

# Shelflife

Staff Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

July 2005

## Enrollment Numbers Keep Climbing for Summer at the Library

*Build it right and they will keep on coming*

Summer at the Library 2005 may end up being one of the most successful MLS summertime programs in years.

Enrollment numbers are up, and so are the numbers of young customers who have completed the first level — a statistic that means not only are more kids entering the program, but more of them are also reading.

"The number of Level I finishers looks to be a little more than double what it was the same time last year," said LaVetta Dent, MLS Children's Services coordinator.

And, according to Dent, the choice of either a medal or a medallion remains the favorite prize among most participants.

"Children were finishing faster to get their pick of which they wanted — a medal or medallion," she noted. "Since there is a limited supply of the medal with ribbon, those wanting that one are particularly anxious to get their reading done and their choice made."

As of June 17, 8,921 children had signed up in the Children's Book Program, and 1,352 had completed Level I, according to Dent.

Young Adult Services Coordinator Heidi Daniel-Morgan told Shelflife that as of June 17, 2,168 teens had entered the LOL:) program — compared to 1,988 teens as of June 25, 2004.

"That's a 10 percent increase," noted Daniel-Morgan, "and last year's figure includes almost an additional eight days of sign up!"

Daniel-Morgan notes that as of June 17, both the **Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library** and **Warr Acres Library** had both surpassed their totals for the entire 2004 summer. Four days later, **Choctaw Library** did the same.



*Lucky Penny Players. Toby Tobin, **Kelley Riha** and Al Bostick, performed weeks June 6-10. and June 13-17 at 14 libraries during June.*

And, several libraries were very close, including **Luther** (three teens away), **Belle Isle** and **Edmond** (10 teens away), and **Ralph Ellison** (very, very close).

Daniel-Morgan was overheard to say: "I've said it before, but in the immortal words of Jon Bon Jovi (or some hair band singer from the 80s), you guys rock!" (Morgan was last seen playing air guitar she was so pleased.)

Meanwhile, thousands of children have attended another Summer at the Library tradition: Neighborhood Arts.

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# News ... News ... News ...

## Summer at the Library

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"Attendance was 1,962 for one of our 17 shows during the first week of Neighborhood Arts," LaVetta said, "and 2,468 children attended during Week II. For the first 14 shows of this week, we have had 1,889 children in attendance."

But numbers never tell the whole story. That's just raw data. To find out what customers really think about Summer at the Library programming, you have to ask them.

"From the evaluation forms the librarians are sending in about the performances," LaVetta said, "we have received several kinds of comments: A parent at **Belle Isle** wrote, 'Boy this really brings kids to the library.'"

"**Downtown Library** reported that 50 kids came to the children's reference desk and asked about the book *The Reluctant Dragon* after Lucky Penny Players performed a play based on the story.

"Also, a couple of libraries reported that some families show up early to see the actors before the show or stay late after the show to get autographs of their favorite performers," she noted.

All in all, Summer at the Library appears to be on the right track. Just what the ending for 2005 will be remains to be seen, but if this snapshot is any indication, it promises to be a happy one.



DWe Williams and the Rhythmically Speaking troupe performed *A Medieval Knieval Dragon Slayer* program at 14 libraries during the week of June 20 - 24.



Royal Reader Monique McKeever, who was knighted after reading 16 books, sits on her throne at the **Edmond Library**.



Castle entrance to **Edmond Library's** children's area.

*Photos by Kim Terry.*

## Library to Add 12 Wi-Fi Hotspots

On August 15 at 9 a.m., MLS will introduce free filtered wireless Internet access at 12 libraries — the five full-service libraries in Oklahoma City as well as those in Bethany, Choctaw, Del City, Edmond, Midwest City, The Village and Warr Acres.



With the new service, customers will be able to bring a laptop or a personal digital assistant, such as a Palm Pilot or Blackberry, into these libraries and not only access the Internet but also the many subscription databases maintained online by the library, according to Jim Welch, MLS deputy executive director/technology.

The only catch? Their equipment will need to have the appropriate wireless networking card, adds Anne Fischer, MLS director of Information Technology. Wireless access will not extend to MLS's five extension libraries at this time, he notes, because the extensions either lack the volume of computer users necessary to warrant the investment or they have a physical limitation that precludes incorporating the service at this time.



