

Shelflife

Staff Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

January 2006

MLS 2006: A Look Ahead with MLS

Executive Director Donna Morris

During the calendar year 2006, MLS will be moving forward on several major projects.

Our top priority is to obtain space for the **Cataloging** and **Technical Processing** departments. The growth of the entire library system is dependent upon improving and enlarging their space so that our materials collection system-wide can continue to grow. We are in the process of refining the space requirements for those two departments and hope to be able to find a facility in which we can consolidate them with **Maintenance, Friends of the Library, Books By Mail** and **The Book Centers**. We are looking at the most cost effective solutions and are exploring both leased and owned space in a variety of locations. We

hope to have our plans well underway in the next few months.

We are currently working with Oklahoma City on the necessary agreements to hire an architect for the **Ralph Ellison** project. This project, one of the five library projects included in OKC's 2000 General Obligation bond package, calls for the addition of a large multi-purpose/auditorium space to the Ellison library. In addition, we hope to be able to refurbish the entire building with new furniture. We hope to have the design work completed and construction underway before the close of 2006.

We are beginning plans in conjunction with Oklahoma City on the Northwest Library project. Money for actual construction of the project will not be available

until mid 2007; but architect selection and design work are planned to begin this year.

Other plans for the year include preliminary work on our next strategic plan, as the current one will be completed in 2007, and a multitude of budgeted repair work, improvements to our catalog and other systems, and the expected and unexpected issues that will arise over the course of a year.

As always, MLS will not be resting on its laurels!

—Donna Morris



Ex. Director Donna Morris

Provisional Library Managers Appointed

Since the DN Manager resigned, there has been quite a bit of movement involving the Library Manager positions. The administration thought this might be a good opportunity for others to see how things are at different libraries. We decided to move some staff around for six months as provisional managers: **Mary**

Patton from WA to DN; **Barbara Beasley** from BE to WA; **Katrina Prince** from DC to BE; **Melissa Weathers** to DC.

One of the unique things about this arrangement is that after six months, the manager position at DN will open up. If Mary Patton wishes to apply, she may, or

she may go back to her previous position at WA. After six months, all may go back to their previous positions or we may have more movement. As is common, when one position opens up there is chain of movement.

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Provisional Library Managers Appointed

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As with all changes, there are challenges. However, we believe this is a positive step for the System. In addition to provisional managers, we will also soon be hiring a position that has previously been known as "Events Coordinator." We are changing the title to something like "Headquarter



Mary Patton

Manager." This position will handle some of the meeting room space and building issues that we have at the DN location since it is such a large building. We believe there is a real need for this position and wanted to use the time with the manager's position vacant to hire the HQ manager. This will also give us time to get that position worked out before hiring a manager for the DN library.

Additionally, with the job rotation concept being examined, it is in the best



Melissa Weathers

interest of MLS to utilize this opportunity to learn more about the logistics of temporary assignments in order to improve that process. Some of us that have been here a long time have worked at lots of different libraries. We believe that movement provides valuable experience both for a person's career and for the System's benefit. So, each of these provisional managers had the opportunity to say "Yes" or "No" and they all thought it would be a good move for their careers. At the end of the six months, the Library Manager position at DN will open up for

those interested in applying, and we will know better how the HQ manager position fits with the Library Manager position. We will also have a better understanding of what to do when preparing for temporary assignments.

Several libraries across the country, as well as other types of organizations, find that this type of movement increases the experience and knowledge of their managers. Certainly, there are positives and negatives with either approach. This experiment provides



Katrina Prince

MLS with a good chance to consider different views and should guarantee a smoother transition as we continue in this direction. Each of our standards states that we will exhibit System thinking. This is a perfect example of the need to exhibit System thinking in understanding this direction. When Donna made changes to the organizational chart last year, she renamed the Public Service Administration "Library Operations." Over the past year, program numbers, as well as other documents, have been updated to reflect this change. Within the next month or so, we will be updating the following job titles to reflect that name as well. Therefore, the new titles will be:

- **Deputy Executive Director of Library Operations**
- **Director of Library Operations/MLS**



Barbara Beasley

- **Manager of Library Operations/BI (whichever location)**
- **Assistant Manager of Library Operations/BI (whichever location)**
- **Extension Specialist of Library Operations/ (whichever location)**

As is the MLS tradition, we are evolving. As Peter Drucker said, the best managers always search for change, respond to it, and exploit it as an opportunity. We hope that this experiment provides ample opportunities for both personal development and increased System thinking.

