

ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

JUNE 2003

Meet Ralph Ellison Library Manager, Daphene Keys

Daphene Keys did not take the direct route to librarianship. Instead she waited until the time was right to apply for and accept the job she wanted.

"When I was in library school, I knew then I wanted to work in a public library in an urban setting," said Keys.

"So when this job came open, I thought – this is it. You can't get more urban than –"This,–" she said with a chuckle.

'This' is the Ralph Ellison Library, and Keys became the manager of the library on March 17.

"I was just ready for a change," Keys said.

The move came after working at Langston University for 12 years until March of this year. Steadily moving up from personnel assistant to assistant



Daphene Keys. Photo by Nancy Lytle

director of Human Resources and finally executive assistant to the president, Dr. Ernest L. Holloway.

Keys graduated from University of Oklahoma Library School of Information Studies. Keys also has a bachelor of finance degree from University of North Texas in Denton.

What was the reason for the detour from finance to library studies?

"Two reasons – my husband, Ronald Keys, is a librarian at Oklahoma State

Continued on page 2

Inside this Issue:

- News From the S A, pgs 2 & 3
- MLS Benefits Fair 2003, pgs 3 & 4
- New Meeting Rm Booking Software, pg 5
- Birthdays and Anniv., pg 6
- Welcomes, pg 7

Keys continued from page 1

University, and he encouraged me to check out library school when I was thinking about going to graduate school. And Erwin Totten, a friend, is a librarian at University of North Texas – he also encouraged me to go to library school,” Keys said. “So, I tried it and stayed with it!”

Keys said she is inundated with training and learning the ropes of her new job.

“Just getting to know the vendors (including the Coke man and the Pepsi man) servicing the library and introducing herself to them was a small but time-consuming task.

Definitely trying to cover all the bases, Keys is working hard to fulfill the role of Library Manager. While Ralph Ellison Library has continued to operate Monday through Saturday, the library has been without a permanent manager for about a year. Keys said her first priority is to create a measure of stability for staff and the library.

Keys’ life outside work comes with a husband and two girls, Jessica, nine, and Hypatia, six.

The girls are delighted with their mom’s new job. “They say ‘Mommy can you bring me this book home?’” Keys says she has become their personal librarian!

When asked if she had a favorite author, Keys laughs and said, “I was telling the staff, thinking now that I’m here in a library (she would have a chance to read) – I haven’t had time to read any-

thing except this,” and points to a stack of work related papers. She does have a favorite author, Alice Walker, and favorite book, *The Color Purple*.

Another goal of Keys is to go out and meet the community surrounding her library.

“This library, particularly in this community, is more of a cultural center. With the programs we have this is like the center of the community. Looking at our programs and the different events held here, it really reminds me of a community center, and the library is a focal point. I think that’s really good, and it will help with future program plans.”

A big event coming up is Juneteenth on June 14. Martin Luther King Boulevard, runs alongside the library, will be blocked from N. E. 23rd Street down to N.E. 22nd Street.

“We’ll have a moonwalk, barbecue, food vendors, activities for the children, a clown to entertain, bands and local community talent to perform.” Juneteenth celebrates the end of the slavery and is a big celebration in Keys’ home state of Texas.

In accepting the manager position at Ralph Ellison Library, Keys intends to narrow the information divide. “Our customers must have access to accurate and timely information. My vision for Ralph Ellison is for this library to not only serve the information needs of the community but also serve as a cultural center for the Northeast quadrant.”

—NL



Darlene Browers

Views and Reviews: News from Your Staff Association

Big question? How did this year go by so fast? It hardly seems possible that it has been almost a year since our last MLS Staff Association annual meeting. But that is the case.

This year our Annual Meeting will be held on June 6, 6:30 p.m., at the Hometown Buffet at NW Exp and 63rd St. This meeting is always important, because it gives us a chance to come together as an Association and gain information and strength from each other.

We have as our guest speaker, Donna Morris, MLS Director. Her comments will be expressing her vision for our system, some of the issues facing us, and what our profession may expect. There will be time for a question-and-answer session.

