



March 2013

ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Peek-a-Book



Well, here's a clever way to catch the attention of your customers and give the more adventurous of them a treat. **Chris Kennedy**, MLO of Midwest City, sent this in to us.

"We have created a display called 'Blind Date with A Book,'" Chris wrote. "As you can see from the pictures, the books are wrapped so customers won't know what they have checked out. Many different staff members are

participating by selecting their favorite book and writing a 'blurb' to introduce this book to a would-be reader. We're having a lot of fun with this!"

The display was up through Valentine's Day.

"Kudo's to **Beth [Wilson]** for coming across the idea," Chris added.

Now this is speed dating of the most library kind.



We Take Our Bow

Normally we shy and modest types in the Marketing Dept. don't like to blow our own horns but, well, as the poet wrote: "If you wish in the world to advance / Your merits you're bound to enhance. / You must stir it and stomp it / And blow your own trumpet / Or, trust me, you haven't a chance."

Really. The poet wrote that.

Which means what exactly in the wonderful realm of MLS?

It means that this year Marketing and Communications submitted entries in several categories for Oklahoma City's ADDY® Awards. These are bestowed by the Oklahoma City Advertising Club and are the most prestigious recognition for excellence in local marketing. And of the entries we sent in, we won six awards.

WAY TO GO! 

Kim Terry, Director of Marketing, wrote in response to the wins, "We are extremely excited about these awards because of the amount of staff that took part in the projects, and the high level of recognition that this could provide."

Here's what we won:

- Bronze Medal - Public Service Poster – The Belle of Amherst
- Bronze Medal - Public Service Cards, Invitations or Announcements – Literary Voices with Mary Higgins Clark
- Bronze Medal - Public Service Print, Magazine – *info* Magazine, October 2012
- Bronze Medal - Public Service Poster – Dystopias and Desserts
- Silver Medal - Digital Advertising, Social Media, Single Platform, Consumer – Facebook/Twitter Seasonal Cover Illustrations
- Silver Medal - Television, Local, 30 seconds – Download eBooks From the Library

Next time you see the members of the Marketing team in the halls, at a meeting, or on a street corner carrying hand-printed signs, congratulate 'em and maybe slip 'em a couple of dollars. We're not in this just for the awards, you know.



Lending Library: *Finding the Answers to Legal Questions*

By Virginia Tucker and Marc Lampson

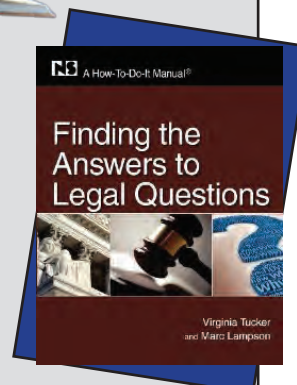
Every once in a while our libraries schedule programs that present legal help to customers, whether it's income tax assistance or Lawyers in the Library—but even when there are no attorneys nearby to help with answers, customers still need some direction in tracking down basic legal information.

That's where *Finding the Answers to Legal Questions* by Virginia Tucker and Marc Lampson can come in handy. *Law Library Journal* said that it is "recommended to public libraries as a training tool for reference librarians, a collection and web site development guide, and an entry-level research tool for patrons."

The book is a guide that introduces the structure of the legal system in the U.S.; provides the basics of legal research; offers specific guidance for commonly asked legal questions, such as landlord-tenant disputes, wills, and employment issues; and concludes with a guide for building a reference collection and producing a website of resources.

It will not, of course, turn you into a lawyer and give you the legal right to practice law in the library any more than a copy of *Physician's Desk Reference* will make you a doctor, but there are questions you can legally help your customer with if you know how to get started. This is a comprehensive guide to help public librarians confidently assist users in finding the legal information they need whether for self-representation, to be an informed consumer of legal service, or to learn the U.S. legal system, the workings of the courts, and common questions likely to arise.

You never know when questions of law will arise. This is a great starting place on the road to an answer.





• MYSTERY PERSON •

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

Fave Music:	The Decemberists and Johnny Cash
Fave Book:	<i>Invisible Cities</i> , by Italo Calvino
Fave Movie:	<i>Charade</i> (1963)
Fave Sports:	Scottish Highland games
Fave Vacation:	Brisbane, Australia
Worst Vacation:	Visiting South Padre Island along with several million jelly fish
Fave TV Show:	<i>The Daily Show</i>
Fave Food:	Homemade chili cheese fries with chipotle sour cream
Fave Season:	Winter, assuming there's snow
Fave Hobby:	Gardening and baking
Family:	Wife, robot vacuum cleaner with googly eyes on it
Fave Social Network:	I have never networked in a social manner
Fave PC or Mac:	PC. Never trust a computer you can't swap the guts out of
Fave Smart PhoneApp:	Overdrive Media Console
Special Skills:	Internal alarm clock accurate to within two minutes

What chore do you absolutely hate doing? Anything to do with pipes, plumbing, or water generally being where it shouldn't.

