

ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

MAY 2003

Bethany Library Receives New Artwork

Made possible by
Friends of the Library



Bethany manager Barbara Beasley with her two painting acquisitions from the 2003 Festival of the Arts. Photo by Nancy Lytle

Each year since 1997, The Friends of the Library have provided funds to an MLS library to purchase original art.

Manager Barbara Beasley chose two pieces of art at the Festival of the Arts Tuesday, April 22, for Bethany Library.

The smaller piece is titled *Capitol Kids* by Steve Childers and she also chose an by Oklahoma artist Leslie Lienau Capshaw.

Previous library recipients of the art grants are: Belle Isle, Edmond, Capitol Hill, Wright and Nicoma Park, Warr Acres and Del City.

"*Capitol Kids* will hang in the children's area, and the landscape will hang above the computer stations along the west wall," Barbara said.

Accompanying Barbara at the Festival of the Arts was Denyveta Davis, director of Branch Services, and Jo Duncan, temporary Friends coordinator.



Donna Morris Honored by the University of Oklahoma

Donna Morris, executive director of The Metropolitan Library System, has been chosen as the recipient of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies' 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award.

The award was presented at the annual alumni reception held during the recent Oklahoma Library Association conference.

"I nominated Donna, but nominations also came from others as well," said Debra Spindle, manager of Metro's Downtown Library.

"I nominated her based on her service to the profession of librarianship, especially here in Oklahoma."

Spindle pointed out that Morris has been a strong advocate for public libraries with both the state and national legislatures and has served as the president of the Oklahoma Library

Association as well as a representative on many of the organization's committees.

Morris earned her master's degree from the O.U. School of Library and Information Science in 1977, but by that time had already been working for the Metropolitan Library System for a number of years. A member of the MLS staff for more than three decades, Morris began her career as a part-time library page before becoming a children's librarian, adult reference librarian, and library manager. For several years, she was deputy director for Public Services and then interim director after the departure of Executive Director Norman Maas.

Morris was appointed executive director of MLS in November, 2002, much to the delight of her colleagues.

On receiving the honor from her alma mater, Morris said, "I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the OUSLIS alumni association for this honor.

"My studies at the library school established the foundation for my career. I was lucky enough to have excellent faculty to learn from and wonderful fellow students. It was also fun as the OU football team won two national championships while I was in library school – loved those student tickets!"

–Doug Bentin



Views and Reviews: News from your Staff Association

**By Darlene Browsers,
MLS Staff Association Chairperson**

Our Annual Staff Association meeting will be June 6, 2003. This is always an opportunity to meet as a unified Staff Association, gain information, support your association, and share the evening with your coworkers. We also manage to have a little relaxation and fun thrown in.

In an effort to vary the location and make it as convenient as possible for everyone, the Annual Meeting this year will be at the Hometown Buffet at 3900 N.W. 63 in Oklahoma City. (That is at the intersection of N.W. Expressway and 63rd street.) There will be plenty of choices for food to suit everyone's taste and as much as you can eat for \$8.69 + tax per person at the restaurant. Please RSVP to Darrie Breathwit at Southern Oaks Library so we can have a count for the restaurant.

Our Staff Recognition Committee is already hard at work on another event. The committee meets monthly all year to prepare a lovely evening to honor the

Good News! Work Continues



Buckner and Moore, Inc. contractors for the Downtown Library Learning Center has resumed the installation of the exterior wall panels as of April 24. Photo by Buckner and Moore, Inc.



Photo taken in early April of the Downtown Library Learning Center. Photo by Evelyn Davis.

Staff Assoc. continued from page 2

service years of many staff members, to recognize our retiring members and to spotlight the Outstanding Service Award Recipients. Marian LeCrone is chairman of that committee this year, and we want to thank her as well as her committee members: Marie Nichols, Phil Tolbert, Lori Griffin, Jean Johnson, Laurie Mack-Clark, Nancy Lytle, and Ruby Soutiere, for working so hard to arrange this Staff Recognition evening. It will be held this year on October 25, 2003, at The Centre.

Keep these two dates on your calendars.

Our Staff Association year will end June 30. As I look back upon this year and all the others since the MLS Staff Association was formed, it is good to evaluate why we exist.

The stated reasons in our by-laws can be briefly condensed to say we are a voice for the staff to communicate with the administration and help work on problems that exist in our work environment. We also promote the library's goals and programs. This is what your Staff Association Executive Council has worked to fulfill. We have had numerous conversations and meetings to discuss your concerns as stated to us. We want to thank the administration for listening to our concerns on many topics but particularly on the use of sick leave on employee evaluations. A change will be taking effect July 1. Allowing pages to receive

Staff Assoc. continued on page 7

People

Our Family in the Military

Many staff members of MLS have family serving in the military. Here we share their names with you.

Thank you to staff for sharing. And thank you —our military family— for serving our country.

