handle every part of running a business, in addition to practicing law. I was searching for a path that offered middle ground. As luck would have it, another friend from my class had recently taken a part-time position at the San Francisco Law Library, but she soon took maternity leave and suggested I apply. Law librarianship is a perfect fit for me.

What's the best advice you've ever received working as a librarian?

I suppose this may not qualify as advice per se, but shortly after joining the fabulous team at the San Francisco Law Library, one of my colleagues, Aaron Parsons, taught me a helpful lesson. It was my first time working with the notorious *Appleman on Insurance* set, and I was trying to muddle through the various pieces—Appleman, Holmes' Appleman, New Appleman, New Appleman Law Library Edition, the giant correlation table—and to add to the confusion, we also have superseded volumes from the original set, and some other of the volumes from the original set were never replaced by the publisher! It was hard to tell what was what, and after getting completely stuck I reluctantly turned to Aaron for help and explained where I was my research, sure that he would think I was total idiot for not being able to solve this. I forget his exact words, but the gist of it was, hey, if you can make as much sense of this as you have, then you're in good shape. It made me realize that I wasn't expected to know the ins and outs of all these resources yet, and that what was important was being methodical, patient, and continuing to persevere. Furthermore, I was struck by the sense of collaboration and teamwork he conveyed, which I think is one of the hallmarks of the SFLC staff and our profession as a whole. As for Appleman? Try me.

What was the last book you read that you really enjoyed and why?

I recently finished the four "Neapolitan Novels" by Elena Ferrante. My initial plan was to read them side-by-side in English and Italian (I was an Italian major in college,

but it's rusty now), but almost immediately after starting the first one I just could not slow myself down enough to go back and read in Italian what I had just read in English. I'm fascinated by characters that you simultaneously love and hate, and the portrait of a friendship that is both supportive and toxic is refreshingly realistic. But aside from those things, what I truly enjoyed was seeing post-World War II Napoli as the backdrop that determined the characters' life chances, and how as time marched on through the novels, the contemporary social and political events continued to inform their lives. Also, there was something so poignant about how an aspect of life can be completely all-encompassing at one age, and then, suddenly, it's just not.

What ability or skill do you most wish you had (that you don't have already)?

Without a doubt, it would be the ability to lift my foot to the height of my head in a *developpé à la seconde* or *en devant*, which is a ballet step where you unfold your leg either to the side or to the front. I started ballet classes almost five years ago and I have had to come to terms with the fact that an adult's body will never have the same ability as that of a teenager who started training as a kid. With almost everything else in ballet (and in life!), I feel like I can continue to progress and improve, but *developpé* seems like something I needed to start working on a long, long time ago. Same with being able to fearlessly drop a cliff while skiing, which is another skill I'd love to have. I could probably get there (although I'm highly practical and the risk-reward calculation doesn't really compute), but those *developpés*... I'll just have to dream!



**NOCALL Business Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2020 - 11:00am - noon
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Attendees: Loyd Auerbach, Kristin Brandt, Jessica Brasch, Kristina Chamorro, Ramona Collins, Tina Dumas, April Eudy, Hilary Hardcastle, Catherine Hardy, David Holt, Julie Horst, Mary Pinard Johnson, Sarah Lin, Chuck Marcus, Nancy McEnroe, David McFadden, Delia Montesinos, Maribel Nash, Holly Riccio, Diane Rodriguez, Christine Sellers-Sullivan, Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, Jeremy Sullivan, Sherlyn Takacs, Jean Willis

Welcome

Congratulations to the incoming board, and the winners of the election!

Spring Institute

We've rescheduled our venue to Nov. 13th, 2020 and hope to have an in-person symposium at that time, in Davis at the UC Davis Alumni Hall. We recognize that an in-person meeting may not be advisable, even in November, with the news reports projecting that a vaccine may not materialize until next calendar year. We plan to check in monthly in September and October and will shift the Institute to an online format if that is the best option.

We will not have a hotel block – we trust that rooms will be available at reasonable rates, and don't want to lock NOCALL in financially under these circumstances. If we are not able to have an in-person meeting, we'll make that determination a month in advance, and move everything to an electronic format, scheduled for that same day. Even if we have an in-person meeting, we may have a number of remote presenters.

Vendors and Sponsors will be able to choose to have their sponsorships rolled to 2021, or we can issue refunds for their payment. NOCALL has the funds to do either (though our processing time with our all-volunteer staff may be slow). Same for registration – if we move to an online format, we'd make the Spring Institute available electronically at a reduced rate. We'd find equitable solutions for everyone who has already paid.

