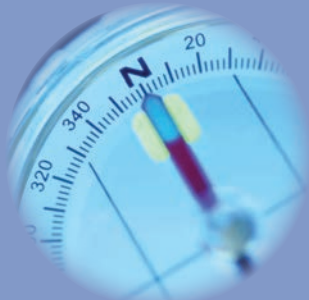




April 2009

ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM



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Getting the Lead Out

We've been receiving phone calls again from local media outlets with questions about that Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) policy regarding lead limits in items intended for children. Questions are being addressed to us because prior to 1985, lead was an ingredient in printer's ink and if a child decided to eat *Green Eggs and Ham*—the book itself and not the food—the lead in the ink would do the kid no good.

The ruling came out in January, 2009, with the warning that testing for lead limits was

to begin on February 10. On January 30, the CPSC approved a one-year stay of enforcement for certain entities, libraries being one of them.

For some reason, on March 17, Yahoo ran an Associated Press story headlined: "Dangerous Reading: Libraries Are Urged to Remove Some Children's Books Over Lead Fears." The article by Lee Logan mentioned the one year postponement and admitted that "the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say any danger from lead in children's books is slight." But nothing is more fun on a slow news day than stirring people up over nothing.

If you take a call from the media about this issue, please refer them to Director of Marketing and Communications **Kim Terry**. And if you like a glass of iced printer's ink with your lunch, make sure you're not drinking anything bottled earlier than 1985.

Bottom's up.



Photo by Julia Ewan -- The Washington Post



What We Do—*Nicoma Park*



Lois Cross and Kathy Sheesley are rightfully proud of the business they're doing at the Nicoma Park Library. We've mentioned before in ShelfLife that NP circulation is growing at a faster rate than anywhere else in

the system, and now that Extension is offering two programs new to NP that are wonderfully successful.

"For about four months now we've been having a trained therapy dog come out here so children can read to him," Lois said. "He's a handsome Dalmatian named D'Leo and the kids just go crazy over

him. He and his owner come out a couple of times each month and they are great with the young readers."

Not long after Kathy joined Lois, Kathy's daughter suggested that Nicoma Park

needed someone to conduct a story hour in the afternoon. "I jumped at the chance," Lois continued, "and now she reads on Friday afternoons.

"I'm learning how to delegate these jobs. I'm just glad that Nicoma Park Library has grown to the point that I can't do everything myself anymore."

So popular has this small but strong library grown, Lois was interviewed a couple of weeks ago by a reporter from the Midwest City Sun.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that library service isn't appreciated in every part of Oklahoma County, and with staff like Lois and Kathy, MLS is there to meet the need.

The Benefit to You

Have you noticed the new St. Anthony YouCARE clinics that have been opening around town? They are like mini-emergency rooms that offer "quick and convenient care for many common illnesses."

The advantage is in convenience and the fact that they don't cost as much as traditional ER care, urgent care centers, and doctors' offices.

The disadvantage is that they are not participating providers in the First Health PPO Network. You may need their services someday—although we hope not—but if you do, you need to be aware that they are not members of our insurance plan.

Also, there are providers who advertise that they accept "all insurance plans," but that doesn't mean that they

have an active provider contract with our PPO network. When you're not in an emergency situation, try to remember to check the First Health Network website located on the MLS Intranet under Employee/Benefits/Insurance Benefits. You can find walk-in (no appointment necessary) care centers by searching under the Facilities category for Convenience Care Clinics or Urgent Care Centers.

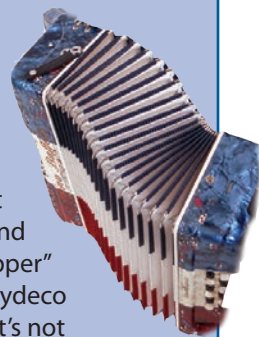
If you have questions about any clinic or care center, contact **Kelley Hoffman** in Human Resources. But don't ask ShelfLife. Our advice is to take two aspirin and go back to bed.

Still Got Room For More Zydeco?