My son, **Steve Howell**, is in the U.S. Coast Guard.

—**Sharon Wenzl, Choctaw**

My nephew, **Richard Biddle**, is with the 1st Marines, 1st Recon, and currently in Iraq.

—**Deanna Biddle, Belle Isle**

Dave's (Susie's husband) nephew— Petty Officer 2nd Class **Quinn Gardner**—is in the U.S. Navy

—**Susie Beasley, Midwest City**

My daughter, **Sarah**, is serving full time in the Air Force Reserves. She is currently stationed at Tinker AFB.

—**Crystal Suppes, Del City**

My son, **Lance**, is in Oman, next to Saudi Arabia. He is in Air Crew Life Support in the Air Force and has been there since January.

—**Lanny Myers, Maintenance**

James Anderson, Maintenance, wife's stepbrother, **Anthony Shadid**, a *Washington Post* correspondent, is in Baghdad covering the war for the *Post* and MSNBC.

Before the war started, Shadid was told he could leave the area, but chose to stay. You can see his updates on the war on the Washington Post web site.

As a Lebanese American James said Shadid felt he should be in Iraq.

—**James Anderson, Maintenance**

Randy Knutson, maintenance, has two sons in the military:

John Knutson is a helicopter door gunner with the Army in the 149 Company G and **James Knutson** is in the Army Reserves in the Sinai peninsula.

Randy's wife's brother, **Robert Shaeffer**, is an officer with the Air Force in Kuwait and **David Shaeffer**, Robert's son, is in the Air National Guard in Kuwait

—**Randy Knutson, Maintenance**

Private **Drew Harris** in the Army in Kuwait is my granddaughter's husband. My son, **Major Michael Browsers**, is in the Air Force in Hawaii.

—**Darlene Browsers, Public Services**

My son, Petty Officer **Justin Wilcox**, is stationed at the Coast Guard station on Kodiak Island, AK.

—**Debbie Kelley, Business Office**

My nephew, **Anthony Kinsey**, is in the Army Reserves, and he has been called up to active duty. We do not know yet where he will serve. He went active March 17th.

—**LaVetta Dent, Outreach**

My nephew, **Jesse David Hepler**, age 19, is Seaman Recruit in the US Navy.

—**Betty Wyrick, Business Office**

My son **Michael Mahan**, is Capt. in Air Force serving in Hawaii. How posh is that.

—**Mary Mahan, Nicoma Park**

Military Continued on page 5

Military continued from page 4.

Capt. **Jeff Marks** — Army - Medical Services — is deployed “somewhere in the desert.”

Jeff has a wife and two little girls in northern Virginia.

Jeff is married to my wife’s sister he’s my brother-inlaw.

—**Mike Miller, Planning**

Edmond Library

Olivia Sammons, 1/2-time associate librarian, is being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach abroad for a year! Olivia will be teaching English in primary school to eight to 11-year-olds in the Orleans-Tours region of France.

Edmond staff are gushingly proud of Olivia, who has worked at the Edmond Library since May 1997 as a page, circulation clerk, library assistant, and now as an associate librarian.

Olivia came to work with us when she was 16, so she has grown up with the library.

She heads off to France this September. We will definitely miss her fun, positive energy and warm, smiling face, but we wish her well on her journey!

Manager Karen Bays, secretly hopes that she will decide to embark on a career as a librarian when she returns.

—**Karen Bays, Edmond**

News from Midwest City

Melissa Weathers, YA services librarian, graduated in December with a master of library science degree and will attend ceremonies this month at OU. Jan Hall, circ clerk, was in an auto accident this month and will likely have surgery.

News from Choctaw

Below, the steel roof framing supports were erected April 22 on the Choctaw Library. The erection of the wood framing members is under way. The roof is scheduled to be completed in late May with the masonry work expected to begin mid-May.



Photo by Todd Olberding

Medieval Fair at Edmond Library

On Friday evening, April 11th, Edmond Library was magically transformed into a castle full of music, drama, food (pizza), costumed lords, ladies, and assorted other colorful characters from the Middle Ages. This 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. program was a group effort of the adventurous staff of the Edmond Library.

Edmond Staff who planned and participated in this program included: Samantha De Arman, Jason Evans, Jean Johnson, Carol Hunter, Joan Kendall, Nathan Leonard, Trey McCurley, Dagmar Peery, Arvin Pourtorkan, Mandana Roshan, Olivia Sammons, Janice San Nicolas, Saisri Vongchanyakul, and Ronna Davis.



