President’s Column

Hello, WestPac members!

While it has certainly been another year of twists and turns, WestPac has continued to move forward.

In-person WestPac meetings and gatherings scheduled for AALL in Cleveland and in Reno in 2021 were hoped for, but ultimately not feasible. Despite this, WestPac members have persevered and continued to demonstrate dedication, thoughtfulness, and creativity in connecting, sharing, and fostering a community of law librarians in our region and beyond.

This past summer was no exception.

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
At the invitation of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Victoria Szymczak of the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law gave a presentation to WestPac members in May about the origins of Pacific Island legal systems and the legacies of colonialism in the Pacific region.

WestPac at the AALL Annual Meeting
In July, WestPac gathered for a fun, virtual social hour on the eve of AALL’s Virtual Conference. At the AALL conference, WestPac members made significant contributions as presenters and attendees. At the Virtual CONELL Marketplace, I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with new AALL members and discuss the benefits of joining WestPac.

Annual Business Meeting
WestPac will gather again virtually on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 2pm Pacific time, for our annual business meeting. (The Zoom link for the meeting will be distributed to the WestPac listserv closer to the date.).

(continued on page 2)
President’s Column, continued

Please make time to attend this meeting. It will be a short meeting (30 minutes maximum!). *It is important for us to have a quorum*, so we can hold a chapter vote on the Life Member Nominees. Jaye Barlous (featured in the Fall/Winter 2020 issue of WestPac News), along with Stacey Gordon Sterling and Harriet Zook (both featured in this issue) have been nominated. Each of them has shown up time and time again for WestPac for so many years, so please show up to vote for them and celebrate their many contributions to WestPac.

The virtual business meeting will also be a time to pass the baton to our new WestPac officers and hear brief reports from our WestPac committees, including the Education Committee’s exciting plans for educational programs this fall.

**Thanks to All**
I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as President of such a great organization. It has been an honor to serve with you all, from each member, to each committee, to each officer on the Executive Board. Thank you all very much, and I wish everyone the very best in the year ahead!

Before packing his bags for Hawaii, WestPac Willie visited the UNLV campus and enjoyed a morning stroll through its xeric garden.
Virtual Social Hour

Although the AALL 2021 Annual Meeting and Conference had been originally planned as an in-person event in Cleveland, Ohio, AALL announced in January 2021 that the conference would transition to an online virtual experience, with live events scheduled from July 19-23, 2021. WestPac typically holds a business meeting during the AALL annual conference, but this year, chapter events and activities could not be scheduled during the AALL conference dates.

To give members an opportunity to connect at least virtually, WestPac hosted a Virtual Social Hour on Friday, July 16th. This informal gathering allowed members to "Zoom in" and chat with colleagues from Wyoming and Utah, to across the Pacific in Hawaii and Guam, and states in between. WestPac'ers took this chance to catch up and share experiences from their libraries, learn about each other’s latest projects, and find out about new books to add to their reading list.

Although a Zoom breakout room can’t match the enjoyment of sharing a meal during an in-person lunch, the camaraderie of WestPac membership spans both a continent and an ocean, and can be felt even through a computer screen.

Fall Business Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Fall Business Meeting to be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 29, 2021** at:

- 11:00 a.m. Hawaii
- 1:00 p.m. Alaska
- 2:00 p.m. Pacific
- 3:00 p.m. Mountain

Additional details will be distributed soon.
WestPac is in good financial shape. We have not had much activity during the pandemic, so our finances have been stable with a net revenue. Regarding pre-paid expenses for our 2022 annual meeting, originally paid in 2020: Bundox Bocce, the original opening event venue, forced us to forfeit our deposit instead of extending our contract to 2022. Whitney Peak, the hotel, will extend our contract and $2,570 deposit to our 2022 annual meeting.

Membership dues were received from 107 members as of August 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Van Duzer
Treasurer, WestPac
Washington County Law Library, Oregon
We have good news to share! Upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee, the WestPac Executive Board has voted unanimously to approve the nominations of Stacey Gordon Sterling and Harriet Zook for Lifetime Membership. These nominations will be submitted to members for a vote at the annual business meeting in September.

**Stacey Gordon Sterling**

Before retiring in 2020, Stacey was the Law Library Director at the University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law, where she was also a tenured member of the faculty, teaching legal research courses and Animal Law. Stacey was hired by the law school soon after graduating in 2000 and before becoming Director was the reference librarian. Before going to law school, Stacey was the director of the tribal library as Salish Kootenai College in Montana, which is where she began her career as a librarian. Stacey is a graduate of Eastern Washington University, the University of Washington School of Library and Information Science, and The University of Montana School of Law.

