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December 2009

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Ralph Ellison Library

-Lookin' Good!

As you know, the Ralph Ellison Library's temporary location at 1918
NE 23rd closed on Monday, November 30 and the library will reopen in the newly renovated Ralph Ellison Library, 2000
NE 23rd, on the afternoon of Monday,
December 14 after the Grand Opening
Ceremony. Everyone is invited to attend the 2:00 p.m. ceremony and ribbon cutting.

Representing the City of Oklahoma City at the ceremony will be Ward 7 Councilman Skip Kelly with Metropolitan Library Commission chair Hugh Rice, MLS Executive Director **Donna Morris** and Ralph Ellison Manager of Library Operations **Michael Eric Owens** representing the Library.

The renovation of the existing building, which cost a little over \$2 million, was paid for primarily with funds from the 2000 OKC bond election.

"We are really pleased," said Donna Morris, "that the citizens voted to support library service. I know they won't be disappointed when they see what this renewed library has to offer."

The meeting room in the old library was completely demolished and the new version has twice as much floor space for the meeting room. The room can be used as two smaller rooms or one large room to accommodate a significant audience. The number of public access computers with Internet connections has also been doubled in the new building.



"The building is now a 16,500 square foot neighborhood facility," Morris added.

"More functional space has been added for children and teens, and of course we kept our special Black History Collection."

Several libraries in the system have Self Checkout stands so library customers can check out material without having to stand in line at the Checkout Desk. The new Ralph Ellison Library will implement a "Self Reserve Pickup" system, allowing customers to pick up their own reserve material and check them out.

"It truly is a beautiful facility," Morris concluded, "with a more open floor plan. The extra space gives us room to expand services and the collection. The number of items checked out at Ralph Ellison increased in 2009 by 46 percent over 2008."



ShelfLife



Automated Sorter

ccording to Webster's, a robot is "a mechanical device that is capable of performing a variety of human tasks by being programmed in advance."

You don't have to have grown up with Tik-Tok, Norby, or Gort to appreciate the Vista FullSort System from Integrated Technology Group (ITG), the automated sorter that is being installed at the new MLS Service Center.

Items are placed on a moving ramp and the machine automatically sorts them in to up to 21 bins according to predetermined criteria—shelf location, library site location, etc.

"I believe this is the largest sorter ITG has ever sold to a library," said **Deputy Executive Director/Materials** & Outreach Karen Marriott. "The



sorter automatically puts items into rolling bins so they can be rolled directly into trucks."

The first sorter, Karen said, will be at the Service Center, but MLS has plans to buy additional ones for the new NW Library (seven bins) and the renovated Southern Oaks when it reopens (five bins). After that, ad-

> ditional sorters will be phased in at other libraries.

"I know Heidi Johnson and the Tech Processing staff are looking forward to taking advantage of the speed and accuracy of these sorters," Karen added.

To get a preview look at the new Vista FullSort, visit the ITG website at:

http://www.integratedtek. com/content/amh_fullsort.asp



Leadership 2009

LS Leadership 2009 has graduated its class. Here's what a few graduates had to say about the experience.

"The Leadership program gives you a great chance to learn things you always wanted to know. We had a chance to talk to the administrative team and managers and learned what interesting and diverse people the Metro Library system has on staff. We attended meetings, including the Library Commission, which is an excellent opportunity to see another side of library operations." -Ann Meeks, Librarian, BI

"One of the most valuable things about being in the Leadership program is the opportunity to visit every library in the system. We toured each library and learned behind-the-scenes stories about Choctaw's former red-light district, Capitol Hill's mysterious attic, and Harrah's secret bank vault. It's really a great chance to see the system as a whole." -Chris Carroll, DEV

"While implementing the FOCUS session project, the members of the Leadership group developed trust and respect for our individual contributions and learned to compromise with ideas and feedback received from one another. We learn to value the individual differences and what each person had to offer."