Did you get a chance to check out the Spring Fling event for 2009? It featured Leon Chavis and his father Joseph "Chopper" Chavis as they played zydeco music from Louisiana. It's not quite Cajun, not quite blues, but a lively blend of the two.

Spring Fling is over now, but you can still get a taste of the Chavis' zydeco gumbo from YouTube. Follow this link for a sample of this year's musical treat as taped at several library sites.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZEPbn8sfhQ>





Executive Director Q & A

From Executive Director **Donna Morris**

Q: Will you be asking the staff who make the budget to work in some cuts for FY 09-10? Do you know yet where budget cuts will have to come?"

A: At the current time, we don't anticipate having to make major cuts in the budget. The county is projecting a 2% increase in revenues, so we will project our budget using the same numbers. As we still have some time before the final budget is taken to the Metropolitan Library Commission finance committee in June, we will continue to monitor the economic situation on a statewide and national level, before making final recommendations to the commission.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated mil levy for library services in Oklahoma County as voted on by Oklahoma County taxpayers. The dedicated tax dollars mean our budget is very stable from year to year. The end result is that we don't have big swings in the budget up or down. In 2010-2011, the Northwest Library is scheduled to open and that will require a large amount of money to go toward the operational costs of the library. The good news is that we have been planning for this new library for quite some time, and our revenues have been stable enough to support this new, large increase in operating costs.



Lending Library Review: *7 Ways to Keep From Becoming a Victim of Identity Theft*



by Glenn Shepard
on Audio Disc – 13:26 minutes

When Glenn Shepard had his identity stolen in 2002, he was shocked for two reasons. First, he taught people how to protect themselves from identity theft. If he could be susceptible, who in the world is safe? Second, it happened in the safest city in America—Beverly Hills, California. Things like that aren't supposed to happen in Beverly Hills.

Today, we all know that no one is safe. Even Bill Gates had his identity stolen. But there are some easy steps that smart consumers can take to reduce the chances of falling prey to the fastest growing crime in America. In this special program, Glenn shares the seven most common ways identity thieves will try to get you, and how you can keep from becoming their next victim.

New Leadership MLS Class Announced

The new Leadership MLS III class is beginning soon, and here are the new members as announced by Executive Director **Donna Morris**:
Charla Aucone from DN

Chris Carroll from DVS
Teresa Goggins from PLA
Aaron Killough from CAT
Ann Meeks from BI

Congratulations to the new Leadership MLS III class. We'll follow their progress in future issues of ShelfLife.



The ShelfLife Quiz For April: Famous Last Lines

We've quizzed you over famous first lines in novels and stories, but this month we'll skip ahead with some famous concluding lines. The list mixes adult novels with books for children.

See how many of these you recognize. Answers are on page 6.

1. "He loved Big Brother."
2. "And oh, Aunt Em! I'm so glad to be home again!"
3. "But I also have to say, for the umpty-umpteenth time that life isn't fair. It's just fairer than death, that's all."
4. "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."
5. "It's not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both."
6. "Poor Cribbens. Poor all of us, when you come to think of it."
7. "Oh, my girls, however long you may live, I never can wish you a greater happiness than this!"
8. "It is a far, far better thing that I do than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."
9. "And so they went off together but wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place at the top of the Forest a little boy and his Bear will always be playing."
10. "We were alone with the quiet day, and his little heart, dispossessed, had stopped."

Answers on page 6.



• MYSTERY PERSON •

Here are the clues to this month's mystery person.

Fave Music:	Mostly rock and some hip-hop
Fave Sports:	Watching golf (my two sons & husband play)
Fave Vacation(s):	Bahamas and Hawaii
Fave Movie:	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i> , <i>Legends of the Fall</i> , <i>Casablanca</i> , and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Fave Food:	Mexican
Fave TV Show:	<i>Grey's Anatomy</i>
Fave Season:	Fall
Fave Hobby:	Needlework, beading jewelry, & reading
Family:	Husband, sons
Cell phone ring:	Nothing special
Fave pets:	My lovable mixed breed Molly and all my past, much loved, Shelties
Special Skills:	Basket weaving

What profession would you be in if you were not working in the library? *It's hard to imagine, but my first major in college was listed as accounting.*

What do you want to do or accomplish before you die?
Travel more, especially to Europe.

