

# ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

APRIL 2002

## What's New at Metro?



**WARR ACRES** - Alma Brown created a Dr. Seuss display in honor of author Theodore Geisel's birthday in March.



**MIDWEST CITY** - The Family Place at the Midwest City Library gets kids and moms together with health specialists and librarians.



**READ ABOUT IT** - BJ Williams gets a new set for the TV show "Read About It." A Friends of the Metropolitan Library grant enabled BJ to purchase the furniture. A food and friends thank you was held at Cox Communications March 15. Shown here Carol McReynolds, Wanda Scott, Shirley Pritchett and Frances Orren enjoy the comfort of the new digs.

# Our Short Story Favorites...

It was Katrina Prince's (DC) idea to ask staff to share their favorite short stories.

Del City Library offered a short story contest in March to children in seventh through 12th grade. Thanks to all who shared their favorites!

Here are Katrina's choices:  
O. Henry's Christmas story, "Gift of the Magi," "There Will Come Soft Rains" by Ray Bradbury "Desiree's Baby" by Kate Chopin "The Open Window," by Saki, any of Edgar Allan Poe's, especially "The Tell-Tale Heart," "Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Cask of Amontillado."

–**Katrina Prince, DC**

My all time favorite is Herman Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener." It's not the happiest thing I've ever read, but it is just about the most thought provoking. And John O'Hara's "The Manager." Thinking about favorite stories led me back to it last night, and I re-read it for the umpteenth time.

–**Doug Bentin, PR**

Love that Edgar Allen Poe "Tell Tale Heart." It's delightfully eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

–**Kelley Riha, Outreach**

I'm not a big short story fan, but I just last week read a book of short stories called "Sweet Tea and Jesus Shoes," and every story in it was great. If I had to pick just one, I'd say maybe the one called "Sweet Tea" by Debra Dixon, but "Grandma Tells a Tale" by Donna Ball and "Nola's Ashes" by

Deborah Smith were contenders! Great book!

–**Anita Roesler, Outreach**

Just about anything by Poe. And Ellery Queen has several short stories that are very good.

–**Frank Ray, BO**

My favorite short stories are "The Lady and the Tiger" by Frank Stockton and "The Open Window" by Saki.

–**Carolyn Abernathy, SO**

"The Monkey's Paw" by W. W. Jacobs "The Red-Haired Leprechaun" by Lewis Meyer, and "The Devil's Dulcimer" by Janice N. Harrington.

–**Karen Bray, Outreach**

My favorite is "Ransom of Red Chief" by Mark Twain.

–**Debbie Robertus, BI**

My favorite short story is "Ivan Illych" by Tolstoy. It is quite long and moves at a, uh, stately pace, but it is a powerful and luminous piece of writing,

–**Evelyn Davis, DN**

My favorite short story is "Quitters, Inc." by Stephen King in his collection of short stories called "Night Shift." I first read the story back in the late 70's and have never forgotten it. Beware smokers!

–**Collette Hankins, Auto**

The short story that sticks out in my mind is "Out of Place" by Pamela Sargent from *Roger Caras' Treasury of Great Cat Stories*. Something supernatural takes place, and people are able to hear what animals are thinking.

–**Tracy Stone, DN**

I wouldn't call it a "favorite," exactly, but one that has stuck with me ever since I read it in high school is "The Verger." It brings home the point that you can't predict how things will turn out. It's also a sort of "little man as hero" story.

–**Pauline Rodriguez, Cataloging**

My favorite short story: "The Dunwich Horror" by H.P. Lovecraft. Due to restrictive ILL policies, a librarian in Aylesbury, Massachusetts, gets sucked into a hideous plot to facilitate the invasion of our world by foul creatures from another dimension. He is forced to do research, take a field trip and erect a magical "No Trespassing" sign on the boundaries of our dimension — effectively saving the planet.

–**Dawn Hall, Midwest City Library**

One of my favorite short stories is "Naftali the Storyteller and His Horse Sus" by Isaac Bashevis Singer. This story can be found in the book *Stories for Children* by Singer (Bib.# 0246/5649).

–**Daniel Fields, Bethany**

"Bernice Bobs Her Hair" by F. Scott

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Fitzgerald is probably my favorite short story. It is set in the 1920s and is about an awkward, unpopular girl who has her hair bobbed while her whole circle of "friends" watches. She ends up being transformed into a popular, sophisticated "flapper." I like it for its portrayal of the 1920s, the boldness with which Bernice takes control of her life and Fitzgerald is my all time favorite American author.

