



# ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

March 2011

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## Give Voice to Your Favorite Book

We love Project Gutenberg, the goal of which is to make available online every book ever written that has fallen into the Public Domain (out of copyright)—which is essentially everything published before 1923. Recently, **Christine Bassett** of BI introduced us to an equally exciting website.

"Have you seen," she wrote, "the link on the Project Gutenberg website which sends you to Librivox where books in the public domain are being produced in audio format by volunteers from their home computers? You can volunteer or search for books there that have already been recorded. I came across this information when I was looking to see if customers could also download books from Gutenberg onto their Apple products. So far 4,000 titles have been added. Interesting eh?"

Yes, very much so. This is a great source for customers who have trouble reading and want a place besides the library where they can find recorded books. Some of the recordings are single voices, one person reading a complete book. Some use multiple voices, with different people reading individual chapters. Some of them are even dramatic readings, with many voices reading several characters.

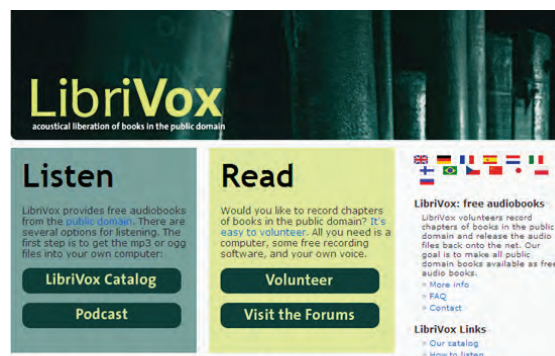
Made us wonder if more than one reader from a library could volunteer together to read something. The recordings are made available for free on the Internet to anyone who wants to listen. You could even have a Librivox Reading event at your library at which customers could listen as the material was read and recorded. The possibilities are numerous.

Here are the steps the site follows for each project:

1. a book coordinator posts a book in the New Projects Launch Pad Section.
2. a meta coordinator claims the project and moves the thread to the appropriate forum.
3. volunteers "claim" chapters to read.
4. the readers record their chapters in digital format.
5. the book coordinator collects all the files of all the chapters.
6. the book coordinator sends the collected files to a meta coordinator.
7. we check the files for technical problems in the Listeners Wanted section.
8. the book coordinator sends the collected, corrected files to a meta coordinator.
9. another public domain audiobook is made available for free.

For more information on how the site works, for both volunteer readers and listeners, visit at this address: <http://librivox.org/>

And thanks, Christine, for bringing this to our attention.





## eBooks and You

If you ever get frustrated with talk of eBook this and eBook that, and just want to go back to the good old library days of regular books—without the “e”—you might take a quick look at what Mark Evans, former Director of Merchandise Planning



& Analysis for Borders Group, Inc., recently wrote in Quora. He attempted to figure out what went so terribly wrong with Borders that the chain finally had to declare bankruptcy. Of his six reasons, this is number one: the compa-

ny “dropped the ball on eBooks, but by the time this became an issue they were just trying to figure out how to keep the whole house from burning down around them.”

Reuters reported that the company’s “near absence from the growing digital books market made it difficult for Borders to compete with larger rival Barnes & Noble Inc and online retailer Amazon.com Inc.” Borders’ second largest shareholder, William Ackman, said it was his “worst investment ever.”

So try not to grind your teeth when customers ask you how to download library eBooks. It’s a book format that’s here to stay.



### Library Lit: Books to Help with Professional Growth

#### **Healthy Employees, Healthy Business: Easy, Affordable Ways to Promote Workplace Wellness**



by Ilona Bray

Ah, for the high caloric days when love in the library meant food—and food meant donuts. No more. Now, donuts mean higher health costs.

*Healthy Employees, Healthy Business* draws on the expertise of an advisory board of doctors, lawyers, benefits specialists, workplace wellness planners and other experts to offer managers the essential advice they need to implement a low-cost or even free wellness program for employees.