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

For some things, it's too late. You can't attend the world premiere of "Hamlet"—you can't book a cruise on the Titanic.

But if you want to volunteer to help out with the 2006 edition of the Friends of the Library Book Sale—*Take Me to Your Reader*—there's still plenty of time to sign up!

Book Sale weekend is Feb. 24-26 at Oklahoma Expo Hall on the State Fairgrounds. You can help move in on Sunday, Feb. 19, or help with the set up on Monday, Feb. 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Move out is Monday, Feb. 27, beginning at 8 a.m.

Remember, though, that if you want to take advantage of the Thursday night limited shopping, you must volunteer to work move in, or eight hours of set up on Feb. 20, or Friday night Feb. 24, or two shifts on Saturday, Feb. 25.

To volunteer, sign up with Heidi Port in Volunteer Services by Friday, Feb. 10.



News ... News ...News ...

MLS Website Gets a New Look

Our Website at www.Metro-library.org is the first view of MLS that a lot of our customers get. Like anyone hoping to make a first impression, MLS wants to look sharp as well.

That's why our Webmaster, **Teresa Goggins**, has given

the MLS Website a face-lift. "I wanted to improve our Website to better meet the needs of our online customers," Teresa said. "We want a site that's easy to navigate, and we prefer to have quality links and pages, rather than a site that has outdated links

and pages that no one uses. Plus, it was time for a change."

Her goal is to make the Website useable as an online resource for our customers—something they can use to gather information and as a reference tool.

Look for the changes to be in place by February 20.

"We want to be always at their fingertips," Teresa added.

Welcome

Navigate easily throughout the site. Best of all, your favorite page is always at your fingertips!

About the Library

Want to find out how to contact someone at the MLS? Do you know who is the governing body of the MLS? Find out this and more by clicking on "About the Library."

Catalog & Databases

Not only can you search the MLS catalog and databases, but you can also renew a library book and even reserve a book that is checked out!

Parents: Our newly enhanced "Parental Preference Option" is a tool for you to use if you wish to limit the materials your child may borrow.

Quick Links

Quickly access important pages such as the library catalog & database system or the @ Your Service page. Find photographs and art works that tell the story of the people who have called Oklahoma home in "Oklahoma Images."

Exciting Events

Find out what's happening at your local library by checking the Calendar of Events.

How do you ...

Want to quickly find out how to renew a book? Find the answers to the top ten most frequently asked library questions by choosing a selection from the "How do you ..." box.

What's New

Find information about upcoming special events, programs, and even important press releases!





WINTER READFEST

2006 *MLS Lifetime
Reader's Society*



❄ THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM ❄

Artwork by Wanda Scott

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ...

Adult Services librarians
will learn all
the details about
Winter ReadFest 2006
at their
Programming
Retreat on Jan. 11
at the Downtown Library.

Bring your
questions ...
& your enthusiasm!

Winter ReadFest 2006
will be Feb. 1 - March 31.

"Read About It" Parties Down

What? The team that produces the MLS TV program "Read About It" every week partying? Well, yeah.

And not only enjoying a party at the home of RAI regular and director of publications at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum M.J. Van Deventer, but also taking home a gift certificate

from Barnes & Noble—all for doing what most of us like to do: reading good books, watching good movies, and listening to good music, and then talking about it.

"It's our way of saying 'Thank you' to the members of the staff who volunteer to come on the show regularly," said RAI producer **B.J. Williams**.

"Our viewers don't want to just watch Doug and me talking for a half-hour," she added. "Especially not Doug."

Doug Bentin, who has worked with RAI for more than 15 years, agrees that it is the contribution of the MLS staff volunteers that makes the show the pleasure it is to work on. "Well, they make it a

pleasure for me just as much as I make it a pleasure for them."

If you'd like to join the Read About It team, contact B.J. or Doug and arrange to visit the shoot one Wednesday morning. If you like what you see, talk to them about taping a review segment.

And next year, join the party.