If we do end up having an e-training, we'll host it via our own Zoom account, or use the AALL GoToMeeting license which AALL is making available to Chapters.

Ruby Anniversary

When we arrived in 2020, we thought that we'd have plenty of extra funds, and the ability to celebrate in person. Our original plan was to have a two-location party, with a river cruise at AALL in New Orleans and a Hornblower Cruise on the SF Bay. Of course, any cruise is now out of the question. Our friends at the Atlanta Chapter decided to have an online happy hour, and had our AALL President Michelle Crosby attend as a special guest. Would we like to do something similar?

Jocelyn proposes that instead of rolling our 40th anniversary to 2021, we wait until 2022 for our 42nd Anniversary, and host an "Answer to Life, The Universe, and Everything" Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy themed party.

July Crossover Meeting

This May Business Meeting would usually be taking place at the Marine's Memorial Club in San Francisco, but sadly, San Francisco ordinances prevent this. In order to preserve our deposit, we've scheduled a July crossover meeting at the MMC for July 8th, in the hopes that at least some of us can meet in person. Our contact there let us know that they're setting up meeting rooms so that each person has their own small table, in response to regulations.

Again, we'll also make sure that the Zoom conference option is available, even if there is an in-person component. Our headcount limit on this event is 10 people due to SF regulations.

AALL Annual Meeting

We won't need to budget for our Pacific Group Reception. We hope to have some good news about NOCALL'ers presenting at the online AALL.

Coronavirus Response

Thank you to Julie Horst and the rest of the Networking Committee for taking the lead in organizing NOCALL's Zoom Social Calls. The committee has also planned an online Scavenger Hunt for late May.

Many of us may already be seeing a reduced income, or a change in our economic outlook. In 2008, many firms cut funding for continuing education for staff. Many governments and law schools stopped hiring, furloughed workers, etc. We can support members through:

Member Grants – We've increased funding for grants in recent years, and if we've built up a rainy day fund, this is a good place to (continue to) use it.

Reduced (or Gratis) membership fees for people with reduced salaries (or who have lost their jobs).

We are hoping to send out a survey to solicit additional ideas.

Memorials Funding: This year and next year, we may need extra funding for the Memorials Committee. We have a proud tradition of providing donations in honor of our late peers. We recently raised the amount of our donation to \$100. Let's keep that in effect for the coming years.

Budget Review

We are well positioned to absorb the economic blow of postponing the Spring Institute. Thank you to Nancy McEnroe for her service as our Treasurer.

Committee Reports

The request for these is being sent out late, and under the circumstances, we expect a few delayed replies. Thank you again to all of our committee chairs and members for their hard work throughout the year!

NOCALL Awards

We're hoping to distribute the awards at the Crossover Meeting in June, in person. Everything is being ordered.

Swearing in of New Members

The following officers were sworn in to serve on the NOCALL Board for the upcoming term:

Delia Montesinos, incoming Vice-President and President-Elect, replacing Sarah Lin in that position.

Jean Willis, incoming Treasurer, replacing Nancy McEnroe.

Kristin Brandt, incoming Member at Large, replacing Donna Williams.

Chuck Marcus, incoming Member at Large, replacing Jen Fell.

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong graciously passed the President's Gavel and Cable Car Bell to Sarah Lin.

The NOCALL officers for the 2020/21 term are:

Sarah Lin, President

Delia Montesinos, Vice-President, President-Elect

Hilary Hardcastle, Secretary

Jean Willis, Treasurer

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, Past President

Kristin Brandt, Member at Large

Chuck Marcus, Member at Large

Continuing on the NOCALL Board from the past term are Sarah Lin (formerly Vice-President/President-Elect, now President), Hilary Hardcastle (Secretary), and Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong (formerly President, now Past President).

David Holt (formerly Past President) Nancy McEnroe (formerly Treasurer), Donna Williams (formerly Member at Large), and Jen Fell (formerly Member at Large) have concluded their service on the NOCALL Board. We thank them for their service.

Other Business

Julie Horst asked whether there a call for nominations for awards. David Holt believes the board selects the nominees, but asked for members to send suggestions to Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, who will be chairing that board next year.

Diane Rodriguez mentioned that NOCALL used to maintain a union list where everyone listed their expertise. Would it be possible to revive it and post it online, perhaps along with the membership directory? David Holt and Jessica Brasch will look into doing that with Wild Apricot.