



ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY

Dear Donna...

October 2008



Executive Director Q & A

Q: With Wall Street getting beat up like it is, what is the condition of our retirement systems?

A: Both retirement systems are fine. I asked (Deputy Director/Finance)

Lloyd Lovely about it and he received word directly from our Mass Mutual rep Mark Thompson. This is what Mark had to say.

"There may actually be two concerns: Concern for the market as a whole (how far will it drop) and concern for the participants' specific investments in the library defined contribution plan (how safe are my investments).

"As for the first concern, the market will always fluctuate and economic

cycles are necessary to purge excesses, in this instance the areas of lending and housing. While there is no way to know how long the downturn will last your current paycheck deductions are buying a far greater number of shares now than they were a year ago. When the market swings back, those shares that show the greatest potential for gain will be those purchased on sale during a market drop and not those purchased when the market is at a high.

"If the concern is for the safety of the Mass Mutual investment options, a participant only needs to go online and check the Morningstar reports on their respective investment to discover that

because of the diversification of companies that these funds invest in, the failure of a single company will have minimal effect on the overall return of the fund because in general a single company's stock seldom makes up more than 1 or 2 percent of the total holding of that fund.

As a side note, the inconceivable failure of Mass Mutual itself would have zero effect on those investment funds. They are separate accounts independent of Mass Mutual's general assets and would not be impacted in the least by the financial failure of Mass Mutual."

Paying for *Damaged/Rebinds* With a Credit Card

There is some small room for confusion when customers pay for a damaged/rebind with a credit card online. At the time they pay, the information disappears from their Transaction Record and staff at the library which owns the material will not know that payment has been made. Since the item will no longer show on the customer's record, credit card payments mean that staff need to have a way of knowing that the customer paid.

"When a customer pays for a damaged/rebind item with a credit card," explained Director of Information Technology **Anne Fischer**,

"an e-mail will be sent to the owning library (to the account where you receive notifications that customers no longer need a reserve) to let you know that the material has been paid for.

"We believe this will be a fairly low volume of transactions."

But IT does have a couple of tips that might help you track these items:

1. Make a folder in your e-mail and file all of these messages in this folder. By retaining the messages for at least six months, any staff member can

check and see if an item was paid for by credit card.

2. Print out a copy of the e-mail showing that the item was paid for and put it with the material. If the customer comes to claim the item, you have the proof with it that they already paid for it.

New technology brings mostly new benefits, but it can also force the creation of new ways to do things. Hopefully, these tips will help ease the way we keep records for credit card payments of damaged/rebinds.

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Ralph Ellison Library —Getting Settled in their New Home

Ralph Ellison Library Circ Clerk **Rena Gibson** sent us a note about how RE staff felt about moving into a temporary location while renovations are in progress.

building and the new renovations. The plans for the old building are on display at RE. One of the major renovations will be an auditorium style meeting room that will be

able to hold larger functions, but will also be split for smaller functions.

Kim Ventrella, YA Librarian, says, "The community is overwhelmingly behind the move. Everyone I've talked to is excited about the new location and the positive impact it will have on the community. The library has not been updated since it was first built in 1975. The renovation has been a long time

coming, and the staff is excited for the new layout and to be able to better serve the community."

Joanie, Kim, Rena and Warren, along with the rest of the RE staff-- **Lawana Morgan**, Circ Clerk; **Reginald Walker**, Tech Ass't.; **Maryl Baird**, Page; and **Kiara Calip**, Page—invite the rest of their MLS family to come out and see the new temporary location at 1918 N.E. 23.

And they thank everyone who has already come out for showing such support in this time of change.

"One last thank you to all of you who helped with the move," Rena says. "We couldn't have done it without you!"

Recently RE moved locations to the old Hollywood Video building on the west side of MLK and right next to CVS Pharmacy. **Warren Anderson**, Page at RE says about the move, "I like the new location; it's more than I expected." Not only is it more than a lot of staff expected, but also the customers are pleasantly surprised.

Joanie Porter, Provisional Manager of RE says, "I'm excited about this new building. It's open, clean, and inviting to our customers. We are hoping to give our customers a better library experience that will make them excited about the renovated building."