If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be? Any event involving a living dinosaur. Bonus points if it's a future event.

Answer on page 6

No Seconds

Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins told us that ILL has been receiving an unusual number of requests for materials that have previously been requested for the same customer, but have not completed their journey through the ILL process.

"As a reminder," she wrote, "please do not send a second request for a material until the customer has received a notice that the request cannot be filled. Remember that it can take up to 30 days to determine whether an ILL request can be filled. It does not usually take that long, but it's possible. ILL staff are working hard to fill requests or notify customers that requests cannot be filled."

Pauline wrote that if you want to speed the process along, send requests for materials published in the current or previous year (2013 or 2012) as purchase requests to Materials Selection with a note asking that the request be forwarded to ILL if not purchased. ILL will not borrow materials published in these years without approval from MSL.

Sometimes a department provides such good service it gets overwhelmed. It's not the worst kind of stress, but it's stressful all the same.

STAFF PROFILE Fingerprints

Emy Verdin, as a circ clerk at Midwest City for four years, is a versatile employee.

Emy says "I have been teaching Spanish to adults at MC for the last two years but I'm taking a break for now because I have decided to go back to school to get my BA in photography.

I have made some truly great friends at MLS. One of the best things about working (here) is getting to be a part of the great programs we offer. At MWC I help out with the Foreign Movie Program."

At home Emy, with her husband and 2 cats, Apollo and Rocky, likes "watching the San Antonio spurs beat the Thunder."

Also at home, her hobbies include photography and painting, and her dream vacation is to "visit the Southern Cone of South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay) to do some travel photography, meet some great people and eat some great food!"

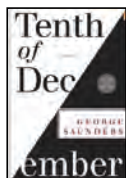


Building a Reading City: Keeping Up With the Johnsons

Quick, no peeking—what's the most common surname among MLS staffers? Not Jones, not Smith. It's Johnson.

We are the proud possessors of six Johnsons on the staff, so we turned to them this month to find out what they are reading, have read recently, or would like to read in the future. Three of them responded to us, and we thought you might like to know what the Johnson kids are up, reading-wise.

Barbara Johnson at BI wrote: A school librarian friend of mine who is on a committee or two just asked if I'd read....."the next Harry Potter". She suggested *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier (his first book). She said it has everything to make it award-winning. Peter is a ten-year-old blind orphan who steals.....you guessed it....he steals a mysterious box that has three magical pairs of eyes. They say this story is 'as unique as *James and the Giant Peach*, and as touching and memorable as C.S Lewis' *Narnia* series' So far, pretty good and I see Movie, Movie, Movie all over it." (MLS also owns it as an audiobook CD.)



Buddy Johnson, DN, wrote: "I don't normally read fiction but when I do, it's usually something unsettling. Right now I'm reading *Tenth of December* by George Saunders (not the voice of Shere Khan) who has done a good job of replicating the internal processing of a diverse group of individuals in this collection of short stories."

And finally, **Mary Ann Johnson** at ED, told us about four titles she's working on: *Q's Legacy* by Helene Hanff, *In the Woods* by Tana French, *Evan and Elle* by Rhys Bowen, and *The House at Tyneford* by Natasha Solomons.



Thanks to everyone who responded and shared a wide variety of titles with us.

Cocoa Loco

We've received a request from a certain member of the Ad Team, who shall remain nameless, that we offer our congratulations to the winner of Downtown Library's annual Cocoa Loco chocolate goodies making/tasting competition. We're sure that Nemo would like for you to know that participants contribute 25 cents to taste the chocolate-paloozas concocted by staff, then get to vote on their favorite. The \$60 raised during the event went to DN's Heartwalk team.

So here's a tip of the hat to **Lloyd Lovely**, whose crunchy brownies were voted Most Favorite.

And our thanks to the anonymous Ad Team Deputy Executive Director/Finance & Support member who suggested we pat Lloyd on the back.

Shutting UP

Recently in the Forum section of My Metrolibrary the topic of librarian stereotypes came up and was kicked around by several writers. A similar subject was discussed in a Pew Research Center survey called *Library Services in the Digital Age*. Pew asked 2,252 Americans what they get and what they really want from public libraries, and the top three replies will probably surprise no one: "librarians to help people find information," books to borrow, and "free access to computers and the Internet." The first two items scored 80% positive response each and the third one scored 77%. What came in fourth was the surprise. Brace yourself, Melville.