Staff Association

SA December 2005 Report

MLS Staff Association representatives met Dec. 15 at the Belle Isle Library where it was reported by President **Jean Johnson** that **Anita Sanders**, the representative from Midwest City as well as Treasurer and Membership Chairman, left MLS in November. **Sharon May** volunteered to be membership chairman. Jean also reported that \$20 in new membership dues was deposited, and she will send a list of the members to Sharon.

Melinda Melindez, the wonderful volunteer from Oklahoma City Community College, helped the Staff Association by making spreadsheets of detailed journal, monthly statements and end of year statements.

The major item of discussion at the December meeting was the concerns that have been collected from MLS staff members. It was discussed how to present the concerns

to the MLS Ad team, as well as how to validate the concerns to be presented. **Beverly Phillips** reported that in past years, Staff Association sent out a detailed survey to employees.

The required annual business meeting that is usually held in June was also discussed. This year, it will be held in south Oklahoma City. Last year, Katherine Long of the Tulsa County Library System,

inspired the Association with her talk on "Promoting Public Libraries." Several excellent suggestions for speakers at the 2006 meeting were made.

Since the president appoints the Chairman and the members of the Staff Recognition dinner committee, Jean announced that **Rondia Banks**, librarian from Warr Acres, will be the 2006 chairman of the Staff Recognition dinner committee. Jean will also be choosing two new committee members.

If you have any concerns that you would like to present to Staff Association, please talk to your representative listed below. If you are interested in serving on the Staff Recognition Dinner Committee, please call Jean Johnson at the Edmond Library. Staff Associations Representatives:

Jean Johnson, Edmond
Sharon May, Ralph Ellison
Sheldon Beach, Downtown
Jean Wilburn, Belle Isle
Joan Shelton, Capitol Hill
Regina Kirkham, Bethany
Tindle Arnold, Choctaw
Lena Loper, Del City
Beverly Phillips, Southern Oaks
Mark Marshall, Village

Staff Association Reader's Advisory

We at the staff association, in an effort to better get to know our cohorts at other branches, have been visiting the various branches of the Metropolitan Library System and discussing an important question that deeply affects us all: "What should I read next?"

This month we visited the folks at **Southern Oaks**. Here is some of what they had to say about reader's advisory.

Librarian **Beverly Phillips** was one of the first to speak with us. One of the first reader's advisory tools she mentioned using is a newsletter put out each month by the staff at Southern Oaks. Of course, the fact that she writes annotations for the monthly 10 best seller's list certainly helps to know what's in the newsletter. And what does she say when approached by an eager reader?

"Let's go to the shelf."
Phillips says that it's good

to get a conversation going. That especially helps when some one says, "I liked this book, what's another one like it?" Since different people get something different out of each book, it helps to talk to them and figure out why they liked a book and go from there.

The fact that she likes to read many different genres of fiction certainly helps when asked, "What's something good to read?" Of course there is the dreaded question that comes up on occasion, "Do you have any good romance novels?" In those cases, she says it's just good to know what's popular and say things like, "Lots of people seem be checking this one out," or, "This is pretty popular right now." At least that lets people know that some people liked it.

Another librarian we spoke with was **John Hilbert**. As

the young adult librarian at Southern Oaks, he said that he mostly tries to keep up with what's new and popular in his own area of expertise, YA literature. He also tries to know where to find lists of teen titles and web sites that feature popular teen literature in the form of Manga and graphic novels. Like Phillips, he also recommends finding out what the readers are looking for. Knowing whether they are reading for plot, setting, language or character helps in finding what they will enjoy reading next.

Hilbert himself enjoys reading some of the more humorous science fiction that's out there. Two authors he often recommends include Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett.

People

The Sound and the Fury:

An MLS Staff Member Recalls Her 40-Year Passion for the Beatles

Just after Christmas break when everyone was still shell-shocked by Kennedy's assassination, just outside the south door of the PC JHS, just after lunch and waiting for the warning bell to call us back inside, a friend with a transistor radio said, "Listen to this!"

First "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," then "She Loves You. Yeah, yeah, yeah!" I was immediately hooked. I also remember where I was when I first heard Fats Domino's "Blueberry Hill," Peggy Lee's "Fever," and Chubby Checker's "Twist." But this was somehow different. And it wasn't just one great song--there were more, one right after another, feeding our hunger 'til the Beatles held the top 5 spots on the charts. And the albums came one after the other, too. Each one surprised us with a new sound, never disappointing our great expectations.