But Welch sees the new service as improving not only the wireless profile of Oklahoma County — but also of MLS.

More details, including an explanatory brochure, to come.



**Belle Isle Library** received a face-lift for its front door. *Photos by Debbie Robertus.*



**A shady bench beckons customers.** *Photos by Debbie Robertus.*

## Belle Isle Library Receives a Face Lift

Debbie Robertus, **Belle Isle Library** assistant manager, reported that Midwest Landscaping beautified the library's grounds June 17 and 18, using \$1500 they had in their budget specifically for landscaping.

"We have had very nice comments from the customers and received raves from the managers when we showed these pictures at the Managers' meeting June 22," said Robertus.

The area was all previously dirt and mud except a little patch of grass.

A nice, small grouping of flagstones now covers the muddy area, and the bench is inviting, especially since it is in the shade.

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## Metro Library Magazine To Return

The new fiscal year will bring the return of *Metro Library* magazine (albeit as a quarterly not a monthly publication.) The magazine will still spotlight upcoming library programs and events —among other topics, but it will not include the Calendar of Events.

The first issue will arrive at your library by July 25.  
The publication schedule for the rest of the year will be:

**Fall 2005 (Oct./Nov./Dec.)** — September 25  
**Winter 2006 (Jan./Feb./Mar.)** — December 25  
**Spring 2006 (Apr./May/June)** — March 25  
**Summer 2006 (July/Aug./Sept.)** — June 25

If the 25th falls on a weekend, you will receive the magazine on either the Friday before or the Monday after.

If you have programs, events, or story ideas to be considered for publication in *Metro Library* magazine, please e-mail them to:

**Jeanne Devlin, MAC, at: [jdevlin@metrolibrary.org](mailto:jdevlin@metrolibrary.org).**



# The Roundtable

## Response to Marian the Librarian

From Dear Abby, June 7

DEAR ABBY

I am a reference librarian at a large academic library. While I share some of "Marian the Librarian's" concerns, I noticed her pointers for library etiquette were composed almost entirely of don'ts. I am afraid her diatribe against library patrons may cause some of them not to use the library at all, for fear of committing a faux pas and incurring a librarian's wrath.

How much better it would have been had she compiled a list of library dos. Example:

- Do teach your children to use and appreciate the library.
- Do check your library's policy on food, drink and cell phones. (Many allow drinks in covered containers, and cell phones set to silent mode or in specific areas.)
- Do enlist the help of the reference librarian. You might be surprised what we can find for you.
- Do use your trip to the library as a learning experience. We have a saying, "Find the book for a man, and he'll have the information for only a day. Teach him to search the catalog, and he'll have information for a lifetime."

Although, like "Marian," I'm tired of the poor etiquette I see in my library, I'm equally tired of the public image of librarians as cranky, uptight and "shushing." As a librarian, my job is to help and educate patrons. "Marian's" letter made it seem as if librarians are the behavior police.

Anti-Shusher, Miami, Fla.

DEAR ANTI-SHUSHER

Your point about casting the message in positive, rather than negative, language is well-taken. I agree that librarians have been wrongly stereotyped. However, if librarians are forced into the position of acting like "library police," it is because their patrons are acting in a way that is destructive or disruptive.

Read on:

DEAR ABBY

I wish I could nail a copy of that letter to every flat surface of my library in the hope that the patrons might read it and get a clue. It has come to my attention that some librarians are unhappy that "Marian" chose to air her grievances in a forum as public as your column — and some have even called for a

letter-writing campaign to criticize Marian for telling the truth. I say, more power to her!

New Jersey Librarian

DEAR NEW JERSEY

Thanks for the warning. The next letter, I suspect, expresses their real concern.

DEAR ABBY

I haven't seen such a vitriolic diatribe since librarians were told to stop pointing and get up off their "duffs" and go find the book for the customer! While libraries are free, taxpayers are the ones who support us, and if we have professionals in the field such as "Marian," we have only ourselves to admonish when our tax dollars are reduced and our libraries are closed.