During her library career, Stacey was very active in WestPac, serving in several roles including secretary and president, and as chair of the Grants & Awards, Education, Local Arrangements (for the 2008 annual meeting), Site Selection, and Membership committees at various times. Although not as active at AALL, Stacey was a founding member of the AALL Animal Law Caucus and served as the Chair of its Education committee.

Outside of her professional work, Stacey has worked extensively with animals and on animal law issues. She served as the Secretary of the Board of the Humane Society of Western Montana, and Chair of the HSWM Legislative and Advocacy Committee (of which she is still a member) and was a member of the American Association of Law Schools Animal Law Section Executive Committee. She is also a HOPE foster parent for the Humane Society of Western Montana and fosters as many puppies as she can. In 2019, she was the recipient of the Humane Society of Western Montana Ken Shughart Humanitarian Award. Her interest in animals led to her second career as Animal Law Program Director for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a role in which she still works closely with law schools and law students.

**Harriet Zook**

Harriet has cheerfully provided many contributions to WestPac over the years, such as serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee for many years; chairing the Membership Committee from 1997 to 2002; editing the WestPac Newsletter for many years, and digitizing back issues for inclusion on the WestPac website; serving on the Membership and Retention Committee; and working on the 2010 WestPac Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee.

Harriet performed her tasks thoroughly, skillfully, and in a timely manner, and often shared her talents through articles, columns, news items, etc. in the WestPac Newsletter.

One of Harriet’s most significant and lasting legacies to WestPac was designing the WestPac Willy mascot, which has become a brand for the Chapter. She meets the criteria for Life Membership and it will be well deserved.
News in WestPac Country

Oregon

On October 8, 2021 the Library Foundation of Washington County, Oregon will host An Evening with Kevin Carroll, author of *A Kids Book about BELONGING*.

This hybrid virtual and in-person event will raise money to support both the Washington County Law Library and Washington County Cooperative Library Services. The virtual program will run from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. PDT. For more information, or to purchase a streaming pass to stream the event live or watch in the month following the event, click [here](#).

Kevin Carroll is a public speaker and author who focuses on play and positivity "as a catalyst for positive change and self-improvement."

The Foundation, which is relatively new, has already used funds to help the Washington County Law Library install new audio-visual equipment to allow patrons to participate in remote legal proceedings, and to purchase a microfilm reader to make their Oregon legal briefs and legislative history collection accessible.

Hawai`i

Brian Huffman, Electronic Services Librarian at the William S. Richardson School of Law and WestPac Past President, authored a chapter in *Introduction to Law Librarianship* (Pressbooks, Aug. 2021). The chapter is entitled "Access to Justice."

Brian has been involved in many facets of Access to Justice (A2J): from legal representation, national presentations, professional organization committee work to coordination of services as a law librarian. The chapter he authored discusses key players in the A2J movement, highlighting partnerships and curated resources. The chapter also covers various models of delivery law librarians can provide. The chapter concludes with a discussion of issues that have been on the horizon for the A2J movement. (Incidentally, Brian is a huge supporter of Open Educational Resources and was especially thrilled this work is licensed under public domain.)

To access the chapter, and the textbook, click [here](#).
WestPac Q&A: Keiko Okuhara

A column featuring a WestPac Member and their answers to five questions

Keiko Okuhara is the Bibliographic Services/Systems Librarian (July 2003-May 2020) and the Metadata Services Librarian (June 2020-Present) at the William S. Richardson School of Law Library of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she has worked for 18 years.

1. **What is the best advice you ever received about working as a law librarian?**

   To be ready for dancing at the closing banquet of the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference. I was told that on the last evening of the AALL conference, there is a closing banquet with a live band for dancing. Maybe this advice wasn’t the most insightful, but I’d like to attend an in-person AALL closing banquet and dance the night away! 😊

2. **What is your favorite app?**

   I should use more apps to make my life fun, but I love Google Maps as a GPS, to help me navigate to my destination. I cannot live without this app, since I don’t have any sense of direction. I’m sure I would circle the island forever if I didn’t have this app. It’s especially helpful since it will tell me, "Turn to the left -- but not this traffic light -- the next one." It seems that Google Maps knows that I need extra help!