Clear, concise and filled with success stories from other workplaces, this book offers the tools needed to start a wellness program immediately, resulting in increased productivity and potentially lower health insurance costs. Find out how to:

- evaluate and target your workplace’s main health concerns
- develop fun, effective activities to improve employee health
- boost morale through mutual support and competition
- lower workplace stress
- leverage community resources for minimal financial investment

From simply changing the snacks in the vending machines to ensuring that ill employees have access to treatment, you’ll get practical advice in *Healthy Employees, Healthy Business*.



March 2011

## Know A Kid Volunteer Who Could Use Some \$?

I know, that's a stupid question, right?

We received a note recently informing us of a program sponsored by Kohl's Department Stores through which kids aged 6-18 can win up to \$10,000. "Every

year," they tell us, "Kohl's recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) across the country for their amazing contributions to their communities. This year we are recognizing more than 2,100 kids with more than

\$415,000 in scholarships and prizes."

If there's a kiddo in your family, or maybe one among your library volunteers, who you think might qualify for this prize, check out the Kohl's website at

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

Here's a quick overview of the eligibility rules and awards:

To be eligible, the student must meet the following criteria as of March 15, 2011.

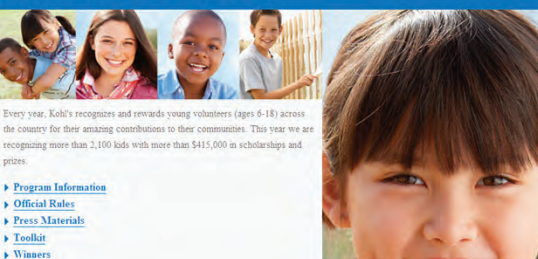
- Must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate.
- Actions must be described in detail and should document efforts above and beyond what is expected of a child his or her age.
- Volunteer efforts must have occurred in the last year.
- Winners are chosen based on the project, benefits and outcome.

This year, more than 2,100 kids will be recognized with over \$415,000 in scholarships and prizes.

- Store Winners will receive a \$50 Kohl's Gift Card.
- Regional Winners will each be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education.
- National Winners will each be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a non-profit organization on each winner's behalf.

### Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program

Top winners receive \$10,000 each



Every year, Kohl's recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) across the country for their amazing contributions to their communities. This year we are recognizing more than 2,100 kids with more than \$415,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Program Information  
Official Rules  
Press Materials  
Toolkit  
Winners

## From the Ad Team: A Message from Director of Marketing, Kim Terry

Is it Mango time, again??? No, sorry, not yet! But it still is database time as we plan on really promoting our databases this year. We have a yearly plan mapped out for our INCREDIBLE databases that we'll be doing promotional materials. Each month, you'll be able to find out what our database "focus" is by looking on the Intranet slider graphics (and sometimes the Internet has a nice little quaint home for it in the bottom right corner).

For the last two months, Web services has created some great information for you on each of our monthly databases. This includes some fancy tidbits about that database – talking points so that you can mention it to a customer... especially if they are checking out related materials (in my previous life, this was called cross selling). Whoever is the first one who can tell me what January's database focus was, gets a free prize! (The fine print: those who were officially involved in deciding the database, producing, writing, researching for articles, or

designing some of these materials for that database, may not apply).

Every month we will have either half sheets or book-marks available for that database. The first five people that tell me which is more popular for something like this – bookmarks or half sheets – wins a prize. And where can you order these?? Of course, it would be the Marketing Supplies Catalog located under Marketing Resources on the Resources tab on the Intranet. When you do go out there to order some, and I know you will... you can't help yourself... take a look at all the other great stuff we have available (Hint: I'm cross selling.) Look at the resources we have, too. Some great program templates that you can use to design your own program flyers/half sheets. These will also be updated through the next few months. And guess what? I'll probably have a prize sometime soon, for people who actually use these templates. But I'll let you know when. ::wink wink::





## Maintenance to the Rescue

We all have our jobs to do and each of us makes important contributions to the well-being and smooth running of MLS, but come on, let's be honest—where would any of us be without the Maintenance crew? Hats off to them, because neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays those guys from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Well, maybe gloom of night. **Patrick Williams**, Director of Facilities Maintenance, lets them go home some time.

