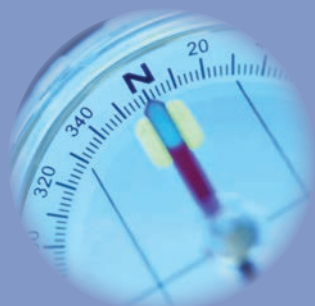




November 2009

ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM



Your Guide To What's Inside

Note From Donna
and BI Visit
page 2

Shelf Quiz & Lending
Library
page 3

Data Base Trials &
Ghouls
page 4

A Clear Voice &
Grants
page 5

Vulcan,
Staff Profile, &
Mystery Person
page 6

MLS Employees
page 7

Birthdays and Hire
Dates
pages 8 & 9

Warr Acres and Ralph Ellison Tricky Teens Win and Show in Contest

The second annual statewide "Trick My Book Truck" contest took place during the summer reading program June 1, to July 31. Each year, winners are announced at the "Share Fair" meeting of all Oklahoma public libraries.

Which means what? Teens decorate book carts, making them into all sorts of characters and themes. Warr Acres transformed the book truck into a "Bat Mobile" and received a gift certificate from Capstone Press to purchase books for the library. The teens also received a book of their choice.

Ralph Ellison's entry, "Skool of the Living Dead," won third place. (No picture)

There's a word for two MLS libraries winning the gold and the bronze, and that word is "awesome."



Pictured left to right at Warr Acres: (Back) Tyler Gaffney, **Cheryl Coleman**, **Darien Goldman**, Cara Higgins. (Front) Izaak and Adriana Carrera.



Warr Acres booktruck winner, Bat Mobile.



A Note From:

Executive Director Donna Morris

November is the month that is set aside to say thanks for the bounty that we enjoy in our lives. It seems an appropriate time for me to thank each and every one of the MLS family for the service that we provide to our customers and the service that we perform to our community. Too often we get caught up in the day to day activities of our job and don't pause to think about what we do and the importance of our mission.

I recently read an article in the *Planning Commissioners Journal*

titled "Libraries: At the Heart of our Communities" which speaks of the value that libraries bring to our communities. The editor speaks not only of the valuable services for residents of all ages, incomes, and ethnic backgrounds but also of the "healthy dose of vitality that libraries bring into downtowns, main streets and neighborhood centers."

MLS staff knows the value of the service that we provide to our community as they reach out to their customers every day in a wide variety of ways. To quote from the article "the 21st century Library has

arrived. Its mission goes far beyond loaning out books and providing reference materials. In fact, in a growing number of cities and towns, the library has become the hub of the community, drawing large numbers of new users. This is happening because libraries are providing programs, meeting spaces, computer access, and resources that are responding to a broader array of community needs."

A glance at our monthly statistics; the *info* magazine, the library web site, and just walking through one of our libraries shows just how true the above statement is at all of our MLS libraries. Each and every one is a hub of activity and vibrancy as users check out materials, work at public computers on job searches, health needs, community information, etc; participate in craft activities or musical programs, story times for children or computer classes; author events, community days, and the list goes on and on.

None of these wonderful services could be provided to the community without the dedication of our staff.

And so as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, please accept my thanks and the thanks of the community for the wonderful work that you all do.

Monroe Elementary First Graders Make Trip to Belle Isle

Each fall, first graders from Monroe Elementary School walk across NW Expressway (with the help of a local fire company fireman) to visit Belle Isle.

On Oct. 14, seventy students and their teachers heard children's librarian **Barbara Johnson** give information about the library.

The students hear a story, get a library card and check out books.





ShelfLife Quiz:

Something for Thanksgiving

America's early colonial history doesn't seem to appeal to as many people as the Old West or the Civil War. That being the case, and in honor of Thanksgiving, see how many of the following questions about our pre-1700 history you can answer.