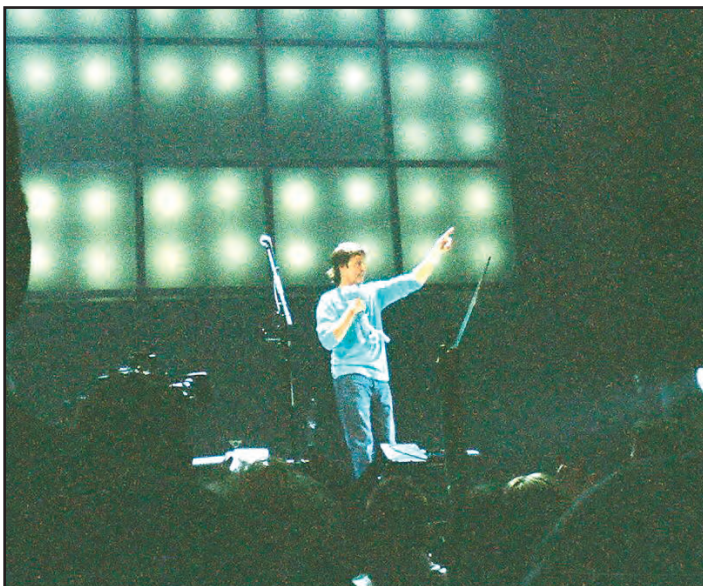
First, it was just the music, and if it had never been more than the music, it would still have been amazing. But the very next month after we discovered them, they came to America where the press and our parents discovered them, too. Those adults so critical of them (and



us) in January, in February fell in love with their wit at the first U.S. press conference and with their music on the "Ed Sullivan Show." *Hard Day's Night* was released that summer and, though it was classic black and white, everything in our lives seemed technicolor now, very like opening the door with Dorothy and seeing Oz.

Soon there were four of us who hung out together every waking moment: buying the records together the day they debuted, performing lip sync performances in Beatle wigs in the talent show, spending all our lunch money on Beatle bubble gum cards, watching Beatles cartoons on TV on Saturday mornings. We each chose our favorite (one of the girls tried to argue me out of Paul, but she gave up and chose George when I remained unmoved). Later, locally, we saw Herman's Hermits perform from the roof at Wedgewood Amusement Park and got autographs from the Lovin' Spoonful when they opened for the Supremes. But the Beatles performed nowhere near Oklahoma. It took us a year and a half to prove our devotion before one set of parents agreed to take us to a concert. The closest venue in '65 was Houston. We stood on our folding seats and screamed while they sang. Every now and then we heard enough to tell what song they were singing. It was great!

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People

Passion for the Beatles, continued from page 6

Since then, I've seen a lot of great concerts. I've seen Paul after Wings but still with Linda in San Antonio and in Arlington. Then in 2002 we bought tickets to the Dallas show before they opened a new leg to the tour and came to OKC. So we went to both. Amazing! Great band, especially Abe, the drummer! He had the same band this year, so I had to go, but this was the first year that I wasn't able to get tickets. A friend (who shall remain nameless to protect his guilt) felt sorry for me and reserved me handicapped seating, but I just couldn't do it. Instead I signed up for an expensive package tour reserved for fan club



U.S. was to come to the concert). But my favorite contact came in the mail: a CD of the Houston '65 concert. What a hoot! The concert was only 32 minutes long, and that includes the time it took the DJ 1) to scream at us to sit down and shut up or he wouldn't start the show, 2) to interrupt the show half-way through to threaten to stop the show, and 3) to end the show with a very curt shout of "Good-bye!" Poor guy. He missed the whole experience.

members (which really wasn't that much more expensive than paying scalpers for the bad seats). I got the aisle seat in row 5, close enough that I could see his eyes when they landed on mine. We felt the heat from the fireworks on Live and Let Die and heard 3 ½ hours of his greatest songs including "Helter Skelter" (which he had never performed live until this last year) and all my favorites: "Hey Jude," "Let It Be," "Golden Slumbers Medley/The End," "Baby I'm Amazed," and . . . (I have lots of favorites). Leaving the stadium, several people stopped us to comment that they had seen my friend's sign on the big screen (he loves signs). But we never saw the big screen; we were too close to the stage to see it!