Answer on page 6.



STAFF PROFILE

Fingerprints

Teresa Mathews has worked at the Edmond Library for 6 and 1/2 years. Before that she was a special education teacher.

Teresa comes from a large family including twin nephews she dotes on and says they require lots of attention.

Her hobbies are reading, movies, Wii bowling, trivia, music, traveling and hotels "...anyplace I don't have to make my bed

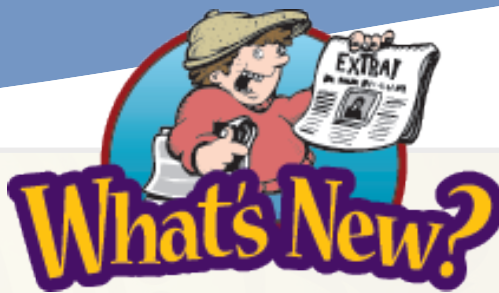
and pick up towels..." said Teresa.

Teresa loves working her section of the library (shelf management, display, etc.) Also hanging out with the teens "...for all their quirks they are pretty upfront about what's important to them and they like to have a good time."

Her would-like-to-visit place is Egypt, to climb one of the pyramids, as she has already climbed a Mayan pyramid.

Right now she's reading *Kitchen Confidential* and *Made to be Broken*.





New Work of Art Unveiled Downtown

Former Oklahoma City mayor Ronald J. Norick and his dad, James, were on hand at the Downtown Library on Wednesday, March 25, for the unveiling of the new completely interactive statue called "Learning." The art is a gift from the Norick family and the James H. and Madalynne Norick Foundation to MLS and the City of Oklahoma City.

The work is of three almost life-size people in a library setting. A woman in a purple dress is holding a picture book open so the boy and girl can see the illustration. It is "interactive" because viewers

are able to walk around the scene and sit or interact with the figures.

MLS Executive Director **Donna Morris** spoke a few words of dedication and told the crowd of 80 people that the sculpture depicted three things that are very important to her: art, libraries, and learning. Former mayor Norick also spoke, telling the history of the project beginning a year ago when his recently departed mother commissioned the piece from Buffalo, NY artist Susan Geissler, who has been one of the

nation's most important female realist sculptors since she entered the field in the mid-1980s.

Ms. Geissler spoke a few quiet words and was visibly grieving the loss of Mrs. Norick. Several children who were on hand for the unveiling grabbed the cloth that covered the statue and gave it a sharp tug, revealing "Learning" and collecting a laugh at the same time.

"This event was about the Noricks and the art," said Downtown Manager of Library Operations **Julie Ballou**. "That's where the emphasis belonged and I'm glad it stayed there."

The statue is at the entrance to the Children's area of the Downtown Library.

"We are honored that the Norick Foundation chose us to receive this remarkable work of art. We know it will serve for decades to come to remind generations of children and adults of the importance of the library as a center for life-long learning," Donna said.

"Learning" is located Downtown, but it was dedicated for all of us.



"Learning," by Susan Geissler



MYSTERY PERSON IS:

Julie Ballou
Mgr. of LO,
Downtown

HELLO TO

Gloria DeLeon Circ Clerk, CH
Tariq Ahmad Page, VI
Jendayi Douglas..... Page, VI
Wanda Little Page, SO

GOODBYE TO

Amy Treadwell Mat. Serv. Div. Tech., MSL
Rachel Smoot..... Page, SO
Karen Davis ILL Tech, ILL

PROMOTION

Shanelle Jackson..... From 1/2 to FT Circ Clerk, VI

RECLASSIFICATION

Kim Terry From Mkt. & Comm. Mgr.,
to Dir. of Mkt. & Comm., MAC

SYMPATHY

To Joan Porter, RE, who lost a close family member March 2.

