

We grow smarter communities, one person at a time.



Teen Advisory Board Puts Teen Library Customers in the Driver's Seat

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at Northwest Library takes a different approach to teen programming by encouraging teens to take ownership of programming at their local library.

The program was developed by teen librarian, Kassy Nicholson. She got the idea from an American Library Association (ALA) course on engaging teens. It suggested teen programming be on the same day each week and creating a program with teen buy-in.

Nicholson inspired teen buy-in and ownership by creating TAB, a weekly group of teens that get together to plan and implement library programs.

"Some of them definitely enjoy the leadership aspect of it. Others are mostly in it to meet other teens. Others enjoy the activities and feeling like their voices are really being heard," Nicholson said.

The group now plans "Teen Time Activities" several months in advance. They are responsible for coming up with ideas, planning activities, hosting activities, and recruiting teens to attend.

"Really the only fool-proof way of promoting teen programming is through teen word of mouth, so that buy-in is very important," Nicholson said.

Jesslyn Chain, 15-year-old TAB member, started volunteering at

the library last summer.

While volunteer hours look great on her college resume, Chain said she gets much more than that out of the Teen Advisory Board.

"I love having the opportunity to reach out to my peers in the community," Chain said. "We also get to socialize with other teens and learn life skills."

The opportunity to be a part of a structured environment in which they can be the decision-makers also gives them skills to prepare them for future jobs, Chain said.

"I get to get a lot done, and learn along the way," she said.

Each week the teens set aside time to discuss future programs at the library in the areas of creative writing, STEM and study skills.

"We are always trying to make the library more inviting to our peers," Chain said.

The TAB program includes about 10 members, and Chain said they will try to get more teens involved by reaching out during summer reading.

Nicholson said her hope is that TAB will create lifelong library customers.

Coming Up

May

Date	Event
All month	Mental Health Awareness
May 17	Commission Meeting at Southern Oaks Library
May 27-28	Memorial Day Weekend (LIBRARY CLOSED)

June

Date	Event
Jun 1	Summer Reading Program Begins
Jun 1	GLBT Book Month Begins
Jun 4	Neighborhood Arts Begins
Jun 21-26	ALA Conference
Jun 30	2nd Quarter Safety Training Due

Missing Something?

Contact Victoria
victoria.garten@metrolibrary.org

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From Our History Databases: Memorial Day



Memorial Day was first observed as "Decoration Day" on May 30, 1868 by the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating the graves of Civil War dead. In 1971 the holiday was observed as it is known today, Memorial Day.

Following the post-war reconstruction in the late 1870s, the holiday lost some of its popularity.

Today, the holiday is traditionally marked by parades, speeches, ceremonies and symbols of Americana. American leisure activities have also become an important part of Memorial Day including things such as picnics, fireworks and trips to the lake.

One such symbol of patriotism and respect for fallen soldiers is the poem, *The Blue and the Gray* by Francis Miles Finch. The poem was first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1867 to honor the deaths of soldiers on both sides during the Civil War.

Finch was a New York Judge when he heard about the work of a women's memorial association in Mississippi that inspired him to write *The Blue and*

the Gray (full poem on next page). The women would tend the graves of both confederate and union soldiers despite post-war tension.

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Litwicky, Ellen M. "Memorial (Decoration) Day." *Americans at War*, edited by John P. Resch, vol. 2: 1816-1900, Macmillan Reference USA, 2005, pp. 114-115. U.S. History In Context, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3427300170/>

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"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." - Martin Luther King Jr.

The Blue and the Gray

by Francis Miles Finch

By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead;—
Under the one, the Blue;
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the battle blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet;—
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
Under the laurel, the Blue;
Under the willow, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours
The desolate mourners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers
Alike for the friend and the foe,—

Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
Under the roses, the Blue;
Under the lillies, the Gray.
So with an equal splendor
The morning sun rays fall,
With a touch, impartially tender,
On the blossoms blooming for all;—
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
'Broidered with gold, the Blue;
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth,
On forest and field of grain
With an equal murmur falleth
The cooling drip of the rain;—
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—

Wet with the rain, the Blue;
Wet with the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,
The generous deed was done;
In the storm of the years that are fading,
No braver battle was won;—
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
Under the blossoms, the Blue;
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.