- At Pager Tone: Enter the number you wish to be reached at.
- If you have the Cisco phone system, enter your extension number only.
- Please do not enter library main numbers without entering an extension.
- If you have the old phone system, enter your main number and the extension number you can be reached at.



But the question is, how do you let them know when you need them for an emergency?

When you have an emergency or an urgent request you can call Maintenance's 3536 internal phone or 606-3536 external phone number. This number will work for everyone 24 hours a day. You will speak with someone immediately, receive voice mail instructions, or you will hear a pager tone.

You should receive a return call within five or ten minutes. Please never rely on one try with a pager.

If you feel that you should have received a response, call the 3536 number several times.

It is very important to turn in a work order even if it is an emergency and you have successfully reached someone in Maintenance!

## Routine work orders/ Maintenance requests

- Turn in a work order for all repairs or request by clicking on the Maintenance Request link on the Intranet.
- No verbal request if at all possible.
- No matter what the issue's are, a work order is always necessary. Once a work order is received, the Maintenance tech will look into the matter and make the necessary repairs.
- If you have lock problems of any type call 3536 and turn in a work order.
- If you need door access please have your supervisor fill out a Library Access Authorization Form (located on the Intranet) and send it to Maintenance. This form must be signed by your Supervisor.
- If you have any questions or need feedback please call 606-3535 or 3536. Patrick urges everyone to test this system to become familiar with it.

Maintenance knocks itself out to get things done as quickly as possible to make work easier for you and your customers, and following these procedures will help them to help you.

**REMEMBER FOR EMERGENCIES CALL  
— 606-3536 —**



## Be Safe

The month of March marks the end of the first quarter of 2011 and so Safety Training is due. This quarter it's that annual favorite, Hazardous Communications. And no, hazardous communications is not telling your wife that you lost the rent money in a card game with those sharks from Marketing—again.

If you're not sure what it is, well, that's why we have Safety Training. This time around you have to complete the PowerPoint "Hazardous Communication" and the reading "Hazardous Communication Program."

Remember, count the time it takes to complete each item. If training is less than 30 minutes, other training will need to be completed to meet safety training requirements. Complete the report and submit it to your supervisor, who will then forward one copy to Denise Courts in HUM.

HUM will be happy. Your supervisor will be happy. And doggone it, you'll be happy, too.



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

**Fave Music:** All music, from the Beatles to the Black Eyed Peas  
**Fave Book(s):** Biographies  
**Fave Movie(s):** *Face Off*, *Four Christmases*, *Open Range*  
**Fave Sports:** Baseball, basketball, football  
**Fave Vacation:** Lahaina beach, Maui, Hawaii, and Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta  
**Fave TV Show:** *Survivor*, *Apprentice*  
**Fave Food:** Mexican  
**Fave Season:** Spring  
**Fave Hobby:** Riding dirt bikes and four wheelers, rebuilding old cars  
**Family:** Wife and two children  
**Fave PC or MAC:** PC  
**Fave Pet:** Three dogs  
**Fave Text, Facebook, Twitter, etc?:** Facebook  
**Special Skills:** Being a DAD

**What profession would you be in if you were not working at MLS?**  
*The same profession that I do for MLS.*

**Do you have a 'Bucket List' and what's at the top of it?**  
*Retirement*

*Answer on page 6*

## STAFF PROFILE Fingerprints

**A**nn Todd began working at MLS as a page at ED. From there to Mat. Sel. as a tech then, after receiving her MLIS, became a librarian at RE, and is now at BI.

She works with the teens and says, "All the programs I get to do makes the job a lot of fun and not seem like work at all!"

Anna is skilled at Scene It, the movie trivia game, and is hooked on the Angry Birds game on her smart

phone.

While at home Anna reads, writes and plays Just Dance 2 on the Wii. She is also learning to cook.