Now that the library has moved to its temporary location, customers ask staff more questions about the old

Kim Ventrella in *School Library Journal*

Kim Ventrella, the Young Adult specialist at RE, is one of the best and brightest of new MLS librarians. YA reviews appear regularly in our monthly magazine *info* and in the *Daily Oklahoman*, but she has recently expanded her publishing venues to include *School Library Journal*.

In a recent article for SLJ, Kim highlighted popular teen reads at Ralph Ellison Library. The article appears online in SLJ's Extra Helping newsletter in the "What are they reading for fun?" section.

"So what do RE teens love to read?" Kim wrote. "Mainly, they love manga, craft and drawing books and urban fiction. Popular titles include Rumiko Takahashi's *Inuyasha*, Christopher Hart's *Manga Mania Occult and Horror* and Anne Schraff's *Bluford High* series."

To read the entire article, go to slj.com, keyword "Ralph Ellison Library."

Congratulations to Kim for representing MLS so well and smartly.





A Pun, My Word!

Nobody really knows for sure why people laugh at jokes, although it's perfectly obvious why no one laughs at mine. Or so my wife tells me.

Sometimes, even if you don't think a gag is all that funny, you can still admire the nerve of whoever is telling it. That's how we feel about many of the jokes that come to ShelfLife via e-mail. Here is some gutsy humor for lexophiles (lovers of words). Try these out on family and friends at your own risk. ShelfLife assumes no responsibility for blackened eyes and broken relationships.

1. I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
2. Did you hear about the guy whose left side was cut off? He's all right now.
3. The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his orders.
4. Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.
5. The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
6. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
8. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you A-Flat miner.

And with that we bid the weary traveler a fond farewell. Farewell.

CELEBRATE

PISTOL PETE'S

85th

Birthday

AT THE ZOO!

Sunday, October 5,
at the Oklahoma City Zoo




The cost of each admission is one pumpkin as big as your head or bigger!*

The first 200 to arrive at Pete's party wearing OSU ORANGE will have cake with Pete at 2 p.m.

* Pumpkins will go to the zoo's annual Zoo Haunting

For more information: centralokcowboys@gmail.com

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The OSU Alumni Association
Oklahoma City Chapter
and the OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO


Fingerprints

STAFF PROFILE

Sharon Thompson—Circ clerk at the Downtown Library, has also worked at Midwest City and Ralph Ellison, but has been at DN since June 2003. She's now enrolled in the MLIS program at OU since 2007.

At home she knits ("I can knit a pretty decent scarf") and watches

daytime and nighttime soaps. (Love that TiVo!) And loved watching the Olympics.

Also, she enjoys reading—most recently *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and watching movies—*Mama Mia*—the latest.

Sharon likes library work and says



what she enjoys most is the people—customers and co-workers.



ZOMBIES ON PARADE

Well kiddies, Halloween is fast approaching and this year MLS will be involved in the Oklahoma Gazette's Ghouls Gone Wild parade.

Your Metropolitan Die-brary System will be represented by at least 10 masters of the Dewey Decimate System who will ooze along the parade route with appropriately decorated book carts and other props, accompanied by the Library's magnificent mascot, Spoticus, the Demented Dalmatian. Costumed for the season, our iron maidens and midnight men—not a one of whom isn't tall, dark, and gruesome—are not your grandma's librarians. We're the ones who put the "awe" in "autopsy."

Parade participants, as of this writing, include:

Kim "Deadhead" Edwards (DN)

Wendy "Come Blow Your Horn"

Gabrielson (DN)

Jerod "Coffin" Gerfen (OUT)

John "Boot" Hilbert (SO)

Linda "Hang 'Em" Hyams / Spoticus (HUM)

Teresa "Mangler" Matthews (ED)

Kim "Ceme" Terry (MaC)

Kim "Valkyrie From Valhalla" Ventrella (RE)

Emily "Reading of the" Williams (OUT)

Lisa "Gall and Worm" Wood (OUT)

Want to join the fun? Pull your head out of the sand, re-attach it, and call Emily Williams at 606-3834. The more, the scarier.