"I look forward to a great future for America - a future in which our country will match its military strength with our moral restraint, its wealth with our wisdom, its power with our purpose. - John F. Kennedy

KEVIN
COOK



ACCESS SPECIALIST II, NW

GRADUATING

May 20, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
The University of Oklahoma

TINA
GARCIA-
WINKLE



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST II, SO

GRADUATING

May 13, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
Texas Woman's University

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

VICTORIA
GARTEN



INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, MAC

GRADUATING

May 13, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
The University of Oklahoma

PALLAS
JOHNSON



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST II, DC

GRADUATING

May 13, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
The University of Oklahoma

LAQUETA
LEWIS



INTERLIBRARY LOAN TECHNICIAN

GRADUATING

May 13, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
The University of Oklahoma

KATIE
WIDMANN



ACCESS SPECIALIST II, BI

GRADUATING

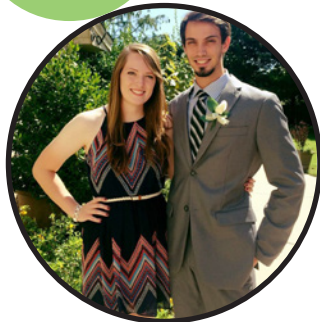
May 12, 2018

Master of Library and Information Science
The University of Oklahoma

LIFE OPENS AT THE CLOSE.



BRANDON
BANKS



SON OF RONDIA BANKS
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, NW

GRADUATING

May 12, 2018

Bachelor's of Psychology
Southern Nazarene University

RICHARD
BASSETT



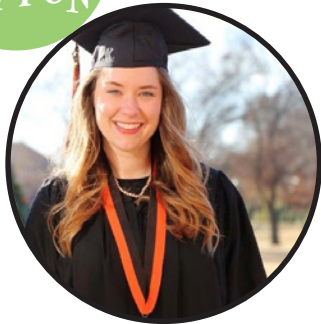
SON OF CHRISTINE BASSETT
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN I, BE

GRADUATING

May 18, 2018

Bachelor's of Anthropology and Writing
The University of Oklahoma

KELSEY
CAYTON



DAUGHTER OF KAY BAUMAN
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADMIN.

GRADUATING

December 16, 2017
Bachelor's of Business Administration

DREW
HOUSE



SON OF CHELSI HOUSE
ACCESS SPECIALIST II, DN

GRADUATING

May 14, 2018
Bachelor's of Horticulture
Oklahoma State University

LET US STEP INTO THE NIGHT AND PURSUE THAT FLIGHTLY TEMPTRESS, ADVENTURE.

RHYS
COKER



SON OF LISA COKER
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT TECHNICIAN, MS

GRADUATING

May 18, 2018
Harding Fine Arts Academy

CHYNA
GIBBS



GRANDDAUGHTER OF VANDA COLE
ACCESS SPECIALIST I, WA

GRADUATING

May 18, 2018
Putnam City High School

KELSEY
JONES



DAUGHTER OF MELISSA CLABAUGH
TECHNICAL PROCESSOR

GRADUATING

May 24, 2018
Del City High School

COLIN
PENROD



SON OF PAULA PENROD
ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST II, WA

GRADUATING

May 21, 2018
Piedmont High School



CLASS OF 2018

BRYCE
SCROGGINS



GRANDSON OF DEBBIE MCPHERSON
ACCESS MANAGER II, BE

GRADUATING

May 18, 2018
Mulhall-Orlando High School

EVIE
BANKER

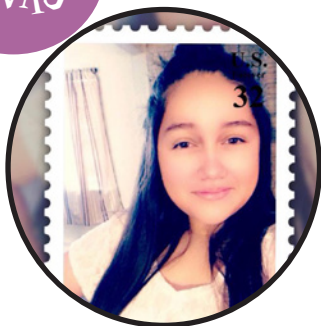


Daughter of Roger Banker
Adult Engagement Specialist, SO

GRADUATING

May 22, 2018
Nicoma Park Middle School

**NAYELI
RIVAS**



Daughter of Patty Ortiz
Access Specialist II, SO

GRADUATING

May 29, 2018
Jefferson Middle School

In Case You Missed It ...

