

ShelfLife

Staff Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

May 2006

American Heart Association's Heartwalk

Were you there??

On April 22, MLS participated in the American Heart Association's annual Heartwalk. **ED's** Ronna Davis was one of the participants and she loved it.

"I'm so glad Heidi Port (**Volunteer Services**) coordinated the MLS participation in the Heart Walk. Although I started out walking with part of the MLS bunch, I decided to walk a little faster (better for the heart!) and I finished the 3 mile walk at approximately 11 am. I really enjoyed the warm-up in the stadium as well. I will be sure to tell my co-workers what a fun time it was."

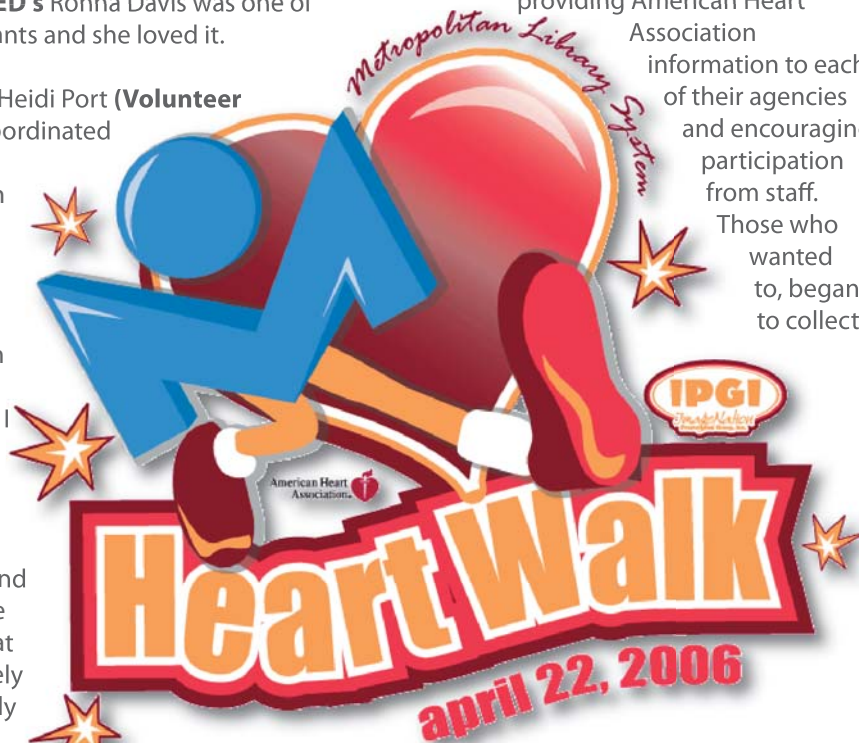
"The Heartwalk," Heidi reports, "began months ago with Staff Association reps providing American Heart Association information to each of their agencies and encouraging participation from staff. Those who wanted to, began to collect

donations, and several on the team raised over \$300 (Lena Loper of **DC** and Elizabeth Kessler of **Material Selection**). Jason Jackson with IPGI donated the special walker t-shirts just for the event.

"Saturday was perfect weather - we met at Bricktown Ballpark with our families, friends, and furry participants (dogs were encouraged to come)," said Heidi. "We had a great time, and during the pre-walk ceremony, we did a special Heartwalk song with motions that I still can't get out of my head!

"During the walk, we were especially proud to have a pair of 'red hat' wearers with us—these are the folks who have survived heart disease," Heidi continued.

Heidi and the American Heart Association want to thank everyone who participated in the Heartwalk in any way, and remind you to start looking for some comfy shoes for next year.



Chris & Emily Williams, OUT's Young Adult Coordinator



MLS 2006 HeartWalk Participants -- and their furry friends.



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

Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales!

It's almost that time!

Summer at the Library

It's almost time for Summer at the Library to begin again, and that means it's time to start training staff and volunteers to manage the program.

Stacy Schrank, MLS Employee Development Coordinator, will be contacting libraries soon about the training regimen for Summer at the Library 2006, but here is Stacy's quick overview of what's coming up.

To have the best Summer ever, all MLS Staff, Event Employees, and Teen Volunteers will be encouraged to attend a Training Session. "We really want all MLS Staff members to help out," Stacy said. "It doesn't matter if you are not in a public service area. Summer at the Library is for everyone!"

We realize it may seem early, but to get every one trained, training sessions for MLS Staff and Event Staff will be held during the first two weeks of May at each library location. Planning

and Training will be sending out the schedules soon, so get ready!!