Anyway, I had a great time. I got e-mails from the sign-maker from Louisiana and from a snapshot taker who defied the camera ban (no e-mail yet from the Dane whose first day ever in the

*A Beatlemaniac,
(aka, Marilyn
Backus, Mat. Sel.)*



People

Hello To:

Aaron "AJ" Stewart Page, DN
 Lois Cross. Ext. Spc., NP
 Devon "Dee" McDaniel Ext. Spc., LO
 Richard "Rich" Antonisse Librarian, LO
 Melissa O'Neil. Librarian, LO

Goodbye To:

Luis Munoz. Page, CH
 Debbie Kelley Sr. Acct. Tech, BO
 Woodrow Howard Acct. Payable Tech, BO
 Bob Hurst. Maintc Tech II, MTC

Rehire

Robin McDowell. Page, MC

Transfer

Mary Patton Provisional, from Library Mgr. I, WA, to Library Mgr. II, DN
 Barbara Beasley Provisional, from Library Mgr. I, BE, to Library Mgr. I, WA
 Katrina Prince Provisional, from Library Mgr. I, DC, to Library Mgr. I, BE
 Melissa Weathers Provisional, from Librarian, MC, to Library Mgr. I, DC
 Rebecca Peters. From Page, LU, to Page, LO

Promotion

LaVetta Dent From Children's Svcs Coord., OUT, to Library Mgr. I, VI
 John Wood From IT Tech II, to Tech Mgr., IT

Sympathy

To Suzanne Anderson, RE, whose father passed away Christmas eve.

Congratulations

To great-grandma Joyce Helms, Harrah Library, whose granddaughter LeAnn and husband had a baby boy, Ian Alexander Kidd, born Dec. 14.

New Staff Members



AJ Stewart



Lois Cross



Dee McDaniel



Rich Antonisse



Melissa O'Neil

On the Mend

Wishing a speedy recovery to Mary Mahan, Extension Specialist at Nicoma Park Library. Dennyvetta Davis reported that Mary had a left lung transplant and is doing well. Mary plans to be back to work by mid-February.

Harry Potter Party a Hit



Photo courtesy of Curtis Burga, parent of a Harry Potter fan.

Teen Services Librarian **John Hilbert** and the **Southern Oaks Library** hosted a Harry Potter Party Dec. 4. John said "...it was a fun event with really good attendance."

January Birthdays

LAURIE F. MACK-CLARK 1/2
 RANDY E. WAYLAND 1/4
 URSULA A. WARD 1/5
 RENA M. GIBSON 1/6
 SALLY K. PHILLIPS 1/7
 DENISE A. LUKES 1/7
 CAROL MOODY 1/8
 CECIL L. PEADEN 1/9
 PATRICIA E. WHISENHUNT 1/10
 PETER L. ROBERSON 1/12
 JONATHAN D. ST.AUBIN 1/14
 STEVEN B. JENKINS 1/14
 MARCIA J. FINDEISS 1/14
 TODD S. OLBERDING 1/18
 BEVERLY K. PHILLIPS 1/18
 RONNA C. DAVIS 1/19
 JOE J. POE 1/19
 HELEN J. SHELTON 1/19
 GLENN E. WEBB JR 1/19
 DOROTHY E. DUNLAP 1/20
 EVELYN K. DAVIS 1/20
 JOHN LEROY HILBERT 1/21
 DANA M. PHILLIPS 1/21
 NICOLE E. BURESH 1/21
 JESSICA ANN PRIEBE 1/21
 KATHY S. MARQUIS 1/22
 NGOC KIM NGUYEN 1/24
 JESSICA L. SCHICK 1/24
 REGINA G. LOWRY 1/25
 JOAN G. KENDALL 1/26
 CHARLA LEANNE LONG 1/27
 LINDA MARIE ARMSTEAD 1/28
 PAMELA L. BRANDT 1/28
 SUSAN M. MONROE 1/30
 CHESTER L. LOVELY 1/31
 SANDRA KAY EFFINGER 1/31
 AJAX S. C. DELVECKI 1/31