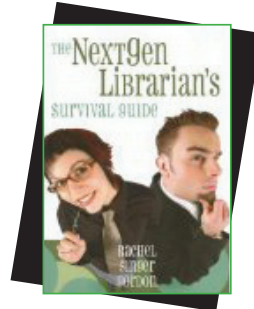
1. Virginia Dare was born on Aug. 18, 1587. So what?
 - a. She was the first Dutch child born in the New World.
 - b. She was the first English child born in the New World.
 - c. She was the first Polish child born in the New World. (They changed her name at Ellis Island.)
2. In what year was Jamestown founded in Virginia?
 - a. 1607
 - b. 1586
 - c. 1493
3. The first public library in the colonies was founded in 1620. Where was it?
 - a. Plymouth Colony
 - b. New Amsterdam
 - c. Virginia
4. The Mayflower was one of the ships that set out to bring the first Pilgrims to America. What was the name of the other one?
 - a. The Speedwell
 - b. The King James
 - c. The Saint Mary
5. Plymouth Rock is about the size of what?
 - a. A football stadium
 - b. A car engine
 - c. Rhode Island
6. Slavery was first declared illegal in the colonies in 1652. Where?
 - a. Massachusetts
 - b. Pennsylvania
 - c. Rhode Island
7. In 1688, this religious group was the first to issue a formal protest against slavery.
 - a. Quakers in PA
 - b. Cavaliers in VA
 - c. Huguenots in NC
8. How many witches were executed in Salem in 1692?
 - a. 20
 - b. 24
 - c. None
9. Only one judge from the witchcraft trials in Salem publicly recanted his role. Who was he?
 - a. Giles Cory
 - b. Cotton Mather
 - c. Samuel Sewall
10. One of the most famous New World pirates was finally captured in 1699, and executed two years later. Who was he?
 - a. Blackbeard (Edward Teach)
 - b. Capt. William Kidd
 - c. Capt. Peter Blood

Answers on page 7



Lending Library Review:

The Nextgen Librarian's Survival Guide



by Rachel Singer Gordon

Author Rachel Singer Gordon is a former Head of Computer Services at the Franklin Park Public Library and is currently Consulting Editor to the Book Publishing Division of *Information Today, Inc.* Odds are, she knows what she's talking about.

And what she's talking about are the things the new generation coming into the library profession need to know. (That's right—not all librarians are old. Just the ones . . . well, never mind.) Topics include Surviving Library School; Surviving the Job Hunt; Surviving Entry-Level Positions; Moving Forward; Image, Stereotypes, and Diversity; Connections; Work/Life Balance; and Transforming the Profession.

A significant portion of each chapter is given over to printing survey results which included opinions of Nextgen librarians both new to the profession and in managerial positions, and older librarians weighing in on librarianship and generational issues. The author does a good job of breaking down issues important to young librarians including (but certainly not limited to) the job market, librarian stereotypes, and career planning.

So if you're considering staying with MLS as a career, you might want to take a look at *The Nextgen Librarian's Survival Guide*. It might help you choose your path.

Trial Databases

Materials Selector **Susan Ryan** works her fingers to the bone finding new databases for us to check out. Take a look at the ones below and let her know what you think of them. The useful ones we can keep; the less than useful ones we can drop.

Gale's Grzimek's Animal Life

Several libraries have the print version of this one, but we need to know if you think it's useful in this electronic variation. We have it on a trial basis until November 11.

Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online

This one features over one million entries drawn from these sources:

- Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Encyclopedia
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus
- Merriam-Webster's Spanish/English Dictionary
- New! Merriam-Webster's French/English Dictionary
- New! Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary

Gale's Historical Newspapers

Includes 17th through 20th century newspapers, with *The Times* and *The Economist*.

Footnote History and Genealogy Archives

This one has a vast array of valuable and unique content consisting of well over 60 million historical documents and images (new documents are added monthly).

The collection features millions of images available from a content partnership with the National Archives. These digital images of records, preserved in the National Archives and other regional archives, represent a growing collection of historic documents, most never before available on the Internet.

Take a look and let Susan know what you think of them.

 **Online Research
DATABASES**

Whatever your topic,
we've got you covered.