Each training session should last no more than 30 minutes and provides an overview of the children's and teen programs.

But don't worry about forgetting what you learned if you scheduled one of the early sessions. Planning & Training did an incredible job to put together a comprehensive training package which is being sent to each library location. The same training package will be utilized in training both staff and volunteers. "I've also put together a PowerPoint presentation that will help people once training is over," Stacy said. "This will be available on the MLS Intranet after the sessions to serve as a 'refresher' of the components and procedures."



Once staff has been trained, teen volunteers will be trained by library staff at each library location as needed.

Flyers and materials will soon be distributed to the libraries and the graphics from all the materials will be available for download on the intranet -- in case you want to make your own special flyers!

Get ready for fun this year's Summer at the Library!!



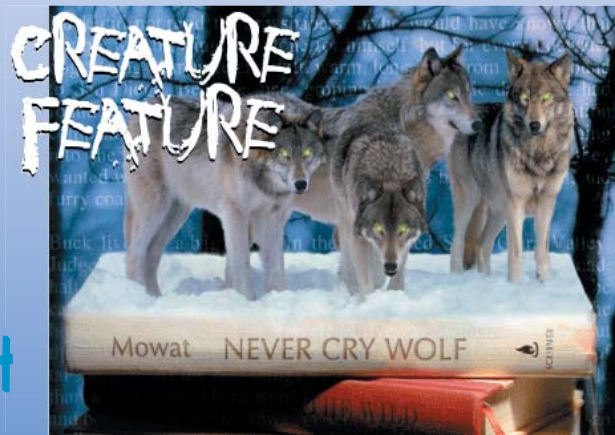
Live Performances

Arts & Crafts

Reading

Prizes

Entertainment





Punky Purple Chic -- Huh?

The scene is the **Bethany Library**, the monthly staff meeting. Manager **Katrina Prince** leads a discussion of how to get more library customers involved in the upcoming Winter ReadFest event. The staff really wants to win the signed, framed print by MaC's graphic artist **Wanda Scott**, and to win it BE will have to get the highest percentage of new readers into the program.

"I felt we could promote this to our customers in a very positive manner," says BE librarian **Sharon Nolan**. "Readers were important to us.

"In our meeting, I think [librarian] **Daniel Fields** said something like **Melissa** did dye her hair for the cause at **MWC** and so I crazily said 'Hey, I'll dye my hair **purple** if we can go from 31 sign ups to 100 this year.'

"Well, as the saying goes, the rest is history. We made a poster with a wanted sign with my picture on it which read:

EXTREME MAKEOVER CHALLENGE WANTED!

100 Winter Readfest participants
Sharon has promised to turn her hair punky chic purple if 100 people sign up for Winter Readfest.

"The customers had a great time and we made lots of customers 55 and older aware of our program. Some made comments to me—'Are you really going to do this?'

"I did! The staff, Katrina and Kimberly especially, went wild the first week signing up readers. The staff worked very hard and well in making this a success.

"The last week of Winter Readfest I started turning my hair purple with a spray which had to be washed out nightly. Saturday, the day of the party, I was **PUNKY PURPLE CHIC!** And I mean every hair on my head. Marketing Manager Kim Terry even made t-shirt transfers which our staff loves and I have worn several times.

"From 31 signups to 330 sign ups. That's 965%! Would I go purple again? Well... maybe next year something different . . . ?"



2006 Winter ReadFest: Incredible Participation!

Anita Roesler, **MLS Senior Services Coordinator**, is breathing a little easier these days. She loves the project she began a few years ago—Winter ReadFest, a reading program for seniors—but it's a lot of work, although fun work! The work itself is rewarding, and the 2006 event produced very tangible rewards as well in the form of vastly increased customer participation.

As encouragement to library staff to talk up the event, Anita offered prizes to the libraries, large and small, that managed to post the highest numbers for an increased percentage of participants.

The result—11 of the 17 MLS libraries boosted customer participation by over 50% from 2005. Five saw an increase of over 100%; three went up by over 200%. The library that won the grand prize has participation that grew by a whopping 965%!

"**Bethany Library** won the framed original of **Wanda Scott's** poster drawing," Anita smiled, "and **Luther** won the (one of a kind) framed print for the Extensions with a 124% increase.

"**Southern Oaks** is getting a special certificate for having the most customers enroll.