One thing we have endeavored to do these last two years is to highlight some of the many talents of people on our staff, and we will continue this as we enjoy the folk music of Anita Roesler. She brings her own voice and music in folk and traditional songs. Her audiences have

Continued on page 3

SA continued from page 2

lots of fun, and it will be a treat.

Reservations for the meal may be made with Darrie Breathwit, SO. Please do this by June 2. You may pay for your meal at the door. It will be \$8.69 + tax per meal and the buffet has a variety of food to suit many tastes.

Among the door prizes will be nine free meals given to staff names drawn from the reservations. Come one, come all.

One of the duties of your Staff Association Chairperson is to attend meetings and events on your behalf. Recently I was reminded of one such event as I joined a group of Downtown Library staff on a tour of the new Downtown Library construction site.

A Tree Topping Ceremony was held many months ago when the last steel beam for the building was put into place. Those attending signed their names on that last beam just before it was raised to the top. Your Staff Association Chairperson, Darlene Browers, was there and wrote "MLS Staff Association" on that beam. Every time you view that completed beautiful building, please be reminded that your Staff Association name is imbedded and preserved in that structure. And if you will, think about it as a symbol of all the work, activity, problem solving and advancements imbedded in the functioning of our Library System that the Staff Association is responsible for throughout the years.

Let's continue that legacy.

2003 Benefits Fair for MLS Full Time Staff

**June 26, 2003
9 a.m. through 4 p.m.
Come and go**

**St. Luke's United
Methodist Church
222 N.W. 15h Street
Oklahoma City**



**The June 26, 2003, Benefits
Fair will feature the following
benefit contacts:**

**Mutual Assurance Administrators,
Inc.**

Medical, dental and prescriptions

Supplemental Life:

The Baltimore Life Insurance Co. –
**Short-Term Disability
Vision Service Plan (VSP)**

UNUM Provident:

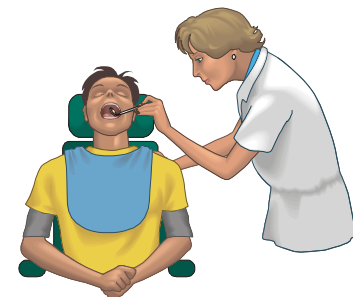
Long-Term Disability

PPO Oklahoma

Medical – Preferred Provider Net-
work

Comp CHOICE:

Certified Workplace Medical



Benefits Fair continued on page 4

June 26, 2003 Benefits Fair

CompSource Oklahoma:
Workers' Compensation Insurance

A Chance to Change
Employee Assistance Program

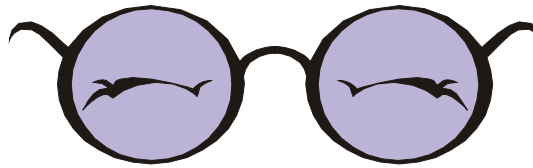
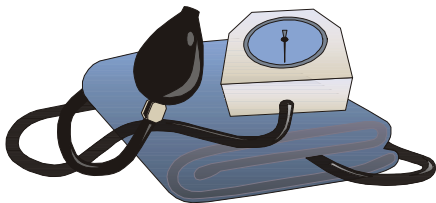
Municipal Employees Credit Union
MECU

INTEGRIS PACER Health Services
Blood Pressure Check
Cholesterol Screening
Glucose Screening

TLC Laser Eye Center

Social Security Administration

MidFirst Bank
Company Club



**Guthrie Rite Care Childhood
Language Clinic**
Hearing Screening

Vision Source!
Vision Screening

There will be drawings for prizes
throughout the day.



Prizes Include

- 4 Complimentary passes – Omniplex
- \$25 gift certificate – Hobby Lobby
- Free Rentals – Hollywood Video
- Round of Golf for 2, w/cart – Coffee Creek Golf Course
- Redhawks Baseball tickets, Reserved seats
- 8 free movie passes – Tinseltown Movie Theater
- 4 free rounds of miniature golf
- 2 passes – National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
- 4 coupons – sandwich/chips and drink – City Bites
- 8 friends for gourmet coffee, tea and pastry – Java Daves
- 3 free pizzas – Coaches Brewery
- Free pens from Bank of Oklahoma

AND

—The first 120 people through the door will receive a free bottle of Ozarka water.