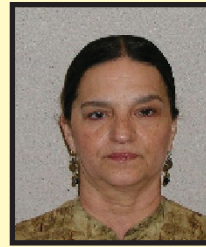
To Ruby Soutiere, MSL, whose mother passed away March 15 in San Antonio.

Sympathy also to Susan Monroe, MC, whose father also died March 15 in Oklahoma.

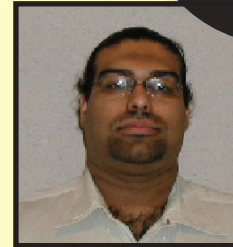
Answers to The ShelfLife Quiz

Answers:

1. 1984 by George Orwell
2. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum
3. *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
4. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
5. *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
6. *The Third Man* by Graham Greene
7. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
8. *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
9. *The House at Pooh Corner* by A. A. Milne
10. *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James



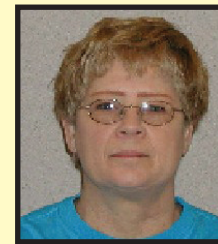
Gloria DeLeon



Tariq Ahmad



Jendayi Douglas



Wanda Little

MaC Promotion Department

Have you had need yet to check out the new Marketing & Communications Promotional Supplies Catalog? It not only tastes good, but it's good for you, too.

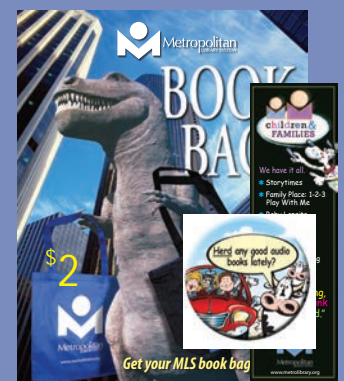
What is it? An online catalog listing all the bags, bookmarks, brochures, flyers, stickers, and other delicious treats we have in stock and ready to ship to you. And if you act now, we won't charge you a shipping and handling fee.

How do you find this wonderful catalog? Go to our Intranet site and from Forms/Supplies, click on Supplies.

The catalog is the item with the word NEW beside it.

Nancy Lytle and **Teresa Goggins** created the catalog with help from IT. (They're from Germany, and you know the Germans always make good stuff.)

So take a look at the new Marketing & Communications Promotional Supplies Catalog and you'll say "MaC-WOW!"





April Bulletin Board

April Birthdays

KEVIN R. SENDALL	4/1
ANGELA KRISTINE GORE	4/2
JEANETTE C. MIRLL	4/2
DARLENE S. BROWERS	4/3
JOHN D. WOOD	4/4
NICOLE J. BUNGERT	4/4
CRYSTAL L. SUPPES	4/7
EMILY R. WILLIAMS	4/7
KIRSTEN L. WALKER	4/7
BREANNE L. FORD	4/8
KAREN J. DAVIS	4/9
FRANCES V. HARBERT	4/10
KAYHAN N. YAZDANI	4/10
GAIL S. SLOOP	4/14
LISA L. WALKER	4/14
MARY J. GIGAX	4/14
ADELAIDA H. MADISON	4/16
KAREN L. BAYS	4/16
ALESA MARIE CLYMER	4/17
GERALD W. HICKMAN	4/17
GREGORY W. BENNETT	4/18
KERI L. CLOUD	4/18
STEPHEN SHENOLD	4/18
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/19
JOHN C. R. UTLEY	4/19
SHARON L. MAINE	4/20
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	4/21
MARK DANIEL VANCE	4/21
PATRICK D. WILLIAMS	4/21
BRANDI E. GAY	4/22
MELISSA K. WEATHERS	4/22
DAVID L. MACK	4/24
JANET E. BOWEN	4/24
SANDRA LEA LANHAM	4/25
DREA GATES	4/26
SUSAN A. STINSON	4/26
JOYCE L. TALLANT	4/27
JULIET M. ALAVICHEH	4/27
MICHAEL ERIC OWENS	4/27
STUART H. WILLIAMSON	4/27
MARIA E. WATKINS	4/28
TIMOTHY D. HANNA	4/28
THOMAS P. GALLAGHER	4/30