Apply for the Berniece W. Young Scholarship by Jul. 31

Elizabeth Kessler ♦ Apr. 23

Applications for the Choctaw Library Guild, Inc. Berniece W. Young Scholarship for the Fall 2018 semester are being accepted through Jul. 31, 2018.

[Read more...](#)

The SR '18 Supply Catalog is Now Live!

Jessica Gonzalez ♦ May 1

The Summer Reading 2018 Supply Catalog is now live and can be accessed by visiting the Summer Reading tab on the Intranet and then clicking on supplies. Here your library can request all the items (promotion, display, and support materials, as well as prizes) you'll need to make SR '18 a success!

[Read more...](#)

Omnigo Incident Reporting Software Purchased Vicki Thompson ♦ May. 3

As some of you may know, we recently purchased a new incident reporting system, Omnigo. It will be a more centralized process for filing reports and analyzing them. Staff will be able to see reports filed at all locations. And it will be easier for Security to gather more in-depth automated data and reports system-wide. We expect to launch the new system and training after Summer Reading, possibly in September.

[Read more...](#)

Childrens Cabinet Minutes - May 02, 2018

Jessica Gonzalez ♦ May 4

[Read more...](#)

Hello!

We are excited to welcome you ...

Name	Location	Position
Matthew Welborn	BI	Access Specialist I
Patricia Hargrave,	SO	Youth Engagement Specialist II

Congratulations!

Promotions & Transfers

Name	Old Position	New Position
Carissa Owens	Access Specialist II HT	Access Specialist II FT
Andrew Soliven	Adult Librarian I	L&D Specialist

Goodbye

We are sorry to see you go ...

Name	Dept	Position	RETIREMENT:		
Andrew Robertiello	NW	Access Specialist I	Tracy Stone	NW	Adult Librarian I
Sarah Fox	BE	Children's Librarian I	Janet Brooks	CA	Collection Development Manager
Katharine Burke	NW	Access Specialist I			
Kevin Cook	NW	Access Specialist II			
Christa Sowder	SO	Adult Engagement Specialist II			
Ebony Bruner	BE	Access Specialist I			
Heather Sanders	CL	Access Specialist II			
McKinzey Manes	CIS	Virtual Engagement Specialist II			

"Life is to be lived, not controlled; and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat." - Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Database Highlight #42:

We've got the Local Paper for That

Sadie Bruce ♦ May 7

Whether you hail from a small town or a big city, it's often the local paper that's covering the most relevant news to you. America's Newspapers is this week's database highlight. Covering more than 3,000 U.S. news sources, this database is useful for anyone wanting to catch up on their hometown paper, students doing local or current events reports, and those following topical coverage nationwide. Search by keyword or browse by location/topic.

[Read more...](#)

Leadership Team Minutes - May 2, 2018

Sarah Peterson ♦ May 9

[Read more...](#)

Take the SA Picnic Survey

Victoria Garten ♦ May 11

We need you... to help us create fun and compelling summer reading content for social media! The best way for us to engage our customers is to give them a look behind the scenes, show them the personality and know-how of our staff and show them that the library is a fun and inviting place. As summer reading approaches, it is time to prep our social media posts to share throughout the program. So, get creative and try out some new ideas - you are not limited to the ideas and examples used in this post.

[Read more...](#)

Take the SA Picnic Survey

Jessica Morris ♦ May 11

Summer is approaching and Staff Association wants to host a picnic event for MLS staff and family. We will have food, activities and fun! We want to hear from you first to help guide us in hosting this event.

[Read more...](#)

Media Specialist Breakfast

A school media specialist breakfast took place at the Northwest Library on Thursday, May 3rd. There were 65 media specialists in attendance from Oklahoma City Public Schools, Edmond, Deer Creek, Western Heights and Choctaw-Nicoma Park districts. There were also about 22 Metro staff members who attended the event.

Each year Metro hosts a breakfast for school media specialists to build and maintain valuable connections with the local schools as well as raise awareness for the programs the library has available to their students, including the Summer Reading Program.