Everyone gets a certificate with a drawing of their library and a thank you for making this Winterfest a huge success! These great building portraits were also designed and executed by Wanda."

In all, Winter ReadFest clocked an increased participation by 85%. Congratulations to Anita and all staff who made this possible.



News ... People...News

What's She Up To Now??

The staff of ShelfLife—well, a certain member of the staff, anyway—has a fondness for fast women, literally. You may recall that **Elizabeth Kessler**, from the **Materials Selection** department, was recently given as a gift from her husband the chance to fly a training plane.

Well, the MLS Speed Queen is at it again.

"For Christmas," Liz wrote to us, "my husband decided to give me the ultimate present. He sent me to the Texas Motor Speedway in Ft. Worth to a driving school.

"Okay, I know how to drive. I do it all the time and yes, I do exceed the speed limit every now and then. Okay, every day.

"But this time I would be driving a NASCAR race car completely stripped of every comfort. We are talking the bare minimum. Anyway, here's what happened Saturday, April 15.

"First up, I had to take a short course on how to properly drive a race car. It's

different than you might think. We learned how to enter and exit the speedway and how to gain speed by tailgating the car in front of you. (I wonder if this works on the highway?)

"I was then turned loose to drive my very own race car. Of course, the instructor was in the passenger seat. He didn't hesitate to give me the thumbs up (which means go faster lady). A total of ten of us were on the speedway at one point. I don't know how fast I ended up because there are no speedometers in the cars.

"After ten laps, my instructor and I switched places and he took it up to 160 mph. Yes, I was screaming at first but after pulling a few g's, I loved it.

"Yes, I would do it again. What an exhilarating ride!"



Elizabeth Kessler, *Materials Selection*

ShelfLife points out that at one time or another we've all encountered motorists who make our eyes fly open and turn our bladders weak, and we've wondered what kind of person would drive like that. Now we know.

What's next, Liz? Climbing the Alps?

All in the Family ... writing, that is.

She was a little hesitant to do so, but **Downtown librarian Phyllis Davidson** has every right to toot her own horn over the fact that she won a contest sponsored by the Oklahoma Genealogical Society.

"As the editor of my own family newsletter,"

Phyllis wrote to MaC's Nancy know the having stories

Lytle, "I value of people send you and information.

Consequently, I'm throwing off my mantle of modesty and admitting that, yes, I won a contest."

The contest was for writing family history, and Phyllis won for a piece called "Nannie Duncan and Old Green Granny." The story will be published in the Society's quarterly journal.

"In addition," Phyllis continued, "my daughter, Amy Dee Stephens, has written a book that will be out in May. It is 'Oklahoma City Zoo 1902-1959.'" (590.73766/OK414o)

The Life You Save . . .

Denise Courts, in Human Resources, has a good suggestion for all of us.

"Complete an Emergency Medical Identification card for your wallet and print it out," she said recently in an email.

Go to <http://www.medids.com/free-id.php> to print an identification card. In an emergency situation, you may not be able to speak and give vital information concerning your health. According to the website, Medical providers must sometimes treat accident victims without having any basic medical information about the individual or any way to contact someone who could provide crucial information.

A medical information card would prove to be invaluable in providing treatment by attending medics or other medical personnel. A medical identification bracelet or pendant is recommended to alert emergency medical personnel of your wallet card.



Technology Update

New Internet Computer Sign Up Begins Soon

On June 26, MLS computer customers will venture into the world of scheduling. Now all computer use, not just dedicated internet computers, will require computerized sign up. And gone are the days of only 30 to 90 minutes of internet time. Now an internet customer can initially schedule one hour of internet/computer time-- and if no one is waiting, continue to sign up in increments of 30 minutes. If someone is waiting, he/she can still sign up for more time, but the software uses a first come, first serve process.

"I think this will equally distribute our in-house internet/computer use fairly," said **Anne Fischer, Director of Information Technology**. "This will help reduce staff time because right now, they are manually scheduling the time. Also, it's going to be really great for the customer, because if no one is waiting they can stay on the