Updated Meeting Room Booking System

On July 1, a new meeting room reservation software will be in place, instead of the old MR Win 6530.

The new program is more streamlined, sidestepping the need for a lot of instruction.

Tracy Stone, DN librarian, said, "You do have more choices to make," i.e. more room for error on the part of the user.

"It's Windows based," said Deb Robertus, "with drop down menus for the name of each library, program types, and meeting room set up."

Deb also said staff will be able to see each library schedule - "Easier than you could before."

And there will be a diagram of every meeting room in every library including the new Downtown/Library Learning Center. So staff can see which meeting room in the system will best accommodate customers' needs.

"The money will go directly into the day's deposit. You don't have to change screens to put the money in," said Debbie.

And there will be extra space for contact information including customer's

FAX, cell, work, and home phone numbers.

You'll also be able to tell which staff member entered the information and, if updated, who updated it.

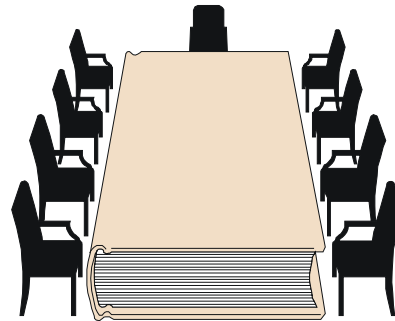
"Thanks to Jim Welch who created the new software. This will make our lives easier," said Deb.

"There will be some training," said Judy Walden, "but we don't anticipate the need for a lot of instruction."

"Current plans are to have an Open House at The Downtown Library training room, where staff can come, try out the new system, etc.," she said.

"There will be a tutor on site for any questions and printed instructions. We want to provide training for all levels of need."

Stay tuned - Judy will keep you informed!



Choctaw Library

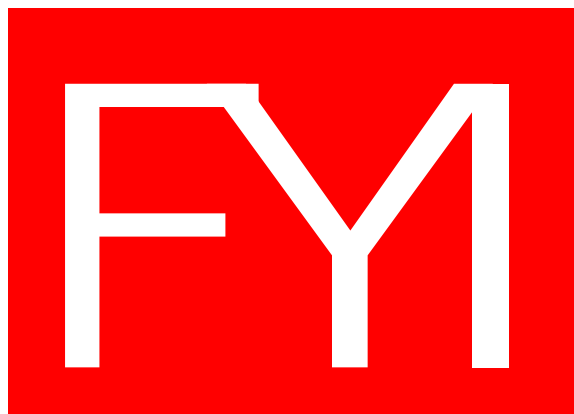


Choctaw Library under roof. Photo by Evelyn Davis

Downtown Library/Learning Center



Downtown Library - panels continue being attached. Photo by Evelyn Davis



JUNE Birthdays

JEANNE M. DEVLIN	6/01
NINA M. GINSTERBLUM	6/02
SHELLIE ZEIGLER-HILL	6/04
ROBIN LYLE MCDOWELL	6/04
MICHAEL MILLER	6/10
GALEN R KURTH	6/11
CLYDE D. HERROD	6/11
RITA L. INMAN	6/11
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/11
SHARON GAYE MAY	6/13
ELVIRA M. M. FRANKS	6/13
LOUISA M. SMITH	6/14
JAQUAY MORRIS	6/16
OLIVIA SAMMONS	6/17
MARILYN E. BACKUS	6/17
LUISA A. MUNOZ	6/17
EBONY J. WERYACKWE	6/18
CONRAD J. DOTY	6/19
DANA L. MORROW	6/20
JENNIFER M. HUNTER	6/21
PATRICIA A. MARABLE	6/23
ZIRONYA D. LEWIS	6/24
SAMANTHA DEARMAN	6/24