The story that I have always remembered from my freshman English class is: "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" by Ernest Hemingway. The thing I like about this story is how shocking the ending is. It is set in Africa. The Macomers are on safari.

**—Ruby Soutiere, Mat Sel**

Here is my list of some of my favorite short stories. I could probably think of others, but these are ones that I think people could have heard of:

"The Lady, or the Tiger" by Frank Stockton

"The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" by Rod Serling, and the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald & William Saroyan.

**—Ann Meeks, BI**

As an English graduate student, it's so hard to pick favorite short stories! But here are a few that immediately come to mind:

"The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

"The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" by Ursula K. Le Guin.

"There Will Come Soft Rains" by Ray Bradbury.

"The Nine Billion Names of God" by Arthur C. Clarke.

"Carmilla" by J. Sheridan Le Fanu.

"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson.

"The Tell Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe.  
"Cathedral" by Raymond Carver.  
"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" by Ernest Hemingway

**—Elizabeth Pressler, DC**

## Bentin Joins PR Staff

Public Relations is pleased to announce the addition of **Doug Bentin** to Public Relations Office.

**Doug's** new title is Communications Specialist.

**Doug** will be doing a great deal of writing for the office and assisting with the production of Read About It.

"We're pleased to have Doug with us," said PR Director, M. Scott Carter.



## A Date To Remember

### Staff Recognition Celebration

Saturday, November 9,  
6 p.m.

at

The Centre

4325 N. W. 50th

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

**More info next month!**



**WORK CONTINUES** -- Construction continues on the new Downtown Library & Learning Center. The library's address is 300 Park Avenue. (Photo by Evelyn Davis)



### April Anniversaries

SHARLA K. LAWRENCE	4/29/86
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/30/79
MARY R. MCELROY	4/5/01
LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	4/27/79
ANNE G. FISCHER	4/3/81
EMILY G. WARD	4/10/00
ERNESTINE F. CLARK	4/22/76
LORETTA G. FRANTZ	4/25/94
JUANITA M. MENDOZA	4/30/01
KARON A. STORM	4/16/94
CLYDE D. HERROD	4/13/82
JEAN M. WILBURN	4/6/92
JULIE D. SUPER	4/20/98
CAROLYN ABERNATHY	4/1/66
AMBER R. NELSON	4/9/01
KATHLEEN F. YOUNG	4/2/01
REX H. WYCHERLEY	4/12/99
LISA J. PREBLE	4/9/01
SUSAN E. HALL	4/5/99
ALICE COLLINSWORTH	4/30/01
DANIEL E. FIELDS	4/2/01
EDWARD N. TERRY	4/4/66
SILKE M. LOVATO	4/9/01
JAMES DENNIS	4/16/01

### Welcome To

Michael Miller	Researcher, PLAN
Helen Chacon	Emp. Dev. Coord. PLAN
Charles McCurley	Page, Edmond
Tonda Kelly	Page, Edmond
Kristen Keyser	Page, Edmond
Veronica Bernal	Page, CH
Betty Wyrick	Acct. Tech., BO
Karen Effinger	Page, BI
De Ann Adair	Page, BI

### Goodbye

Alex Gates	HT Circ, BI
Bruce Davis	PT Security, RE



### April Birthdays

TREMAINE M. TRUITT	4/03
DARLENE S. BROWERS	4/03
JOHN D. WOOD	4/04
CHRISTIE J. REICHEL	4/07
CRYSTAL L. SUPPES	4/07
SUSAN L. GEE	4/09
FRANCES V. HARBERT	4/10
EMILY G. WARD	4/14
LISA L. WALKER	4/14
KAREN L. BAYS	4/16
GREGORY W. BENNETT	4/18
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/19
DONALD UPDEGROVE	4/19
SHARON L. MAINE	4/20
MATTHEW SCHABEN JR.	4/20
JEFFREY D. CLEMONS	4/21
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	4/21
AMELIA E. YOUNG	4/22
DAVID L. MACK	4/24
JANET E. BOWEN	4/24
LISA WEISSENBUHLER	4/25
SILKE M. LOVATO	4/25
SUSAN STINSON	4/26
JOYCE L. TALLANT	4/27
CHRISTY M. O'BRIEN	4/28
TIMOTHY D. HANNA	4/28
CHARLES N. MCCURLEY	4/29



# People

My granddaughter, Dasha Guyton, was inducted into the National Honor Society at Capitol High School, March 14, 2002. She is one of twelve sophomore honorees.