Ghouls Gone Wild 2009



From left to right, **Linda Hyams**, DN (Goldilocks); **Lindsay Egle**, DC, (Little Red Riding Hood); **John Hilbert**, SO, (Chicken Little); **Kim Edwards**, DN, (White Rabbit); **Emily Williams**, OUT (Cinderella); **Jerrod Gerfen**, OUT, (Aesop's Lion); **Jessica Morris**, DN, (Little Red Riding Hood); **Spoticus**, himself; **Jennifer Jones**, CH, (The Raven); **Joann Colins**, SO, (Volunteer); **LaWana Morgan**, RE, (Deatheater); **Kim Ventrella**, RE, (Evil Willow).

Photos by Chris Larwig

A Clear Voice in the Dark



Jessica Minter

is a Circ Clerk at WA. She's also the link that joins the blind and/or physically disabled to the world of reading.

Jessica has recently become a volunteer for the Oklahoma

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Once a week she donates about an hour and a half making recordings for people who cannot read due to blindness, dyslexia,

or learning or physical disabilities that make holding a book impossible.

"I've only been doing this five weeks now," Jessica said. "I saw a flyer on our bulletin board calling for volunteers and so I offered my services. The library asked me to come in for an audition, and I passed it, so now I go in on Thursday or Friday and read. I usually read Commentary from 'Oklahoma Gazette,' and sometimes some of the articles."

Currently the Library for the Blind is in the process of building a new recording studio so the need for more reading volunteers is crucial.

"The system is called OTIS," Jessica added, "and that stands for Oklahoma Talking Information System. They're in talks with OETA to broadcast some of the recordings over the radio."

"You know," Jessica said, "we all have struggles we have to live with but I feel blessed with good health and the ability to do things physically. When I think of those who aren't so lucky, I realize my responsibility and really want to help however I can. That's why I do this. It doesn't take much from me but it means so much to others."

Anyone interested in volunteering can call the Library at 521-3514 and ask for Jay Doudna, the Volunteer Services Coordinator.

Don't Take It For Granted

We received a reminder recently via email that every year MLS has to compile the statistical information that is needed to make sure all grants are reported because they have to be included in our end-of-year stats and revenue.

Many staff members across the system may find opportunities to apply for grants from outside sources to assist their departments. This is just a reminder that, in order to prevent a duplication of efforts and to streamline the grant application process, the library's Development and Volunteer Services (DVS) Office should be consulted before grant applications are submitted.

Due to the fact that some granting agencies may only accept one application per organization, or have other contingencies that might affect the possibility of a larger grant for the Metropoli-

tan Library System, this internal grant process is very important.

Following this process will enable the DVS Office to keep a record of all grant applications as well as utilize relationships they may have to assist in securing the requested grant dollars. The DVS Office's records and resources can also help grant applicants make sure their applications are as effective as possible before they are submitted, and they may be able to assist in providing components of the grant that you might not have readily available.

Please consult the DVS Office as early as possible in the grant application process, and remember to provide a final copy of any grant applications for the DVS Office's records.

Development and Volunteer Services Office contact information:

Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library
300 Park Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Fax #: 405-606-3735

Diane Sarantakos
Director of Development
dsarantakos@metrolibrary.org
405-606-3761

Chris Carroll
Development Specialist
development@metrolibrary.org
405-606-3760



Vulcanology Made Simple

Volcanology, they tell us, is a branch of geology that deals with the study of volcanoes, lava, magma, and related geological phenomena. I have my doubts, but let's not get into that now.

Vulcanology, on the other hand, is a kind of library perk that allows MLS staff to subscribe to a wide variety of popular magazines at wonderfully low prices, many of which are less than half off the cover price.

These are great for leisure reading, and they make especially nice gifts. After all, you weren't thinking of sending Aunt Imogene another fruitcake this year, were you? Really? When you could buy her a subscription to "Teen Vogue" for a mere \$7.00.

Materials Selector **Susan Ryan**, recently sent out her annual email with the list of available titles and prices.

If you didn't get a chance to take a look at it, send her a note and I'm sure she'll be happy to resend it to you. Or you can write to ShelfLife at dbentin@metrolibrary.org and we'll forward Susan's original note.