January Anniversaries

CAROL L. PROVINCE 1/6/75
 KATRINA B. PRINCE 1/6/85
 NANCY J. LYTTLE 1/22/85
 ELIZABETH HOLSHOUSER 1/21/87
 SYLVIA A. LAWSON 1/24/89
 ERIC G. KING 1/9/90
 JAMES E. NIMMO, JR 1/18/93
 LOVINIA M. NICHOLS 1/5/94
 GREGORY W. BENNETT 1/21/97
 DENISE A. LUKES 1/5/98
 TIMOTHY D. FISHER 1/26/98
 LARRY G. JOHNSON 1/26/98
 LISA L. WALKER 1/26/98
 VICTORIA E. DIXON 1/26/98
 KATHY L. FRITSCH 1/27/98
 CHRISTINE R. BASSETT 1/25/99
 BOBBIE KAY BREWER 1/11/01
 TIMOTHY D. HANNA 1/16/01
 JENNIFER ADKISSON 1/7/02
 SHARON G. BISH 1/7/02
 LAURA MCMURTRY 1/23/02
 LUIS A. MUNOZ 1/31/02
 KELLEY E. HOFFMAN 1/21/03
 LLOYD LOVELY 1/12/04
 RYAN BLAINE TAYLOR 1/20/04
 PATRICK D. WILLIAMS 1/20/04
 KIM ELLEN MACARTY 1/1/05
 SAMUEL G. WEEHUNT 1/3/05
 WENDY E. TAYLOR 1/3/05
 MEGAN L. BARNETT 1/8/05
 BETH K. STEELMAN 1/18/05
 CASEY JO BEACH 1/31/05
 DEBORAH FAITH LEAL 1/31/05

February Anniversaries

RIC REA 2/16/1982
 DENESA C. YOST 2/28/1986
 WANDA D. SCOTT 2/7/1990
 LINDA J. JAMESON 2/26/1990
 SARAH J. KELLUM 2/14/1994
 JASON E. EVANS 2/1/1996
 SUSAN M. MONROE 2/12/1996
 DARLENE S. BROWERS 2/12/1996
 DEBORAH A. KELLEY 2/1/1997
 ROY S. BALLOU 2/8/1999
 GEORGE M. MARSHALL 2/15/1999
 SHAHIN S. ASGHARI 2/16/1999
 SUSAN K. BECKETT 2/7/2000
 AMELIA E. YOUNG 2/9/2000
 TERI L. REDENBAUGH 2/16/2001
 KATHRYN M. DUNN 2/19/2001
 CAROL S. HUNTER 2/19/2001
 JANA L. EATMON 2/18/2002
 CHERYLL R. SMITH 2/3/2003
 GLORIA J. TURNER 2/2/2004
 TAMERAT ATLABACHEW 2/2/2004
 JESSICA ISTED-MURRAY 2/16/2004
 CHRIS CARROLL 2/17/2004
 LAWANA MORGAN 2/23/2004
 JAMES B. GORDON 2/2/2005
 ANDREW KEEPERS-PHILLIPS 2/22/2005

"There is no happiness in love,
 except at the end of an English
 novel."
 —Anthony Trollope,
 "Barchester Towers"

February Birthdays

FRANK C. RAY
 ANDREW KEEPERS-PHILLIPS
 JOANNE SCHNEIDER
 MARY J. PATTON
 HECTOR L. MATA
 LAURA ANN WYLIE
 KAREN L. LITTERAL
 ANN L. MEEKS

2/1 • DEVON D. MCDANIEL
 2/2 • VIRGIL K. KOSKIE
 2/3 • ROBERT A. HURST
 2/4 • CHARLA RENE LUCERO
 2/6 • ERIC G. KING
 2/9 • CAROL S. HUNTER
 2/9 • KATHLEEN M. LAUGERMAN
 2/9 • DEBORAH J. WILLIS

2/10 • HOLLIE A. HIRE 2/20
 2/11 • JESSICA FAWN LOTHROP 2/20
 2/15 • DANIEL E. FIELDS 2/20
 2/15 • GENE E. CHAPPELL 2/22
 2/18 • JULIANNA LOUISE LINK 2/23
 2/18 • LARRY G. JOHNSON 2/24
 2/20 • ERNESTINE F. CLARK 2/28
 2/20 •