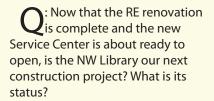
-Teresa Goggins, Webmaster, PLA

"Leadership is a great opportunity to meet your Administration Team. By taking advantage of Leadership you have the chance to have intimate conversations with Ad-Team members and learn about their day-to-day activities from their perspective and the overall MLS perspective." -Charla R. Aucone, Librarian, DN

"Leadership Group III presented feedback and recommendations for the next Leadership program and is hopeful that by implementing such things as a mentorship program, more formalized job shadowing, and other ideas, the future Leadership Groups will have a terrific impact on the Metropolitan Library System." –Aaron Killough, Cataloger, CAT

Executive Director Q & A

From Executive Director Donna Morris



A: As we mentioned on page 1, we will be re-opening Ralph Ellison Library on December 14th and will be moving into the Service Center in the month of December, although exact operating dates for the service center have not been determined yet.

So—what do we do next?

The Northwest Library will be the next project to begin construction and we are hopeful that that will get underway around the first of February. Construction documents are almost done and the project should bid in the next 4 weeks or so. We are hopeful that the bids will be very good due to the current economy which has made construction projects come in at good prices. The actual construction will take at least a year, so it will be late winter/early spring 2011 before the library will be complete.



We are hard at work on the design development phase for the Southern Oaks Renovation and have made very good progress.

We expect that we will be ready to move to a temporary location for Southern Oaks in late summer 2010 after summer reading has ended. We will begin work soon on trying to secure a temporary location for the library.

We are also working with Oklahoma City on various ADA improvements to Wright, Belle Isle and Capitol Hill. Those projects will begin after the first of the year.

Other projects include new carpeting for the extension libraries and Choctaw, and the installation of new front doors at the Downtown library. We also expect work to begin with Oklahoma City on the Capitol Hill Library which was part of the 2000 and 2007 bond packages. The last approved construction project will be Belle Isle Library which is not expected to begin for several years.

It continues to be very busy on the construction/major project front!



Lending Library Review:

Stretching in the Office



by Bob Anderson

Many of us do way too much of it at work, but it's required for the jobs we do. It's sitting. In a cubicle. At a Reference Desk. At lunch. In meetings. To and from the job.

What we need to do is stretch every so often. As the jacket text for Bob Anderson's book reminds us, stretching will: help you relieve sore muscles; combat neck, shoulder, and back pain; help prevent carpal tunnel syndrome; reduce stress.

What we can't do for a variety of reasons is stand up and indulge in a period of calisthenics. Anderson reminds us that we can replace traditional stretching exercises with some we can practice while sitting at our desks. The book contains:

- Good morning stretches
- Lower back stretches
- Neck and shoulder stretches
- Wrist stretches
- Keyboard operator stretches
- On-the-phone stretches
- Copy machine stretches
- Stressed-out stretches

And, to quote the late Billy Mays, MORE! "Sitting for eight hours straight," one reviewer wrote, "is not the way the human body was designed. Stretching in the Office is a guide for those who find themselves stuck in cubicles for much of their lives and end up feeling more than a little cramped. With advice to combat soreness, carpal tunnel syndrome, and more, Stretching in the Office is a must for cubicle slaves who need to remember they have legs."

ShelfLife Quiz: Who Said What About Christmas?

See if you can match the writer with the following comments about Christmas. Answers on page 7.

1. Santa Claus wears a R communist	ed Suit. He must be a
	nta Claus because I knew no coming into my neighbor- —
3. There's nothing sadde Christmas morning a	er in this world than to awake nd not be a child
	n Santa Claus when my mother n a department store, and he ph
times more pleasant drinking early. And w	se is always at least six or seven than anywhere else. We start rhile everyone else is seeing only I be seeing six or seven
	to the Holiday Season, a deeply ch of us observes, in his own way, of his choice.
7. What I don't like abou looking for a job the r	ut office Christmas parties is next day
8. Roses are reddish; vio Christmas we'd all be	olets are bluish. If it weren't for Jewish.
a nativity scene in Wa	as ruled that they cannot have ashington, D.C. This wasn't for any by couldn't find three wise men
	ping and ran into a guy on the atch and said that it runs slow. He I stole it from."
A. W.C. Fields B. Shirley Temple	F. Erma Bombeck G. Dave Barry

H. Benny Hill

J. Phyllis Diller

K. Dick Gregory

C. David Letterman

D. Arlo Guthrie

E. Jay Leno

Building a Reading City— What Book Is On Your Bedside Table?