And, as always, our thanks go out to Ebsco/Vulcan for this annual holiday offer of specially priced magazines for library staff.

But if you're actually into volcanology and you want to buy a volcano to put in your back yard—great for heating the water in your Jacuzzi—ShelfLife can't help you. No one can help you.



STAFF PROFILE Fingerprints

Ann Meeks, librarian and adult programmer at Belle Isle, has worked for MLS for 14 years. Ann just finished *Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story of Bonnie and Clyde*. The latest movie she saw was *Star Trek* (2009).

Ann has a husband, two cats, several nieces and nephews—one nephew is a Marine heading for Korea. Ann mentions she helps solve the feral cat problem by

spaying and neutering stray cats.

She's had several great vacations including Jamaica, The British Isles, Chincoteague, VA, and Las Vegas.

For exercise Ann takes Yoga classes, but says "I still can't say I'm skilled (at it)."

She likes the variety of working at Belle Isle, "There's a lot going on and a lot of different types of people and questions."



MYSTERY PERSON

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

Fave Music:	Gospel
Fave Book(s):	Bible—the Book of Job
Fave Sports:	Basketball & track
Fave Vacation(s):	Hawaii & The Bahamas
Fave Movie:	<i>The Ten Commandments</i>
Fave TV Show:	Law and Order
Fave Food:	Home cooked soul food
Fave Season:	Spring
Fave Hobby:	Sewing and designing fashion jewelry
Pets:	Jack Russell—Rockie
Family:	Husband, 3 sons, 1 daughter 1 granddaughter, 1 grandson
Prefer PC or MAC:	PC
Do you Text or Twitter:	No

What profession would you be in if you were not working in the library? *Legal profession*

Is there something you want to do or accomplish before you die? *Owner of my own fashion store*

Answer on page 7

HELLO TO

Phillip Belt Delivery Driver, MTC
Matthew Logo Galepouono Delivery Driver, MTC

GOODBYE TO

Karen Miller..... Page, ED
Joanne Schneider..... Page, ED
Daleesa Flick..... Assoc. Librarian, RE

PROMOTION

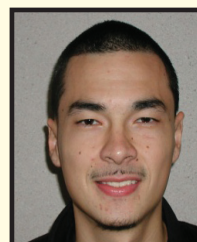
Maegyn Doyle..... From Page, DN
to Circ Clerk, WA
Nicholas Thompson..... From ILL Mat. Srv. Div Tech,
to ILL Tech

TRANSFER

Jennifer Adkisson From Ext. Spc., JN, to
Circ Clerk, ED
Jennifer Jones From Assoc. Librarian, DC
to Assoc. Librarian, CH

Answers to ShelfLife Quiz

1. B – Virginia Dare was the first English child born in the New World.
2. A – 1607
3. C – Virginia
4. A – The Speedwell. It was quickly found to be un-seaworthy and returned to port.
5. B – A car engine. It's been cracked several times, getting smaller with each crack.
6. C – Rhode Island
7. A – Quakers in PA
8. C – None. Twenty people were executed, but none of them were really witches.
9. C – Samuel Sewall
10. B – Capt. William Kidd



Phillip Belt



Matthew Logo
Falepouono

MYSTERY PERSON IS:
Nita Normore,
Admin.
Specialist, DN

MARKETPLACE



HP Mini 1140NR 10.2-Inch Netbook - Vivienne Tam Edition

-(1.6 GHz Intel Atom N270 Processor, 1 GB RAM, 60 GB
Hard Drive, XP Home, 3 Cell Battery)

Technical Details

A perfect accessory at less than 3 lbs and a mere 1" thin. Work and play comfortably on the near-full-size keyboard (92% of full size). Enjoy the frameless look of the 10.1" diagonal BrightView Infinity display. Ideal for email, IM, and chatting face to face with built-in HP Mini Webcam.

This HP Mini 1000 includes a protective red silk sleeve designed by Vivienne.

Asking \$375 firm, sells new for around \$600-800 – call Debbie Roburtus, BI, at 203-7733 or 606-3202.