'S Lovely

If you're visiting DN and you see a trail of buttons on the floor, just pick them up and take them to Deputy Executive Director/Finance **Lloyd Lovely** in the Business Office. He's so proud of his daughter Stephanie, he's popping buttons off of every shirt he owns.

You see, Stephanie is a soccer player for the University of Central Oklahoma and on September 21 she played the kind of game most athletes can only dream about.

In a neutral-site game against Harding University, the UCO Bronchos whooped their opponents 4-1 and Stephanie scored three of the four goals.

"It's a team sport," Lloyd said, "and you can't score if no one passes the ball to you, but Stephanie was really on her game that day and I'm very proud of her."



Stephanie Lovely in action during her winning game.

The UCO website, in an article titled "A Lovely Day," says that "Lovely was the catalyst."

Stephanie plays Forward on the team and is a senior.

If her dad can handle the MLS check-book as well as Stephanie can maneuver a soccer ball, we'll be in good financial shape.



Lending Library Review: Be Your Own Brand

by David McNally and Karl Speak

Like it or not, all of us are branded. We do things, we say things, we wear things that cause others to look at us in a certain way. As Kurt Vonnegut warned in his novel *Mother Night*, we inevitably become what we pretend to be—so we need to be very careful what we pretend to be.

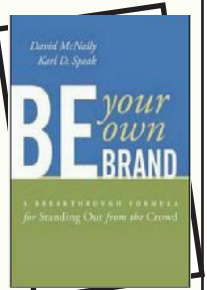
Authors McNally and Speak draw on that observation and adapt it to the business world in *Be Your Own Brand*, which illustrates the importance of identifying your core values in business and in life through a series of real-life stories.

The authors assure the reader that "branding" is more than just "pasting on a superficial veneer. Brands, they say, "like special relationships, are real and make a difference." They show you how to create a personal brand that is positive and identifiable as well as reflective of your vision and values.

Their book provides:

- Tools to build and manage powerful relationships in all aspects of your life
- An in-depth understanding of the principles of successful brand-building—in any context
- Strategies for aligning your personal brand values with your employer's brand values

Anyone who wants to be recognized for all the right reasons can get some good advice from *Be Your Own Brand*.



What We Do: Getting FOCUSed

For MLS Employee Development Coordinator **Stacy Schrank** and the rest of the Planning Department gang, FOCUS is an ongoing, 12-months a year work-a-palooza-in-progress. Like brown on a UPS truck, it's always there.

"As soon as one FOCUS ends," Stacy said, "we all get together for a debriefing session to discuss what worked, what didn't, and why. The process of finding next year's theme begins immediately."

Settling on a theme is important because much of what will be planned for the following October will be related to the theme. The FOCUS team starts looking around for the most popular elements in the pop culture zeitgeist.

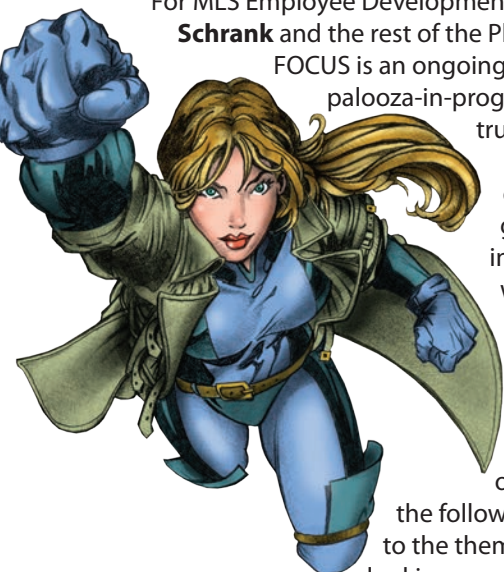
"We saw that super heroes were popular and had been for a few years. We wanted to emphasize internal customer service and realized that each of us can be an MLS hero to everyone else. That concept just lent itself to the suggestion that had been given to us by many FOCUS participants that the most meaningful sessions would be those designed by MLS staff expressly for MLS staff."