—**Francie Pendleton, PSA**

My son, Sullivan Hausburg, was honored for the month of February as Student-of-the-Month. Sullivan attends Overholser Elementary and is in the 2nd grade.

His teacher wrote, "Sullivan exhibits good citizenship in the classroom and on the playground. He represents what all students could model."

Yep, we're proud of him!

—**Jana Hausburg, CAT**

## With Deepest Sympathy

Woodrow Howard, Business Office, whose brother Kevin died March 31.

Please keep Woodrow and his family in your prayers.



## FOR RENT

Ground-level garage apartment with off-street parking in pleasant neighborhood near N.W. 36 and May Avenue.

Has CA&H, refrigerator and electric stove. Fully carpeted with ample closet space. Desire quiet tenant with no pets. \$275 per month; all utilities paid.

Contact Evelyn K. Davis, 942-2523 (H) or 231-8688 (B). Would love to have a library employee!

## FOR SALE

Ramada Plaza Resorts Orlando/Ft Lauderdale Vacation - 2 nights in Orlando, FL; 3 days/3 nights Carnival Cruise to Nassau, Bahamas; 3 nights in Ft Lauderdale. Includes rental car for entire time.

Two extra vacations to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Las Vegas can be used after the cruise is over.

Package is \$750 (paid to me) with additional \$600 paid at time of reservation to Ramada Plaza Resorts. Air fare is your responsibility.

Must be taken by Nov. 2003.

Call Debbie Robertus at 949-1645 after 6:00 p.m. for further de-

# ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

ShelfLife, the official newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System, is published electronically each month by the **Public Relations Division**.

Written and graphic contributions are welcomed. Please forward all comments to: Nancy Lytle, editor.

**Nancy Lytle**

Editor

**Wanda Scott**

Graphic Design

For more information contact: Public Information at **405.231.8618**.



# People

## Staff Association Views and Reviews

Again this year, the Staff Association will be operating a rest stop downtown for the MS Walk April 13.

There will also be a team of walkers. If you can help by being a walker or would like to work at the rest stop, let Heidi Port know in the volunteer office.

We'll get you the information you will need. We look forward to lots of fun as we cheer the walkers, hand out fruit, doughnuts, water and give the walkers a chance to choose a book from some provided by the Friends of the Library. So come on and join the gang. It'll be a "good thing."

The Staff Association Executive Council met March 28 at Edmond. This was one of the designated meetings that include a roundtable discussion with the Exec. Director, Norm Maas.

All the building representatives present had the opportunity to talk informally with Norm about the concerns of the staff. We have had several meetings of this kind

and have found them to be informative and a good forum for problem solving.

For more details visit with your site rep.

We want to thank the Administration Team for its response to one of the staff's concerns about pay for pages when the library is closed for inclement weather.

Now part-time staff will not lose their pay when prevented from working due to an administrative decision to close the libraries. This is just one example of finding a solution to a problem when it is discussed.

May 3-4-5 will be our next weekend to receive a 20 percent discount at Border's Bookstores.

Border's has assured us its employees will be ready to give us good service. Just present your Staff Association Membership card at the cash register.

Preparations for your annual Staff Association Meeting are under way. It's going to be an evening when we can gather as an organization for business

and information, enjoy some good food with friends and get to know our co-workers from throughout the system.

—*Darleen Browers*

## The Big-Event, Bag Stuffing at UCO

On Saturday, April 6, Heidi Port garnered 35 volunteers from UCO to stuff 15,000 library plastic bags.

These bags will be handed out to customers at Choo Choo Charley's Chocolate stand at the Arts Festival in April.

"We had 35 volunteers who averaged stuffing 69.2 bags per minute! I arranged the event to be a competition, and boy were they serious about it," said Port.

"By 2 p.m. we had finished stuffing, bagging and boxing 15,000 library informational bags for distribution at MLS promotional events. Each box contains 150 stuffed bags and will be stored at maintenance.

"Thanks to Public Relations for staying on top of the print job; Maintenance for all its hard work loading, unloading, sorting, loading and storing; and to the generous hospitality and support of the Edmond Library! Your hard work is much appreciated!"

—*Heidi Port, Volunteer Services*