November Bulletin Board

November Birthdays

SELMA ZUHDI	11/1
KAREN JILL STRANGE	11/2
ROSA MAREE RUBIO	11/3
PENELOPE GREER BIRD	11/4
KELLEY L. RIHA	11/4
LINDA J. HOLMBERG	11/5
CHERYLL RENEE JONES	11/7
SHARON LEIGH NELSON	11/9
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
JESSICA DEANNE CARTER	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
CLAUDIA WEBER WAGNER	11/22
KELLEY A. CHEEK	11/25
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

Employee's November Date-of-Hire

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
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
TULIN R. LAFOLLETTE	11/15/2005
AARON J. STEWART	11/21/2005
LOIS F. CROSS	11/28/2005
DEVON D. MCDANIEL	11/28/2005
BREANNE L. FORD	11/8/2006
KAELI M. DUNN	11/5/2007
BRANDON M. ROSE	11/5/2007
BRENNAN M. CARLAW	11/3/2008
KAREN JILL STRANGE	11/3/2008
LISA LEA HEINRICH	11/3/2008
DONNA R. ADAMEK	11/5/2008
NICHOLAS R. THOMPSON	11/10/2008
SHARON LEIGH NELSON	11/13/2008
KARL L. BLANKENSHIP	11/17/2008
JOANN WALKUP	11/17/2008
AMANDA JO SAWYER	11/19/2008
DAWN L. GEHLING	11/24/2008





December Bulletin Board



December Birthdays

C. GEORGE NIEBANK, III 12/1
CHRISTOPHER CARROLL 12/1
KIMBERLY A. RICKEY 12/2
EMILY K. GREEN 12/2
ABE SIAVASHI 12/3
MELODY P. NEARY 12/3
JENNIFER IRENE JONES 12/5
KIMBERLY VENTRELLA 12/5
CHARLEEN K. MILLER 12/6
AMY LAMINSKY 12/6
JO NITA WHITE 12/7
DEBORAH MONTGOMERY 12/9
VICTORIA E. DIXON 12/10
JAIME HACKWORTH 12/11
FAYE HORN 12/12
ALICIA M. RUZYCKI 12/12
CINDY J. FRAZIER 12/13
LORETTA G. FRANTZ 12/15
BJ WILLIAMS 12/17
ROSEMARY A. CZARSKI 12/18
JULIE ANNA HENRY 12/19
SUSAN K. BECKETT 12/20
EVELYN E BROWN 12/20
REGINALD WALKER 12/21
DOUGLAS G. BENTIN 12/22
TERI LYNN WOOLEY 12/22
JENNIFER ADKISSON 12/22
TIMOTHY HAMMOND 12/22
JESSIE C. BISHOP 12/24
JON LUCAS VODKA 12/24
MARY E. TAYLOR 12/27
KATRINA E. YORK 12/27
PHILLIP TOLBERT 12/28
KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS 12/28
SARA DIANE OUTHIER 12/28
VERONICA BERNAL 12/30
RAINNA L. OKAPAL 12/30
ANDREA E. GESELL 12/31



Employee's December Date-of-Hire

DOUGLAS G. BENTIN 12/26/1985
ROSEMARY G. RYDEN 12/3/1996
EDWARD A. MARAND 12/1/1997
JOAN G. KENDALL 12/20/1999
AMY UPCHURCH 12/29/1999
SHARON D. THOMPSON 12/11/2000
DIANE RICE 12/23/2002
REGINALD WALKER 12/30/2004
RICHARD ANTONISSE 12/12/2005
JOSHUA DONALD LEWIS 12/4/2006
ALLEGRA D. SEALS 12/18/2006
DENNIS D. DELANO 12/3/2007
GRANT E. YOKLEY 12/5/2007
EDDIE H. WATTS 12/17/2007
GARY W. CROUCH 12/17/2007
SHARON L. YOUNG 12/17/2007
TIFFANY L. BONNER 12/1/2008
KATRINA E. YORK 12/1/2008
MARY J. GIGAX 12/8/2008
MICHELLE R. MERRIMAN 12/12/2008
ELLINGTON WOODY SR 12/29/2008