MAY Birthdays

SUSAN E. RYAN	5/01
MICHAELA A. BAUGHMAN	5/02
IVORY R. DAWSON	5/02
MARCIA J. EDGECOMB	5/05
DEBBIE E. ROBERTUS	5/06
SCOTT CARTER	5/08
ANNE G. FISCHER	5/09
MARY L. DAUGHERITY	5/11
ROBERT BLANKENSHIP	5/12
CHERYLA. MANN	5/12
RIC REA	5/13
LORI KANE	5/13
STEPHANIE D. GERLING	5/15
PAMELA E. WISER	5/15
SHARON G. BISH	5/16
ELIZABETH NEWLAND	5/16
ANGELITA DOWNING	5/17
DIANNE C. COX	5/18
LISA M. WOOD	5/18
SUSAN J HUTCHINS	5/18
CHERYL E. CHERRY	5/18
REGINA D. KIRKHAM	5/19
MARILYN R. BARNETT	5/19

MAY Birthdays Continued

TRACY C. STONE	5/21
AMANDA S. TERRY	5/22
FREDERICK R. WILSON	5/22
WOODROW HOWARD	5/28
ROBERT L. RODDY	5/29

MAY Anniversaries

EVELYN K. DAVIS	5/27/80
JESSIE C. BISHOP	5/13/81
MARY A. ANDERSON	5/13/83
FRANK C. RAY	5/21/84
S. COLLETTE HANKINS	5/6/85
MARILYN E. BACKUS	5/21/87
REGINA M. WOLFINGER	5/29/90
MARCIA J. EDGECOMB	5/18/91
HELEN J SHELTON	5/12/92
HEIDIA. PORT	5/12/97
OLIVIA SAMMONS	5/22/97
TINDLE J. ARNOLD	5/27/97
GENE E. CHAPPELL	5/26/98
LISA E. MYERS	5/5/00
MEGAN E. SMITH	5/30/00
TERESA GOGGINS	5/7/01
LINDA ARMSTEAD	5/6/02
CARA PETERS	5/6/02
CHRIS G. DAVIS	5/15/02
CHRIS LARWIG	5/28/02
CHARLA MCGARRAH	5/28/02
DIANNA L. RUPP	5/28/02
SHIRLEY SMITH	5/30/02

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.

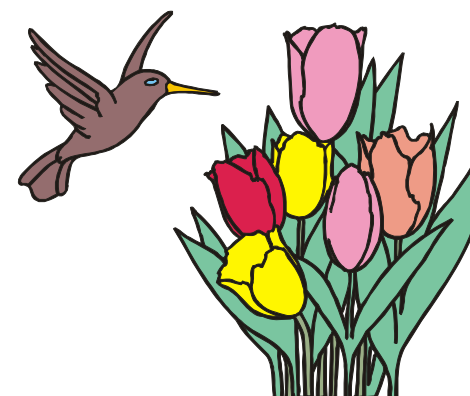
Nancy Lytle

Editor

Wanda Scott

Graphic Design

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





Welcome To

Jo Duncan	Temp Coord.- Friends of MLS
Nichole Smiraldo	Page, DC
Anita Klag	Page, ED
Laura Winters	Page, ED

Goodbye To

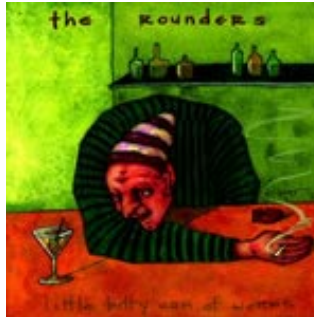
Ronald Key	Tech Asst., RE
Heng-Hong Lee	Tech. Asst., MC
Jackie Henry	Page, ED
Vickie Dooley	Coord-Friends of MLS
Jeffery Robertson	Page, SO
Adram Taghavi	Page, CH
Matt Evans	Page, BE

Sympathy

To Belle Isle circ clerk Steve Palmer, whose mother passed away April 13.

Sympathy also to former Downtown security officer, Jean Latham, whose mother passed away April 3.

Sympathy also to Rosemary Czarski, Choctaw, whose father died April 23.



The Rounders

The musical group The Rounders has its new CD available for sale \$10. You are welcome to visit the band's website to purchase a CD or talk to Debra Spindle; our own Downtown Library manager's son is in the group, and you may purchase a CD from Debra. (Her living room is full of them.) Please help her out. Her son, Dave Spindle, plays the guitar.

Staff Assoc. continued from page 3

pay for scheduled work time when libraries are closed for inclement weather is another example of administrative response to our concerns.

Your Staff Association will continue to try to identify problems and be a channel of communication for solving them.

—**Darlene Browsers, PSA**

Spencer Extension Library to Close

The Metropolitan Library System will close the extension library located at 8310 N.E. 36th in Spencer on June 28th at the end of the business day, library officials announced today.

The closing was approved unanimously by the MLS Commission at its April 17th meeting.

Walden said MLS has been working to phase out its remaining library trailers. "Spencer and Luther are the last remaining trailers we have," she said. "And in the town of Luther, talks are under way to replace that unit."

The trailers must be decommissioned, she said, because they fail to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and do not provide adequate safety and security for staff and customers.

—**Doug Bentin, PR**