3. **What book title best represents your day-to-day work life?**

   I am not sure the ideas of this book represent my day-to-day work life, but I am striving for the guidance I have found in *Integrity: the Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality*, by Dr. Henry Cloud.

4. **What is the coolest thing you’ve seen another library do that you wish you could do at your library?**

   I would like to hire IT tutors to teach us how to use new apps and any cool technologies. I’d also like to have a COVID eliminator/watcher to keep us safe from COVID.

5. **What is something important you have learned at a WestPac Annual Meeting?**

   I learned the joy and significance of hosting the conference in Hawai‘i when I engaged in local arrangements for the joint conference with WestPac and the Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law in 2015. I used to say Hawaii is a place to visit, and not to live, but it’s always fun to have visitors here. Hawai‘i is isolated from the rest of the world, but once you are on the island, you will be enchanted by its natural beauty. I am also grateful for the comradeship and great synergy among our WestPac members.
Grant Report: AALL Annual Meeting
Virtual AALL Conference in "The Cleve"

By Julie Horst, Headquarters Branch Librarian
Ninth Circuit U.S. Courts Library, San Francisco, CA

Thank you very much, WestPac 2021 Grants Committee (Chair - Hilary Hardcastle, along with Jaye Barlous, Alicia Brillon, Robert Truman and Kent Milunovich) for awarding me a grant to attend the AALL Virtual Annual Meeting.

Before this summer, I only had 2 connections with Cleveland: when I was a kid, my brother rode a Greyhound bus from Seattle to Cleveland to attend a juggling convention, and, in 2018 I visited India and met a woman who was from Cleveland. I had long planned to visit “the Cleve” and attend AALL 2021 but as you can all imagine, that did not happen. It was, again this year, a true disappointment to not meet in person. However, I will say there are many benefits to an online/virtual annual meeting -- those being:

1. A longer conference!
Not only was it a longer conference (5 days) but the On-Demand sessions were made available much earlier in the month on July 12th. There also seemed to be a lot more sessions available, and since they were previously recorded and spread out over 5 days, there were fewer time conflicts. Usually when attending in person, I'd have several programs per time slot circled, and then I'd make up my mind on which to attend depending on who I was hanging out with . . . my personal preference being more for the networking than anything else. Also, as someone who deals with many east coast law librarians, it was wonderful to not have to be awake and ready for a meeting at an early hour.

2. On-demand sessions!
I love the on-demand sessions. I could watch and rewind if I missed something, I could click on the speaker info if I wondered about them, I could filter by day, or by session type to find interesting ones. I could easily get the handouts, pause the speakers when nature called or to take notes. I could delay the session whenever the mail carrier rang the doorbell, or when the garbage trucks drove past and drowned out everything. I could look my notes over and think about the topic over time. Then later, I could email the speaker if I had a question or jot notes to myself to ask in a follow-up Live Q & A session. I like having the time to digest what was said and formulate questions later. And I feel like being able to ask a question in chat meant that more voices were heard.

3. Virtual tours!
With all the extracurricular fun at an in-person event, there’s rarely time for me to take the tours, but this year I was able to attend both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Virtual Tour as well as the Virtual Tour of Buckland Museum of Witchcraft & Magick. Fascinating artifacts in both locations! I did pretty terribly on the Rock and Roll trivia contest but getting a glimpse at the amazing items in those locales makes me definitely want to visit them in person.

It was an unexpected pleasure to be chosen for a WestPac grant for AALL and I’m so glad I attended.
Grant Report: AALL Virtual Annual Meeting
A WestPac Member Review

by Anna Russell, Branch Librarian
Ninth Circuit U.S. Courts Library, Anchorage, AK

This year's annual meeting, just like last year's, was entirely virtual. I prepped for the meeting with mixed emotions, wishing for the in-person collaborations while also enjoying the ease of watching sessions from anywhere. This year's annual meeting digital site was well-organized. I began my conferencing by watching as many on-demand programs as I could fit into my schedule.

Being a speaker this year for Diversifying the Law Library Collection with Intentionality, I was impressed by how the program was recorded in-advance and the ease of access for both panelists and audience. The live Q&A sessions for on demand programming were a nice touch. Technology for those events was unfortunately problematic for many of us.

When it came time for the live sessions, I dutifully filled my week's calendar with must-have programming like President and CEO of Time's Up, Tina Tchen’s, keynote address. Her talk was wonderful for the virtual space because she accompanied her discussion with photos of amazing people and places. Because of the need to keep to a regular work schedule during the conferencing, I found that I often missed many live sessions but could happily watch the recording later.