South Bend, Ind., Librarian

DEAR SOUTH BEND

If libraries are closing because of lack of support or patronage, it may be because people are doing more research online at home rather than because librarians are overzealous in enforcing rules of common courtesy.

To quote a librarian from Beverly Hills, Calif.: "There is

now a dwindling number of librarians due to retirement, downsizing, burnout and very low pay compared to other professions. That, coupled with a society that is becoming increasingly uncivil and underappreciative of a truly altruistic profession, makes me fear that the library profession is going the way of the dinosaur."

Happy 4th of July



Happy Summer!



# News ... News ... News ...

## Go to the Net

Wondering what's going on at MLS? Keep informed by checking out the latest news releases on the website. Click here or go to <http://www.metrolibrary.org/library-news.htm>.

Check out these stories from June:

- *Storytellers, Live Performances Highlight Summer at the Library*
- *June Library Commission Meeting to Focus on Approving the Budget*
- *Teens will Laugh Out Loud :) through Fourth Season of Library Programs, MLS Officials Say*

## : Downtown College Consortium

- The Summer and Fall 2005 class schedule for the College Consortium is out. With a varied number of classes offered, from yoga and tai chi ch'uan to computer classes and an Emergency Response to Terrorism seminar, there is something for everyone. Click here to go directly to the Downtown College Consortium website.

## People



Teresa and Monray Goggins

### Goggins Receives Award

**Teresa Goggins**, Web master for MLS, and her husband, Monray, received the Alicia D. Swain Award from the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. The Alicia D. Swain Award is awarded to individuals who have contributed their time, skills and/or funds to the community.

### • Q & A with Kim Terry

- *Kim Terry, Marketing & Communications Manager started with MLS June 20.*

- **College:** OSU degree in Journalism/Advertising. English and journalism teaching certificate, University of Central Oklahoma.

- **Previous Work:** Marketing Services Manager for five years at Saxon Publishers, until it sold in 2004. For a short time, Terry was marketing manager at Cicada Corp., a financial software services company for stockmarkets. Also worked as a Marketing Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce dealing with newsletters, trade shows and coaxing businesses to move to Oklahoma. Before that Kim worked at DataTimes, an information resource MLS subscribed to in the past until the Internet came along.

- **Personal history:** Grew up in Woodward, family still lives there.

**Hobbies/Sports:** Likes to sail on Lake Hefner. In the past has raced catamarans in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. Kim still sails but doesn't race. Has played basketball and tennis but not lately. She also skis in Colorado. Other hobbies are gardening, exercising and reading (currently a David Baldacci read).

**Music:** Likes everything but Rap music. Jimmy Buffet is, at this moment, in the CD changer. Also likes '70s classic rock.

**Sports teams:** Follows the Boston Red Sox, because Boston is one of her favorite cities, and she has always rooted for the much maligned Bosox. She's also a big fan of the OSU Cowboys.

**Favorite food:** Mexican

**Favorite Restaurant:** Chili's



Kim Terry

**Travel:** Latest trip she took was a Southern Caribbean cruise at Christmas time.

**Library:** Kim said, "Everybody is incredibly friendly and supportive. People just seem to have a real love for the library, and that makes my job very exciting!"

*People continued on page 6*

# People

## Czarski to Receive Storytelling Award

**Rosemary Czarski** of Jones, Oklahoma, and manager of the **Choctaw Library**, is the recipient of the 2005 South Central Regional Leadership & Service Award from the National Storytelling Network.

Regional Leadership and Service Awards are presented to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to their local or regional storytelling community and/or have used storytelling to make a significant contribution to the larger community in which they live.

Millie Jackson, in charge of special projects of the National Storytelling Network, said "Territory Tellers, Oklahoma's network of storytellers and story listeners, would not be where it is today without Rosemary Czarski. She has been a major force and a continuing presence on its Board of Directors, holding the organization together and initiating many of its most effective activities."

Recipients on the National Storytelling Network's Oracle Awards are nominated by members of NSN and selected by an Awards Committee. Rosemary will receive her award at the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City on July 16.