Another important element for starting the day with a bang is the Keynote Speaker. The team collected the names of speakers they'd heard or who had been heard by other employees. To go along with this year's theme of Heroes, Stacy knew that he wanted someone with a light touch and the ability to deliver a talk on a broad topic with material that would touch everyone. That's when he settled on Lynn Hester from Integriss.

"Lynn has been to FOCUS before," Stacy explained, "but it's been several years and she'll be giving us a new speech, so it will be like hearing her for the first time. We were lucky to get her because some speakers are booked years in advance."

FOCUS 2008 will be on October 13 and you know that by the end of that week, Stacy and the team will be thinking about the 2009 edition. Everything has to be related to the organization, has to meet the needs of the staff, and must be in service of MLS' stated goals and objectives.

Got some ideas? Give Stacy a call.



• MYSTERY PERSON •

Here are the clues of this person's favorites:

Fave Music:	Classic Rock
Fave Sports:	Has gone to several St. Louis Cardinals' games (not a big sports fan)
Fave Vacation(s):	Scotland
Fave Movie:	<i>Sound of Music</i>
Fave TV Show:	Grey's Anatomy
Fave Food:	Crab legs
Fave Season:	Spring
Fave Hobby:	Going to garage sales
Family:	Husband and a son
Fave Pets:	Irish and Lucy (cats)
Special Skills:	Plays the piano

What profession would you be in if you were not working in the library? *Financial counselor.*

What do you want to do or accomplish before you die?
Travel more

Answer on page 6.

A Bear in a Million

In 2000, David Olney won a million dollars on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* because he knew what country Paddington Bear came from.

Peru, of course, where he lived with his Aunt Lucy before she moved to the Home for Retired Bears in Lima. Paddington sailed to England in a lifeboat and into the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. Paddington books have been translated into thirty languages and sold more than 30 million copies.

Many of you will want to wish the little guy all the best on his 50th birthday, October 13. It was on that date in 1958 that the first Paddington book was published in England.

He was created by Michael Bond, a 32-year old cameraman with the BBC, who was inspired by a last-minute Christmas

present he bought for his wife. He walked into a shop and saw a forlorn teddy bear sitting alone on a shelf, and bought him. The couple named him Paddington after the train station they lived near in London.



Mozeltof, Paddington, friendliest of bears, and thanks to **Ann Meeks (BI)** for bringing this happy event to our attention.



HELLO TO

Carсен Moon	Page, DN
Jennifer Jones	Assoc. Librarian, DC
Robin Sagel	Page, MC
Kimberly Green	Proj. Spc., OUT
Lyndsie Doyle.....	Page, VI
DeAnna Remy	Proj. Spc., OUT
Sandra Gonzaga (rehired)	Tech. Proc., TP

GOODBYE TO

Sarah Hawk.....	Page, WA
Shayla Wright.....	Page, DN
Jeanie Austin.....	Mat. Sel. Div. Tech, MSL
Victoria Bement	Tech. Asst., MC
Sam Weehunt.....	Librarian, DC
Ryan Taylor.....	Assoc. Librarian, DN
Jonathan Shirley	Page, WA
Heather Kitchen	Librarian, RE
Barbara O'Dell.....	Page, DN

PROMOTION

Dana Phillips.....	From Tech. Proc., TP, to Planning Svc. Spc., PLA
Grant Yokley	From Page to Ext. Spc., Luther
Suzette Felton.....	From Circ Clerk, BI, to Assoc. Librarian, MC

SYMPATHY

To Greg Bennett, DN, whose mother died over the Sept. 13-14 weekend.

And to Francie Pendleton, DN, whose father passed away Sept. 24.

CONGRATULATIONS!

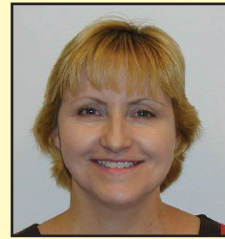
To BI page, Linda Holmberg who was recognized by her branch, Belle Isle Lion's Club, at the Sept. 24 meeting, with the President's Appreciation of Lifetime Services Award and a Club Appreciation Award for Dedicated Services for 2008.