As a teen librarian Anna is clued in to YA books. She recently read *Matched*, by Ally Condie and Anna said she is sure it will be turned into a movie.





## HELLO TO

David Grow ..... Page, ED  
Margo Ellis..... Mat. Sel. Tech., CAT  
Garry Souders ..... ILL Tech, ILL

## PROMOTION

Taryn Kingery..... From Assoc. Librarian to Librarian, RE  
Sam Johnson..... From Page to Librarian, MC

## GOODBYE TO

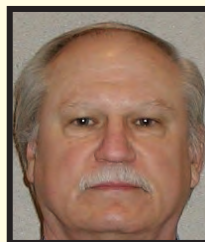
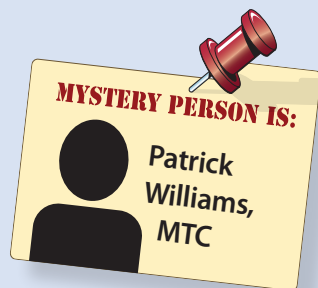
Allegra Seals ..... Page, ED  
Jenny Fann ..... Circ Clerk, SO

## CONGRATULATIONS!

To Bethany page Dustin Chandler who married Latricia Wiggins on January 22.

## SYMPATHY

Marilyn Backus, Mat.Sel, whose father passed away February 17.  
Chris Carrol, DEV, whose mother died in Florida February 16.  
Midwest City Library manager Chis Kennedy, whose father passed away February 27.



David Grow



Margo Ellis



Garry Souders

## The ShelfLife Quiz: What Do You Mean By That?

You can turn to any dictionary to find the meanings of standard English words, but where do you go when you want to find the meaning of "unbrella"? (That's an umbrella that's been turned inside-out by the wind.)

The Urban Dictionary, available online, is the best source for defining American slang, which urbandictionary.com defines as "the continual and ever-changing use and definition of words in informal conversation, often using references as a means of comparison or showing likeness." "Slang," they say, also refers to selling drugs. But that's another quiz.

Here are some definitions from the Urban Dictionary. See if you can figure out the words or phrases that go with them and match them up.

1. Your greatest weakness, the thing that makes you go all warm and fuzzy inside.
2. What you get when you read a passage in a book over and over again but still don't get it.
3. When you see how much work you still have to do and you just want to give up.
4. The world's cheapest babysitter.
5. What you add to the end of a boring story to try to make it a little more interesting.

Choices:

- a. Eye deafness
- b. Beach dreams
- c. Mid-day crisis
- d. Baby blanket
- e. And then I found five dollars
- f. Cartoon network
- g. Mine all mine
- h. Homer's donut
- i. Reader's block

Answers on page 7



March 2011

## March Bulletin Board



### March Birthdays



GRANT YOKLEY	3/1
REAGAN KLOIBER	3/2
STEVEN GLOVER	3/3
BEN MOUNT	3/5
AHAD MARAND	3/5
KIRSTIE BROWN	3/5
SARAH KELLUM	3/6
DARIN SMITH	3/8
EMMY VERDIN-CROWE	3/8
PATSY GLOVER	3/8
JULIE BALLOU	3/9
NANCY LYTLE	3/9
VICKIE ROSS	3/9
STEVEN ISAACS	3/12
SERINA GARCIA	3/14
VINCI BARRON	3/15
ALLEGRA SEALS	3/16
BARBARA PARR	3/17
CHRISTOPHER CADE	3/17
ROBIN SAGEL	3/17
AMY UPCHURCH	3/19
DIANNA RUPP	3/19
KATHRYN HATFIELD	3/22
MARY SHOLLY	3/22
RUSSELL PIERCE	3/22
ABE EJTEHADI	3/23
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/25
SHAHIN ASGHARI	3/25
KIM COBB	3/26
PAM BUCHANAN	3/27
PATRICIA RIVAS	3/30
JANA HAUSBURG	3/31
SHEILA FIXEL	3/31