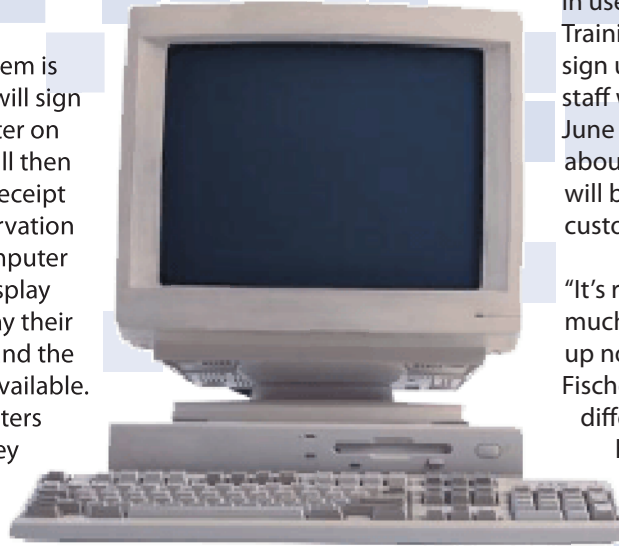
computer without being shut off after a time limit."

Once the new system is ready, customers will sign in to use a computer on a main pc. They will then receive a printed receipt that has their reservation code. When a computer is ready, a main display monitor will display their reservation code and the computer that is available. If there are computers available when they sign in, they will be assigned a computer immediately. The display unit will also show where they are on the waiting list as well as how much time

is remaining on the computers that are in use.

Training on the new sign up process for staff will be held in June and information about the process will be available for customers by June 26.

"It's really going to be much simpler to sign up now," continued Fischer. "Right now, different libraries have different in-house sign up procedures. This will make it the same all



across the system."

Gates Computers

Now at a Library near you.

Have you noticed some new public computers at your library? Well MLS received a Gates grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to replace 63 of our public computers. 63!

All of the computers from the Gates grant have recently been installed and are now available for use. These computers include Internet use, Microsoft Office and Encarta. Have you looked at Encarta yet? Really neat software!! And check out the Kids Encarta on the children's computers. Wow!!

This is the second time that MLS has received a grant from the Gates Statewide Library Partnerships Grants program. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was established in 1997 and is dedicated to partnering with public libraries to bring computers, Internet access and training to low-income communities in the United States and Canada.

Cameras Still Available for Use

Have you ever had a fun library event and wished you had a camera available? Ever thought, "Wow! This activity might be really cool for our library scrapbook." Well, for you 'think-aheaders', don't forget that we still have two great Olympus Camedia digital cameras for you to use. I say 'think-aheaders', because you have to check them out from **Jonita Normore, Library Operations**, in advance. But in advance can be anywhere from two weeks to one day before the activity. And many times there's usually a camera available the same day you might need it -- you just have to come and pick it up!

Remember that these cameras are available for check-out by library managers or their designee for up to two weeks, says **Denyvetta Davis, MLS director of branch services**.

The cameras are super easy to use and there shouldn't be a photo situation they can't handle!



PEOPLE

HELLO TO & RE-HIRES

Kendra WilliamsPage, DC
Landon Holman Computer Operator, IT
Sandra Lanham Circ. Clerk, MC
Bradley McCoy..... Circ. Clerk, MC



Kendra Williams



Landon Holman



Sandra Lanham



Bradley McCoy

PROMOTION

Ajax Delvecki..... From Page, DN, to Circ Clerk, BI
Andrew Keepers-PhillipsFrom Page, WA to Data Entry Tech, TP
Tulin Lafollette..... From Page to Associate Librarian, CT
Joshua SchellFrom Receiving Tech, TP, to Associate Librarian, VI

TRANSFER

Pam Buchanan.....From Computer Operator to IT Tech I, IT
Karen DavisFrom Page, BI, to MSD Tech, CAT

GOODBYE TO

Kristina Robinson Circ. Clerk, BI
Jason EvansPage, ED
Kenneth Brown Mtc. Tech II, MTC
Laura Wylie Circ Clerk, MC
Jonnita Buford Tech Asst., RE
Kristen KeyserCirc Clerk, WA

SYMPATHY

To Nancy Lytle, whose father-in-law recently passed away.