Employee's April Date-of-Hire

ERNESTINE F. CLARK	4/22/1976
LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	4/27/1979
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/30/1979
ANNE G. FISCHER	4/3/1981
CLYDE D. HERROD	4/13/1982
JEAN M. WILBURN	4/6/1992
LORETTA G. FRANTZ	4/25/1994
DANIEL E. FIELDS	4/2/2001
MARY R. MCELROY	4/5/2001
KERI L. CLOUD	4/29/2002
KERRY STEWART HUBBS	4/12/2004
MELANIE DIANE LEVICK	4/26/2004
LINDA A. TEMPLE	4/25/2005
JULIANNA LOUISE LINK	4/25/2005
LANDON D. HOLMAN	4/3/2006
SANDRA LEA LANHAM	4/3/2006
BRADLEY S. MCCOY	4/10/2006
DOYLE K. WILCOX	4/24/2006
BENJAMIN D. MOUNT	4/5/2007
KEVIN R. SENDALL	4/9/2007
JEANETTE C. MIRLL	4/23/2007
JESSICA C. MORRIS	4/7/2008
JUSTIN HERWIG	4/7/2008
MONICA MARTINEZ	4/7/2008
CYNTHIA SELINGER	4/7/2008
SYDNEY MARIE ASHBY	4/9/2008
NANCY JEAN SLUSAR	4/14/2008
ERICA J. GOLDMAN	4/14/2008
ERIC PEDER KNUDSEN	4/23/2008
ISABEL K. BURNS	4/28/2008
VICKIE L. ROSS	4/28/2008



May Bulletin Board



May Birthdays

NANCY JEAN SLUSAR	5/1
SUSAN E. RYAN	5/1
TARIQ AHMAD	5/1
MACKENZIE STEPHENS	5/3
SHARON L. YOUNG	5/3
DEBBIE E. ROBERTUS	5/6
DONNA R. ADAMEK	5/6
ROSEMARY STAFFORD	5/6
TIFFANY L. BONNER	5/6
JESSICA C. MORRIS	5/7
ANNE G. FISCHER	5/9
AMANDA JO SAWYER	5/10
MARY L. DAUGHERITY	5/11
CHERYL A. MANN	5/12
DAVID RUSHING	5/12
LINDA J. MORPHIS	5/13
RIC E. REA	5/13
MELANIE LEVICK	5/14
MARY ANN JOHNSON	5/15
STEPHANIE D. GERLING	5/15
ELIZABETH NEWLAND	5/16
KEVIN D. COLWELL	5/16
SHARON G. BISH	5/16
LISA M. WOOD	5/18
SUSAN J HUTCHINS	5/18
AMANDA DOWDING	5/19
REGINA D. FIELDS	5/19
DENNIS D. DELANO	5/20
LINDSAY JONES EGLE	5/21
TRACY C. STONE	5/21
AARON G. KILLOUGH	5/22
FREDERICK R. WILSON	5/22
TIM DAUBENSPECK	5/24



Employee's May Date-of-Hire

JESSIE C. BISHOP	5/13/1981
FRANK C. RAY	5/21/1984
MARILYN E. BACKUS	5/21/1987
REGINA M. WOLFINGER	5/29/1990
HELEN J SHELTON	5/12/1992
HEIDI A. PORT	5/12/1997
TINDLE J. ARNOLD	5/27/1997
JOSHUA H. WELLS	5/15/1999
LISA E. MYERS	5/5/2000
TERESA GOGGINS	5/7/2001
CHRIS LARWIG	5/28/2002
DIANNA L. RUPP	5/28/2002
MARY J. SHOLLY	5/18/2003
RENA M. GIBSON	5/16/2005
DANA M. PHILLIPS	5/26/2005
FELICIA ANN HAYES	5/8/2006
JERRY C. NANCE	5/27/2006
TIMOTHY DAUBENSPECK	5/22/2007
JERRY LEO O'HARE	5/5/2008
SUZETTE FELTON	5/12/2008