### Employee's March Date-of-Hire



DARCUS SMITH	3/28/1986
DENISE COURTS	3/16/1987
JILL VESSELS	3/19/1987
JOE POE	3/21/1987
TRACY STONE	3/17/1988
MARY STRASNER	3/6/1989
BEVERLY PHILLIPS	3/22/1993
LEE MATA	3/15/1994
MARGARET COLLINS	3/27/2000
VINCENT ARMIJO	3/26/2001
BETTY SCOTT	3/11/2002
JESSICA MINTER	3/23/2005
JULIET ALAVICHEH	3/28/2005
JEFFREY FREDERICKS	3/13/2007
BEVERLY CUNNINGHAM	3/26/2007
DENISE RYAN	3/26/2007
REBECCA MASON	3/27/2007
ROBYN ICKS	3/17/2008
WANDA LITTLE	3/9/2009
SANDRA EFFINGER	3/14/2009
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/23/2009
EMMY VERDIN-CROWE	3/23/2009
PHILL JO	3/1/2010
RUTH HARDER	3/8/2010
TARYN KINGERY	3/22/2010

### Answers to ShelfLife Quiz

Answers:

- 1 - H
- 2 - I
- 3 - C
- 4 - F
- 5 - E





## April Bulletin Board



### April Birthdays



KEVIN SENDALL	4/1
JEANETTE MIRLL	4/2
DARLENE BROWERS	4/3
JOHN WOOD	4/4
CRYSTAL SUPPES	4/7
EMILY WILLIAMS	4/7
BREANNE FORD	4/8
SIOBHAN MORAVA	4/9
FRANCES HARBERT	4/10
KAYHAN YAZDANI	4/10
MARGO ELLIS	4/11
LISA WALKER	4/14
MACEY HERNANDEZ	4/15
ADELAIDA MADISON	4/16
GERALD HICKMAN	4/17
GREGORY BENNETT	4/18
KERI CLOUD	4/18
SHANAE FOUTS	4/18
HEIDI JOHNSON	4/19
JOHN UTLEY	4/19
SHARON MAINE	4/20
JULIE SCHOFIELD	4/21
MARK VANCE	4/21
PATRICK WILLIAMS	4/21
MELISSA WEATHERS	4/22
DAVID MACK	4/24
JANET BOWEN	4/24
SANDRA LANHAM	4/25
LEONDREA GATES	4/26
PAIGE NIFONG	4/26
SUSAN STINSON	4/26
JULIET ALAVICHEH	4/27
MICHAEL OWENS	4/27
STUART WILLIAMSON	4/27
MARIA WATKINS	4/28
TIMOTHY HANNA	4/28
THOMAS GALLAGHER	4/30



### Employee's April Date-of-Hire



LAVETTA DENT	4/27/1979
HEIDI JOHNSON	4/30/1979
ANNE FISCHER	4/3/1981
CLYDE HERROD	4/13/1982
JEAN WILBURN	4/6/1992
LORETTA FRANTZ	4/25/1994
DANIEL FIELDS	4/2/2001
MARY MCELROY	4/5/2001
KERI CLOUD	4/29/2002
MELANIE LEVICK	4/26/2004
LINDA TEMPLE	4/25/2005
JULIANNA LINK	4/25/2005
LONDON HOLMAN	4/3/2006
SANDRA LANHAM	4/3/2006
DOYLE WILCOX	4/24/2006
KEVIN SENDALL	4/9/2007
JEANETTE MIRLL	4/23/2007
JESSICA MORRIS	4/7/2008
JUSTIN HERWIG	4/7/2008
CYNTHIA SELINGER	4/7/2008
SYDNEY ASHBY	4/9/2008
NANCY SLUSAR	4/14/2008
VICKIE ROSS	4/28/2008
JULIA MCCONNELL	4/6/2009
MAEGYN DOYLE	4/20/2009
ROGER BANKER	4/20/2009
AFTON MARTIN	4/5/2010
HEIDI WELLS	4/19/2010
JENNIFER ENGLAND	4/19/2010