May Birthdays

SUSAN E. RYAN	5/1
MICHAEL A. BAUGHMAN	5/2
SAMUEL G. WEEHUNT	5/4
DEBBIE E. ROBERTUS	5/6
ROSEMARY STAFFORD	5/6
ANNE G. FISCHER	5/9
MARY L. DAUGHERITY	5/11
CHERYL A. MANN	5/12
RICHARD E. REA	5/13
MELANIE DIANE LEVICK	5/14
MARY ANN JOHNSON	5/15
STEPHANIE D. GERLING	5/15
PAMELA E. WISER	5/15
KEVIN D. COLWELL	5/16
SHARON G. BISH	5/16
ELIZABETH NEWLAND	5/16
CHERYL E. CHERRY	5/18
LISA M. WOOD	5/18
SUSAN J HUTCHINS	5/18
REGINA D. KIRKHAM	5/19
MARILYN R. BARNETT	5/19
TERRI PAULINE FROST	5/21
TRACY C. STONE	5/21
LINDSAY E. JONES	5/21
JOSHUA N. SCHELL	5/21
AARON G. KILLOUGH	5/22
LAURA PARKER	5/22
FREDERICK R. WILSON	5/22
REBECCA D. PRINCE	5/23
JULIA C. ENGEL	5/29

May Anniversaries

EVELYN K. DAVIS	5/27/1980
JESSIE C. BISHOP	5/13/1981
FRANK C. RAY	5/21/1984
COLLETTE HANKINS	5/6/1985
MARILYN E. BACKUS	5/21/1987
REGINA WOLFINGER	5/29/1990
HELEN J SHELTON	5/12/1992
HEIDI A. PORT	5/12/1997
TINDLE J. ARNOLD	5/27/1997
GENE E. CHAPPELL	5/26/1998
LISA E. MYERS	5/5/2000
MEGAN E. SMITH	5/30/2000
TERESA GOGGINS	5/7/2001
LINDA ARMSTEAD	5/6/2002
CHRIS LARWIG	5/28/2002
DIANNA L. RUPP	5/28/2002
MARCUS J HARMAN	5/3/2003
MARY J. SHOLLY	5/18/2003
MARY ANN HUGGINS	5/29/2003
VERONICA P. MOORE	5/9/2005
GOJIE B. S. LUSTER	5/9/2005
VALERIE MANRIQUEZ	5/9/2005
JEANELLE ECHOLS	5/16/2005
RENA M. GIBSON	5/16/2005
KELLEY LYN BERTRAM	5/23/2005
DANA M. PHILLIPS	5/26/2005

June Anniversaries

CONRAD J. DOTY	6/1/1968
DONNA L. MORRIS	6/1/1969
CHERYL A. MANN	6/21/1973
BARBARA J. WILLIAMS	6/3/1974
LAURIE F. MACK-CLARK	6/9/1975
SELMA ZUHDI	6/17/1977
SUSAN A. STINSON	6/25/1980
EBRAHIM EJTEHADI	6/24/1982
SHEILA D. FIXEL	6/7/1983
ANN G. ALIOTTA	6/4/1984
DEBORAH MONTGOMERY	6/2/1986
LANNY B. MYERS	6/8/1987
RANDY L. KNUTSON	6/25/1990
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	6/24/1991
ABOLGHASEM SIAVASHI	6/27/1994
PHYLLIS A. DAVIDSON	6/27/1995
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/10/1996
CHARLEEN K. MILLER	6/23/1997
JOSHUA H. WELLS	6/30/1998
KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS	6/14/1999
RAMON LIRA	6/14/2000
DEREK J. CASH	6/4/2001
TREVOR L. DAILEY	6/3/2002
STACY G. SCHRANK	6/7/2004
DANIELLE D. WALKER	6/8/2004
TERI LYNN WOOLEY	6/10/2004
CHARLA RENE LUCERO	6/21/2004
CRYSTAL DAWN ROPER	6/28/2004
MARILYN CONLEY	6/6/2005
JONNITA BUFORD	6/20/2005
KIMBERLY ANN TERRY	6/20/2005
BRANDI E. GAY	6/27/2005

June Birthdays

NINA M. GINSTERBLUM	6/2
ROBIN LYLE MCDOWELL	6/4
SALLY A. GRAY	6/6
TERRIE LUCILLE THOMAS	6/10
GALEN R KURTH	6/11
CLYDE D. HERROD	6/11
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/11
SHARON GAYE MAY	6/13
JESSICA HEITMAN	6/14
LOUISA M. SMITH	6/14

LAURIE ANN MEHRWEIN	6/15
MARILYN E. BACKUS	6/17
CONRAD J. DOTY	6/19
DANA L. MORROW	6/20
JENNIFER M. HUNTER	6/21
WIMFORD MARTIN	6/23
CANDELARIA NUNEZ	6/23
KENNETH J. BROWN	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
TAMERAT ATLABACHEW	6/28
JIMMY C. WELCH	6/28
D. DIANE SHARP	6/28
CINDY S. FINNEGAN	6/29
ELIZABETH D. HICKEY	6/29