JUNE Birthdays Continued

ANITA J. SANDERS	6/24
JO DUNCAN	6/24
PAULA A. HANNAPEL	6/25
DAVID L. CALHOUN	6/25
CHRISTINE R. BASSETT	6/25
DARCUS D. SMITH	6/25
MANDANA ROSHAN	6/25
MARCUS J HARMAN	6/28
JIMMY C. WELCH	6/28
D. DIANE SHARP	6/28
BARBEE STUEVE	6/30

JUNE Anniversaries

CONRAD J. DOTY	6/1/68
DONNA L. MORRIS	6/1/69
CHERYLA. MANN	6/21/73
BARBARA J. WILLIAMS	6/3/74
LAURIE F. MACK-CLARK	6/9/75
SELMA ZUHDI	6/17/77
SUSAN ANNETTE STINSON	6/25/80
EBRAHIM EJTEHADI	6/24/82
SHEILA D. FIXEL	6/7/83
ANN G. ALIOTTA	6/4/84
DEBORAH T. MONTGOMERY	6/2/86
LANNY B. MYERS	6/8/87
RANDY L. KNUTSON	6/25/90
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	6/24/91
ABOLGHASEM SIAVASHI	6/27/94
DONALD F. UPDEGROVE	6/26/95
PHYLLIS A. DAVIDSON	6/27/95
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/10/96
BARBARA L. MCDANIEL	6/3/97
CHARLEEN K. MILLER	6/23/97
LINDA S. WINN	6/1/98

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

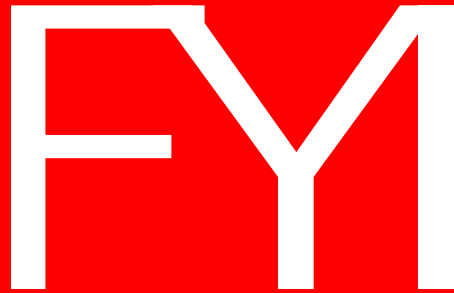
Editor

Wanda Scott

Graphic Design

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

JOSHUA H. WELLS	6/30/98
KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS	6/14/99
RAMON LIRA	6/14/00
SHELLIE A. ZEIGLER-HILL	6/4/01
DEREK J. CASH	6/4/01
PATRICIA A. MARABLE	6/4/01
SCOTT CARTER	6/25/01
LAQUETA L. LEWIS	6/25/01
CHRIS W. SMITH	6/25/01
ANGELA D. GREEN	6/26/01
TREVOR L. DAILEY	6/3/02
ROBIN LYLE MCDOWELL	6/10/02
LORAH BRANAN WARD	6/24/02



Welcome To

Lenard Smith	Tech Asst., RE
Jessica Prather	Page, SO
Sharon West	Page, ED
Heather Franks	Tech Asst., MC
Marcus Harman	Page, BE
Robin Roth	Page, CAT

Rehire

Luis Munoz	Page, CH
------------	----------

Sympathy

To Del City page Lena Loper, who lost her uncle the end of April.

Congratulations

To Lacey Carr, Cataloging page, and Manuel Bernal, CH volunteer, who gave birth to Jasmine Araceli Bernal, April 15 weighing seven pounds and four ounces.

Congratulation also to Cystal Giles, Cataloging, whose daughter Brandi, second grade at Monroe Elementary, was awarded the spelling award in her class.

Brandi also received the Accelerated Reading Award and the Presidential Physical Fitness award!

Graduation

Shellie Zeigler-Hill received her Master of Library and Information Studies degree. She finished her course work in December.

Shellie is in charge of young adult, adult, and senior programming at the Del City Library.

—**Katrine Prince/Del City**

FOR RENT

Fort Lauderdale, FL, vacation condo, one block from beach, for rent July 12-19, \$650 (less than standard hotel room cost). Sleeps 6, beautiful large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen, living room, dining room, pool, dock on Intracoastal Waterway.

Please call Karen Bray at 235-9123 x 20 during day or 946-0367 evenings and weekends.