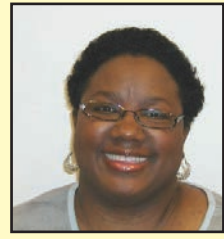
Carсен Moon



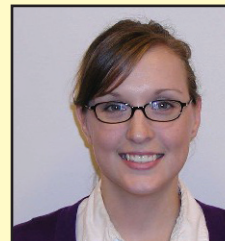
Jennifer Jones



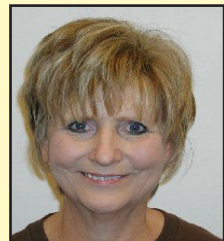
Robin Sagel



Kimberly Green



Lyndsie Doyle



DeAnna Remy



Help Build Your Community

Donate to the United Way for a chance to win fabulous prizes! Check out the intranet for a list of the prizes and drawing days.

Donate to the United Way and participate in these fun United Way Days!

* **Tuesday, October 7**
Jeans Day

* **Thursday, October 9**
Hawaiian Shirt Day

* **Monday, October 13**
FOCUS! - Bake Sale, Apparel
& Theme Basket Auctions





Employee's Oct. Date-of-Hire

October Birthdays

JIMMY C. WELCH	10/22/1970
FRANCIE L. PENDLETON	10/9/1972
RUBY J. SOUTIERE	10/1/1978
STEVEN B. JENKINS	10/5/1987
KAREN L. BAYS	10/2/1992
REGINA D. KIRKHAM	10/4/1993
CECIL L. PEADEN	10/18/1993
JOANNE SCHNEIDER	10/24/1994
JOYCE L. TALLANT	10/6/1998
LINDA J. HOLMBERG	10/22/1998
RONDIA K. BANKS	10/4/1999
LENA C. LOPER	10/5/1999
LISA K. BRADLEY	10/22/1999
PATSY A. GLOVER	10/16/2000
TODD S. OLBERDING	10/1/2001
CHARLES S. ISAACS	10/1/2001
RACHEL B. SMOOT	10/1/2002
SUSAN J HUTCHINS	10/7/2002
JONATHAN I. TOLLE	10/11/2002
MELISSA K. WEATHERS	10/28/2002
THUY THI MAI NGUYEN	10/30/2002
ROSEMARY STAFFORD	10/4/2004
SHELDON L. BEACH	10/5/2004
JESSICA Y. LITTLE	10/12/2004
WENDY J. GABRIELSON	10/13/2004
ERICA Y. RUTLAND	10/21/2004
KRISTIN WILLIAMSON	10/25/2004
PATRICIA RIVAS	10/26/2004
KATHRYN F. HATFIELD	10/3/2005
NICOLE E. BURESH	10/26/2005
JEROD PAUL GERFEN	10/23/2006
LI WANG	10/26/2006
BRENDA STOCKTON-HISS	10/26/2006
HARRY DUY HOANG	10/27/2006
EVELYN CAROL GILBERT	10/22/2007
ALEXIS JOANN AUSTIN	10/22/2007
KIMBERLY VENTRELLA	10/22/2007
RICHARD H. MULLINS	10/25/2007
GABRIELA EILINE ACOSTA	10/29/2007

RENÉE M. LAUNEY	10/1
LINDA A. TEMPLE	10/1
SHELDON L. BEACH	10/1
EDDIE H. WATTS	10/2
ANDREW R. TOLLY	10/2
JAMES R. SANDERS	10/3
JEROD PAUL GERFEN	10/4
LISA E. MYERS	10/4
KERRY STEWART HUBBS	10/5
STACEY MARIE O'NEIL	10/6
BARBARA K. BEASLEY	10/7
KRISTIN WILLIAMSON	10/7
STANLEY A. TAUCER	10/8
GEORGE M. MARSHALL	10/8
LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	10/9
CHERYL ANN COLEMAN	10/11
SHARON D. THOMPSON	10/14
CASEY JO BEACH	10/15
SARAH ANNE HAWK	10/15
JOSHUA H. WELLS	10/15
SYDNEY MARIE ASHBY	10/15
FANNIE HARSHBARGER	10/16
CHRISTOPHER L. LARWIG	10/17
MARY R. MCELROY	10/18
RONDIA K. BANKS	10/18
TONDA FAME KELLY	10/19
MARYL BAIRD	10/19
PAULINE RODRIGUEZ-ATKINS	10/20
WARREN E. ANDERSON	10/21
KAREN PETERS MILLER	10/22
RUTH M. BUTLER	10/23
BRYAN C. SMYTHE	10/24
REBECCA F MASON	10/24
KELLY D. ARGO	10/29
LINDA A. FELTON	10/30
HEIDI A. PORT	10/30