Just as in prior annual meetings, there were roughly six tracks for types of educational sessions and an exhibitor showcase with lots of prizes, new services, and tools to share. I would have liked to take advantage of everything in the conference, but not unique to 2021, I had to pick and choose. There appeared to be something for every type of law library.

I will highlight just a couple of the many intriguing, useful and great sessions from this year. There were at least two sessions related to the Bluebook, which impacts many of us and provided good updates for the twenty-first edition.

From Sovereignty, Native America, and Legal Culture: Why Accessing and Understanding Tribal Law Just Became More Important, I learned so much about where we are at with Tribal Law and a great Open Law project for indigenous law codes. Diversity, equity, and inclusion topics were highlighted through many sessions, providing insights and perspectives that should make us all pause and re-evaluate how current policies and decisions are fostering or hindering our growth as a profession.

A final program I will note because I think it hits on a high-profile topic and spans across all our fields of interest: Understanding Bias in Artificial Intelligence: How Algorithms Impact Our Patrons and Work. I recommend this program, if you have not had a chance to watch, for its potential to impact to our research work in many ways.

As the annual meeting wrapped up, I was impressed by the range of programming from fun and healthy to practical and weighty learning sessions. AALL’s annual meeting, whether online or in-person, always energizes me to go back to my office and implement several new programs. It is with gratitude that I thank WestPac for the grant opportunity and the ability to attend the 2021 meeting. No matter how the 2022 annual meeting develops, I look forward to “seeing” you there.
HEADING INTO THE SUNSET -- A Message from Harriet Zook

I bid a fond farewell as after nearly 42 years I have retired from McGeorge School of Law. I graduated from college with the expectation of continuing my education and becoming a children's librarian. However, that fall I accepted a LTA position in the Catalog Dept. at McGeorge. The process from application to start date was two weeks -- a time frame unheard of these days. Computers were not the norm, OCLC was in infancy, and the card cataloged reigned. Little did I know the changes in store or that I would be sticking it out in one library for my entire career. But I didn’t need to go somewhere else to have a change -- it came to me.

I was fortunate that the Catalog Librarian position became open and was able to retain the position upon completion of my Masters in 1987. I started attending meetings but in WestPac I immediately felt welcomed. It didn’t matter that I didn’t have a JD and that I worked in Technical Services. I hadn’t found that in other places at the time. I enjoyed interacting with everyone and will miss getting together at our annual meetings as it was the one I looked forward to attending each year. I know that WestPac will continue to be that chapter that brings together colleagues from diverse locales and areas of work to great locations and programs to support each other in our chosen field.

As I mentioned, I had wanted to be a children’s librarian and over the years that has led to my collection of over 800 children’s picture books. This fall I will begin sharing my books twice a month with preschoolers at a homeschooling co-op. So I guess things have finally come full circle. Hopefully, I will also be able to do some traveling in the next year and maybe make it to a future meeting as well.

Best wishes to you all!

Karen Selden Announces Retirement

I will retire from my full-time job at the CU Law Library on October 8, 2021. I joined the Law Library in May 1998 without any idea I’d stay for more than 23 years and create such a wonderful career. I’ve learned so much over that time and worked with so many wonderful colleagues, both at the University of Colorado and in AALL.

My husband David (retired director of the National Indian Law Library and longtime WestPac and AALL member) and I are looking forward to moving into our Steamboat Springs home permanently sometime in 2022, as well as traveling. We especially hope to travel to warmer destinations during mud season, with the Hawaiian island of Kauai high on our list.

I’m also looking forward to more time to read, make greeting cards, write letters, keep in touch with friends, hike, ski, cross train, and do some volunteer work, including with AALL. As many people tell me, retirement can be a full time job!
Member News

Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Kyle Brown, Seattle University
Kerstin Leistner, Pepperdine University
Julianne Odin, University of San Diego
Carla Wale, University of Washington MLIS Law Librarianship Program

WESTPAC WEB PAGE
http://chapters.aallnet.org/westpac/
Jason Cabaniss (WestPac Webmaster), aallwestpac@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE
Fall/Winter issue -- publication is December
Spring issue -- publication is April
Summer issue -- publication is August
(deadlines will be announced prior to publication)
Submissions to WestPac News should be sent to the editors at news.westpac@gmail.com Please submit as attachments in Word format.