"Literature is a luxury; fiction is a necessity."

–G.K. Chesterton

once read an essay written by a college professor whose area of expertise was popular westerns. He used to get a charge out of visitors to his home who would drift over to his bookcase to see what the English Department Prof read, probably expecting row after row of the classics, only to be presented with titles like *Coroner Creek*, *Destry Rides Again*, and *Riders of the Purple Sage*.

Sometimes people are surprised by what even their best friends are reading. Share your tastes with the rest of MLS and maybe you can introduce a book to us we wouldn't otherwise find out about. Here are a few of the titles currently being read by MLS staff.

Karen Marriott, Deputy Exec. Director/Materials and Outreach: *The Professional*, by Robert B. Parker. Boston P.I. Spenser's 37th outing.

Todd Olberding, Director of Construction Management: My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey, by Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor. Surviving a stroke and what you can learn from the experience.

Kim Terry, Director of Marketing and Communications: Sushi for Beginners, by Marian Keyes. Not a cookbook but Marian Keyes' latest novel about hipster singles in the city, and set in Dublin.

Maria Watkins, Executive Assistant: Several Sesame Street books Elmo, Big Bird, Oscar, Cookie Monster, Snuffy, Bert and Ernie—what's not to like?

And for those who regularly read more than one book at a time, here's the current active list from Cataloger **Jana Hausburg**:

The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession, by Allison Hoover Bartlett

Patience with God: Faith For People Who Don't Like Religion (or Atheism), by Frank Schaeffer

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl, by Timothy Egan

Page Fright: Foibles and Fetishes of Famous Writers, by Harry Bruce

Mr. Darcy, Vampyre, by Amanda Grange

Send us the title of the book you're currently reading for fun for possible inclusion in January's ShelfLife. E-mail the information to dbentin@metrolibrary.org.



CALLING ALL ELVES!

s your library or office planning to participate in the MLS Annual Holiday Open House at the Downtown Library on Thursday, December 10? The

event takes place from 11am – 3:30pm in the Atrium. There will be gingerbread cookies and hot chocolate, live entertainment and crafts for celebrants of all ages.

And yes, you can have your picture taken with The Big Guy, S. Claus himself. Just don't ask him for a Red Ryder BB Gun—you can put an eye out with those things.
Once again, you can

participate with a display showcasing programs and activities in the community, and to make this event even more festive, each library and department is urged to create a gingerbread house to display. Gingerbread House kits will be provided, so you'll just need to add the creativity!

A display table will be provided in the atrium for each participant. A picture frame craft project will also be provided for your table. You are

> encouraged to create a festive display that will portray your library as an inviting place in your community.

Invite your customers to visit and bring the kids. Photos with Santa will be taken 11:00am-3:00pm. The event will be promoted in info Magazine and an invitation suitable for e-mail is available for everyone to use.

Please confirm your participation with Headquar-

ters Manager **Candace McDaniel** by December 2. Gingerbread House kits are available now, so let Candace know how many houses you would like to display.



New Moon Prom-A Hill

The New Moon Prom, hosted by Del City Library and **Lindsay Egle**, teen vampiress (and teen librarian,) saw 140 teens descend on Del City Library Nov. 19, to celebrate the opening of the movie *New Moon*. To view all the photos from the prom visit Del City's blog:

http://delcitytab blogspot.com/

Photos by **Drea Gates.**







Where Do I Go From Here?

That's a good question no matter what the circumstances are, but when the overall subject is Retirement Finances and we're in the midst of international financial problems, the question becomes even more significant.

Mark Thompson, our representative from Mass Mutual, has scheduled another round of training sessions for us. They're coming up quickly—like December 2, 3, and 8—so this is a fast reminder that you might want to set aside a couple of hours to chat with Mark and find out if you can retire on time after all.