Employee's Nov. Date-of-Hire

November Birthdays

DANA L. MORROW	11/5/1979
RANDY E. WAYLAND	11/16/1982
DENYVETTA DAVIS	11/22/1982
JOYCE MCCAULEY-JOHNSON	11/1/1984
PERRY A. WILSON	11/16/1984
PAULINE RODRIGUEZ-ATKINS	11/4/1985
DEANNA L. BIDDLE	11/3/1986
J. PRESTON BELL	11/25/1986
SALLY K. PHILLIPS	11/21/1995
DEBRA K. JACKSON	11/4/1996
LOIS W. MCKENNA	11/23/1998
KELLEY L. RIHA	11/13/2000
DARRIE J. BREATHWIT	11/20/2000
ELIZABETH ANN KESSLER	11/20/2000
MARY L. STEPHENS	11/27/2000
DAVID WILLIAM FRENCH	11/15/2001
CHERYL ANN COLEMAN	11/4/2002
JOHN C. R. UTLEY	11/4/2002
SERINA L. GARCIA	11/26/2002
LISA DAWN COKER	11/10/2003
LINDA A. ELSTON	11/24/2003
PETER L. ROBERSON	11/24/2003
LINDA LEE HYAMS	11/24/2003
ALICIA M. RUZYCKI	11/24/2003
ANDREW R. TOLLY	11/24/2003
MARYL BAIRD	11/1/2004
JOSHUA H. GERNER	11/22/2004
STACEY MARIE O'NEIL	11/23/2004
FARIBA WILLIAMS	11/7/2005
SALLY A. GRAY	11/7/2005
AARON J. STEWART	11/21/2005
LOIS F. CROSS	11/28/2005
DEVON D. MCDANIEL	11/28/2005
BREANNE L. FORD	11/8/2006
RENÉE M. LAUNEY	11/27/2006
KAELI M. DUNN	11/5/2007
BRANDON M. ROSE	11/5/2007
ALESA MARIE CLYMER	11/20/2007
KAYLAH SHANEE MCNEAL	11/26/2007
CAROL C. COOK	11/26/2007

SELMA ZUHDI	11/1
PENELOPE GREER BIRD	11/4
KELLEY L. RIHA	11/4
TARA R. HARP-BROWN	11/4
LINDA J. HOLMBERG	11/5
CHERYLL R. SMITH	11/7
LOVINIA M. NICHOLS	11/10
BETTY HEPLER SCOTT	11/11
MARGARET J. COLLINS	11/11
FELICIA ANN HAYES	11/11
MATTHEW E. EVANS	11/11
SHARON DAVIS JORSKI	11/12
RANDY L. KNUTSON	11/13
ROY S. BALLOU	11/13
STACY G. SCHRANK	11/13
SHANELLE J. JACKSON	11/14
NICOLE DAWN CHANEY	11/14
DENISE D. RYAN	11/15
DONNA L. MORRIS	11/16
TERI L. REDENBAUGH	11/16
LISA K. BRADLEY	11/19
ELIZABETH HOLSHOUSER	11/22
CLAUDIA WEBER WAGNER	11/22
ERIC PEDER KNUDSEN	11/22
DESTAVIE S. ELLIS	11/25
PHYLLIS A. DAVIDSON	11/26
LISA DAWN COKER	11/27
DEANNA L. BIDDLE	11/29
DAN W. HOLMAN	11/30
J. PRESTON BELL	11/30
RACHEL A. HUDSON	11/30