*Congratulations Rosemary!*



Rosemary Czarski

## Name Change .....



Betty and Jonathon Scott.  
*Photo by Laura Tallant.*

**Betty Wyrick**, Business Office accounting technician, married Jonathon Scott on June 11 at the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City. Betty asks that you remember her new name '**Betty Scott**'

*Congratulations to the newlyweds!*

## Hello To:

Tara McMillen. .... Page, DN  
Dana Phillips. .... Page, WA  
Marilyn Conley. .... Page, ED

## Goodbye To:

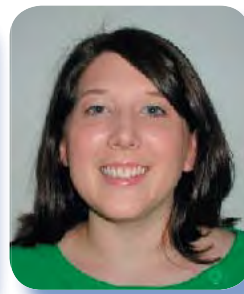
Tupper Do. .... Page, WA  
Lorelei Slater. .... Circ Clerk, RE  
Michael Miller. .... Researcher, PLAN  
Kalyani Chekuri. .... Librarian., CH

## Transfer:

Kelly Wolf. .... From Page, DN, to PT  
Material Services  
Division, Tech



Tara McMillen



Dana Phillips



Marilyn Conley

## Sympathy

- To **Evelyn Davis**, Downtown, whose father passed away in May. He was 95 years old.
- Sympathy also to **Crystal Suppes**, Del City, whose mother, Julia Werner, died Saturday, June 25. The funeral was held in Kansas.

## July Birthdays

BROOK ELIZABETH WELCH	7/01
SAISRI MCCORMICK	7/01
NICOLE E. CAMPBELL	7/01
LOIS W. MCKENNA	7/02
PRIYA M. DESAI	7/03
DEBORAH MARTINEZ-THOMPSON	7/05
SIMONA LONG	7/07
GAIL GARLOCH	7/09
ELIZABETH ANN KESSLER	7/10
TUPPER T. DO	7/11
WENDY ELIZABETH TAYLOR	7/11
ALMA LOUISE BROWN	7/12
LAWANA DENISE MORGAN	7/14
KELLEY E. HOFFMAN	7/15
MARY A. ANDERSON	7/17
DENISE A. COURTS	7/19
COLLETTE HANKINS	7/20
HEIDI DANIEL-MORGAN	7/22
LENA C. LOPER	7/23
SHIRLEY J. HENDERSON	7/23
DIANE RICE	7/24
JANET E. BROOKS	7/24
GLORIA J. TURNER	7/26
DENYVETTA DAVIS	7/26
BARBARA M. NAMMINGA	7/26
KRISTINA F. ROBERTSON	7/27
DENESA C. YOST	7/28

## July Anniversaries

JANET E. BROOKS	7/1/1980
URSULA A. WARD	7/1/1982
RONNA C. DAVIS	7/19/1982
FRANCES V. HARBERT	7/8/1985
ANITA F. ROESLER	7/28/1985
KAREN R. BRAY	7/7/1986
DAVID L. MACK	7/2/1990
ANGELA M. PAELTZ	7/15/1992
PATRICIA E. WHISENHUNT	7/25/1994
MARY L. DAUGHERITY	7/28/1994
LAURA ANN WYLIE	7/5/1995
DAGMAR M. PEERY	7/7/1997
WOODROW HOWARD JR.	7/7/1997
CAROL MOODY	7/28/1997
PAULA A. HANNAPEL	7/26/1999
KIMBERLY A. RICKEY	7/10/2000
RUSSELL L. PIERCE	7/17/2000
MANDANA ROSHAN	7/27/2000
JOHN LEROY HILBERT	7/16/2001
LISA M. WOOD	7/16/2001
VIRGIL K. KOSKIE	7/14/2003
MARIA E. WATKINS	7/21/2003
KELLY E. WOLF	7/6/2004
JESSICA R. KLOIBER	7/6/2004
JOYCELIN KAY CARINDER	7/20/2004
JANET B. ENGSTRAND	7/31/2004