The times and locations are as follows:

Wednesday	December 2	2 pm	DN
Thursday	December 3	10 am	BI
Thursday	December 3	2 pm	SO
Tuesday	December 8	10 am	MC
Tuesday	December 8	2 pm	ED

Mark's topic will be "What just happened and where do I go from here?" Unless you're just working for the fun of it and don't need to worry about retirement income, this session will be of interest.



Betty Scott, Business Office, has been asked to join the the United Way as a Community Investment Volunteer—a 20-25 hour committment over a five month period. Betty will, along with other volunteers, review the agency's financials and program success.

Outstanding Service Awards 2009

After all the tomfoolery from The Lucky Penny Players, the Outstanding Service Awards 2009 were presented to this year's worthy recipients on Saturday, November 14. Nominations for the award are made by non-administrative MLS staff and the awards are given for service that goes above and beyond the call of Performance Standards.

The Outstanding Service Awards for 2009 went to:

Ngoc Nguyen, a library page at the Village.

Patricia Rivas, a circulation clerk at Southern Oaks.

Mary Sholly, a circulation clerk at Downtown.

Congratulations to these winners, and a ShelfLife tip of the hat to all the MLS pages and clerks who keep our circulation system running smoothly.











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

Fave Music: P.D.Q. Bach's Pervertimento for

Bagpipes, Bicycle and Balloons

Fave Book(s): Mrs. Steffy: Our Mother, the Mortician

by Doris C. Steffy

Fave Sports: watching pro football & participating in

Competitive Annoying

Fave Vacation(s): Beach—I watch for sharks. **Fave Movie**: Everything made at Warners

between 1918 and 1959

Fave TV Show: Heil Honey, I'm Home

Fave Food: Casu Marzu Fave Season: Cold and flu

Fave Hobby: I must decline to answer this question on advice of my attorney. There are warrants out for me in Kansas, Utah and W. Virginia because of my hobbies.

Pets: My friend Malcolm **Family**: Unfortunately, yes.

Do you Text or Twitter: Twitter? No but I have been

known to suffer from the vapors.

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

Is there something you want to do or accomplish before you die? No -I've seen it all and done it all. It's just a downhill slide into senility from here.

Answer on page 7



Crystal Suppes, circ clerk at MC, has worked for MLS for 14 years.

She's a reader and a traveler, claiming both as her hobbies. Crystal's most recent reads were the Lettie and Eulis trilogy by Sharon Sala.

Home and family consist of a husband, two daughters and "one adorable grandson!"

Crystal enjoys her job especially the "friendships she

makes with customers" and finding interesting books that come back in from patrons.

She says she's a gypsy at heart and would love to travel through out the U.S.A.

But Crystal can check off our 49th state—in August she and her husband took a seven day cruise to Alaska.





HELLO TO

REHIRES

Kellie Bradford Mgr. of Web Dev. & Support, PLA Carol Overton Page, ED

PROMOTION

VOLUNTARY DEMOTION

Duane Thurmond From Circ Clerk to Page, ED

RECLASSIFICATION

Chris Carroll From Dev. Spc. to Dev. Coord., DVS

GOODBYE TO



Answers to ShelfLife Quiz

1 = D 6 = G 2 = K 7 = J 3 = F 8 = H 4 = B 9 = E 5 = A 10 = C



Mallory Weigl



Brad Brucker



Kelly Mixon



Jacqulin Rash



Risa White



Jean-Ciar Pierce



Debbie Robertus sent in this pic of BI staff dressed for Halloween. Photo by Ken Biddle, (Dee's husband.)

Back row from left to right: Dee Biddle(devil), Debbie Robertus(witch), Rainna Okapal(gypsy), Regina Wolfinger (hula girl), Jean Wilburn (60's hippie).

Front row from left to right: Dave French (farmer) and Katrina York (Satyr.)