## August Birthdays

BARBARA A. JOHNSON	8/01
PATRICIA J. HALL	8/03
CAROL L. PROVINE	8/03
CAROLYN S. ABERNATHY	8/03
JAMES E. NIMMO, JR.	8/03
DAGMAR M. PEERY	8/04
JILL L. VESSELS	8/04
CHESTER KINZIE, JR.	8/04
RACHEL B. SMOOT	8/05
SHARON A. NOLAN	8/05
KATRINA S. PRINCE	8/06
ANGELA D. DAVIS	8/06
REGINA M. WOLFINGER	8/07
KELLY M. DALRYMPLE	8/07
KATHY L. FRITSCH	8/08
LINDA A. ELSTON	8/09
KATHRYN M. DUNN	8/09
JOYCE MCCAULEY-JOHNSON	8/09
JOSHUA H. GERNER	8/09
CHARLA D. S. MCGARRAH	8/09
KAREN A. LEHR	8/11
JAMES B. GORDON	8/12
SYLVIA A. LAWSON	8/13
ANITA F. ROESLER	8/13
FRANCIE L. PENDLETON	8/13
LAURA MCMURTRY	8/13
ERICA Y. RUTLAND	8/13
MARYANN M. HEARD	8/14
LINDA J. JAMESON	8/14
BOBBIE KAY BREWER	8/15
RACHEL H. BROWN	8/17
SUSIE L. BEASLEY	8/18
VAN R. BIELSTEIN	8/21
EDWARD N. TERRY	8/21
NATHAN K. LEONARD	8/21
CRYSTAL DAWN ROPER	8/22
JEAN M. WILBURN	8/22
JESSICA Y. LITTLE	8/23
LINDA LEE HYAMS	8/25
PAMELA K. KOSTED	8/25
KARMEN QUEITA HARVEY	8/25
ANN G. ALIOTTA	8/28
ELIZABETH A. PRESSLER	8/28
TIMOTHY D. FISHER	8/29
TERESA ANNETTE GOGGINS	8/29
VALERIE RENEE MANRIQUEZ	8/29
JOYCE A. HELMS	8/30
WENDY J. GABRIELSON	8/30
KAY L. BAUMAN	8/31
BETH K. STEELMAN	8/31
BRENDA ANN HAMMONS	8/31

## August Anniversaries

PRISCILLA M. DOSS	8/1/1972	MARY K. HARRISON	8/7/2000
CHERYL E. PERNELL	8/1/1979	STEPHANIE D. GERLING	8/14/2000
MARILYN R. BARNETT	8/20/1981	SAISRI MCCORMICK	8/21/2000
PHILLIP E. TOLBERT	8/9/1982	DAVID L. CALHOUN	8/1/2001
SHARON L. MAINE	8/17/1982	KIM L. COBB	8/9/2001
BARBARA K. BEASLEY	8/1/1984	ELIZABETH A. PRESSLER	8/20/2001
DARRYL G. FITZHUGH	8/17/1987	JOHN D. WOOD	8/27/2001
SHARON A. NOLAN	8/29/1989	FANNIE HARSHBARGER	8/10/2002
KARMEN QUEITA HARVEY	8/21/1991	ROBERT L. RODDY	8/10/2002
KELLY M. DALRYMPLE	8/26/1991	SHARON DAVIS JORSKI	8/10/2002
GALEN R KURTH	8/30/1993	GERALD W. HICKMAN	8/10/2002
JULIA A. MOCK	8/30/1993	YVONNE M. DYESS	8/12/2002
EVA F. PETEET	8/23/1994	BARBARA A. JOHNSON	8/19/2002
JACQULYN J. TAYLOR	8/29/1994	ELVIRA M. M. FRANKS	8/31/2002
ROBERT A. HURST	8/26/1996	JULIE E. BENNETT	8/2/2004
DEBORAH J. WILLIS	8/31/1996	NGOC KIM NGUYEN	8/3/2004
KAREN L. LITTERAL	8/31/1996	JENA E. MULHOLLEN	8/6/2004
KATHLEEN LAUGERMAN	8/4/1997	JOSEPH A. HUDSON	8/9/2004
GLENN E. WEBB JR	8/25/1997	WIMFORD MARTIN	8/16/2004
FREDERICK R. WILSON	8/10/1998	KEVIN D. COLWELL	8/30/2004
CRYSTAL D. GILES	8/23/1999	TERRI PAULINE FROST	8/31/2004
JANET E. BOWEN	8/25/1999	JULIA C. ENGEL	8/31/2004