December Bulletin Board



December Birthdays

C. GEORGE NIEBANK, III	12/1
CHRIS 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 THOMPSON	12/11/2000
DIANE RICE	12/23/2002
REGINALD WALKER	12/30/2004
RICHARD ANTONISSE	12/12/2005
JOSHUA 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 MERRIMAN	12/12/2008
ELLINGTON WOODY SR	12/29/2008



January Bulletin Board

January Birthdays

LAURIE F. MACK-CLARK	1/2
RONALD HARRISON	1/2
JERRY C. NANCE	1/3
RANDY E. WAYLAND	1/4
URSULA A. WARD	1/5
BRADLEY S. MCCOY	1/5
MICHAEL LEE	1/6
JULIA MCCONNELL	1/6
RENA M. GIBSON	1/6
DENISE A. LUKES	1/7
SALLY K. PHILLIPS	1/7
CAROL F. MOODY	1/8
CECIL L. PEADEN	1/9
WANDA LITTLE	1/9
PATRICIA WHISENHUNT	1/10
LIWANG	1/10
PETER L. ROBERSON	1/12
LYNDSIE RAE DOYLE	1/12
DUNG A. LE	1/12
STEVEN B. JENKINS	1/14
RICHARD ANTONISSE	1/14
MICHELLE MERRIMAN	1/14
KYNDALL OVERSTREET	1/14
JUSTIN HERWIG	1/15
ANNE OLIVIA MOTLEY	1/15
TODD S. OLBERDING	1/18
BEVERLY K. PHILLIPS	1/18
JOE J. POE	1/19
JOYCE A. JACKSON	1/19
RONNA C. DAVIS	1/19
GLENN E. WEBB JR	1/19
RANDALL MYSTER	1/20
JOHN LEROY HILBERT	1/21
DANA M. PHILLIPS	1/21
NICOLE E. BURESH	1/21
KATHY S. MARQUIS	1/22
ABIGAIL GRIFFIN	1/23
JOSHUA LEWIS	1/24
JESSICA L. MINTER	1/24
NGOC KIM NGUYEN	1/24
KIARA CALIP	1/24
JOANN WALKUP	1/25
JOAN G. KENDALL	1/26
ROBYN LYNN ICKS	1/29
SUSAN M. MONROE	1/30
TANAZ DERAKHSHAN	1/30
LLOYD LOVELY	1/31

Employee's January Date-of-Hire

CAROL L. PROVINE	1/6/1975
KATRINA B. PRINCE	1/6/1985
NANCY J. LYTLE	1/22/1985
SYLVIA A. LAWSON	1/24/1989
ERIC G. KING	1/9/1990
JAMES E. NIMMO, JR	1/18/1993
MARIE NICHOLS	1/5/1994
GREGORY W. BENNETT	1/21/1997
DENISE A. LUKES	1/5/1998
TIMOTHY D. FISHER	1/26/1998
BUDDY JOHNSON	1/26/1998
LISA L. WALKER	1/26/1998
VICTORIA E. DIXON	1/26/1998
KATHY L. FRITSCH	1/27/1998
CHRISTINE R. BASSETT	1/25/1999
TIMOTHY D. HANNA	1/16/2001
JENNIFER ADKISSON	1/7/2002
SHARON G. BISH	1/7/2002
LAURA MCMURTRY	1/23/2002
KELLEY E. HOFFMAN	1/21/2003
LLOYD LOVELY	1/12/2004
PATRICK D. WILLIAMS	1/20/2004
KIM ELLEN MACARTY	1/1/2005
BETH K. STEELMAN	1/18/2005
JONATHAN E. WILLIS JR	1/4/2006
JONITA NORMORE	1/4/2006
LYNDA G. TONEY BAHR	1/4/2006
LIANA C. MICH	1/30/2006
MARK DANIEL VANCE	1/30/2006
ANNA N. TODD	1/31/2006
MATTHEW G. COTTER	1/2/2007
PAIGE ALLYSON NIFONG	1/12/2007
NATHAN I. CLYMER	1/29/2007
GERALDINE E. ADAMS	1/2/2008
DEBORAH AUSTIN-MUNDEN	1/14/2008
ADELAIDA H. MADISON	1/28/2008
LINDA J. MORPHIS	1/28/2008
KIMBERLY ANN CLARK	1/12/2009
DEBORAH MCPHERSON	1/26/2009
JAMAR O'NEIL RAHMING	1/26/2009
LACI REID BOWERS	1/29/2009
CLIFFORD MICHAEL LEE	1/29/2009