76% of responders said that "Quiet study spaces for adults and children" was important—more important than any program.

An article in *Salon** addressing this shocker began this way: "Librarians hate to be depicted as bun-and-glasses-wearing shushers, hellbent on silencing any and all noisy activities within their sacred domain. Fair enough: Librarians are highly skilled, well-educated and socially aware as a rule, and should not be reduced to a cultural stereotype ranking only a notch or two above a church lady on the hipness scale. Nevertheless, there's a lot to be said for that shushing.

"According to the Pew study, quiet matters more to library patrons than special programs for kids or job-search resources or access to fancy databases or classes and events or spaces for public meetings. It matters more to them than the ability to check out e-books or engage in 'more interactive learning experiences' — areas that many library experts seem to regard as top priorities for the libraries of the future."

I doubt that anyone—even our most Luddite customers and staff—want libraries to return to the days of All Quiet All the Time, but setting aside an area of your library with an advertised time for peace and quiet might not be a bad idea. Even bookstores—remember them?—had chairs set up for people who just wanted to sit and read for awhile. If they wanted to chat, they could go to the coffee bar.

Let ShelfLife know what you think about this. We'll print your response next month.

*(http://www.salon.com/2013/01/31/bring_back_shushing_librarians/)



The ShelfLife Quiz:

Last Words of the Rich and Famous, and a Couple of Serial Killers

Last words can be inspiring, instructive, bewildering, or even funny. See if you can match the last words below with the names of the speakers.

Last Words:

- A. When asked how long he thought he'd be in the hospital after surgery he replied, "If it goes well about two weeks. If it doesn't, about a half hour."
- B. Speaking politely to the ambulance drivers who came to pick him up: "I am sorry to trouble you chaps. I don't know how you get along so fast with the traffic on the roads these days."
- C. A sports writer late in life, these were the last words he typed: "We all get the same amount of ice. The rich get it in the summer. The poor get it in the winter."
- D. Awakening on her deathbed and seeing family gathered around: "Am I dying or is this my birthday?"
- E. He was executed in Oklahoma in 1995: "I did not get my Spaghetti-Os, I got spaghetti. I want the press to know this."
- F. Spoken to his nurse, who asked him if he enjoyed skiing: "No, but I'd rather be skiing than doing what I'm doing."

- G. Spoken to the hangman just before the trap was sprung: "Hurry up, you Hoosier b*****d. I could kill ten men while you're fooling around."
- H. No comment necessary: "I just wish I had time for one more bowl of chili."
- I. Spoken to his nurse who tried to moisten his lips but mis-aimed: "This isn't Hamlet, you know. It's not meant to go into the bloody ear."
- J. Perhaps just about what you'd expect: "G*****n the whole @&*%!@\$ world and everyone in it except you, Carlotta."

Speakers

- 1. Lady Nancy Astor
- 2. Kit Carson
- 3. Rodney Dangerfield
- 4. W.C. Fields
- 5. Ian Fleming
- 6. Thomas J. Grasso
- 7. Stan Laurel
- 8. Bat Masterson
- 9. Laurence Olivier
- 10. Carl Panzram

Answers on page 6

A Good Day to Study Hard

Congratulations are in order and gladly given to Northwest Library Aide **Casey Patillo**, who has made it into the ranks of National Merit Scholar Finalists.

You may have heard of this program without knowing much about it. About 1.5 million students from 22,000 high schools apply before about 1% of them become finalists.

They are judged on "having an outstanding academic record, and being endorsed and recommended by a

high school official. They must also submit an application that includes high school courses and grades, extracurricular and volunteer activities, and a self-descriptive essay," according to Wikipedia.

In fact, they are so smart they would never use Wikipedia as a sole source.

Northwest librarian **Risa White** sent us a note telling us about Casey's academic achievement and we, along with the Northwest staff, wish Casey the best of luck.

CONGRATS! 

HELLO TO

Marcie Lee	Public Comp. Spc., AL
Adrien Fisher	Library Aide, ED
Dawn Gehling	Library Aide, BE
Laura Pool	Librarian, SO
Tonette Woody	Public Comp. Spc., DC
Najah Hylton	Library Aide, AL
Monte Camp	Library Aide, CH
Lisa Earls	Library Aide, BI
Rebecca Fesler	Library Aide, AL
Reisha Graves.....	Library Aide, WA
David Lowen	Library Aide, RE
Angie Tran	Library Aide, AL
Saidah Yakasai	Library Aide, AL

PROMOTION

Juliet Alavicheh	From PT Library Aide, ED, to HT Circ Clerk, VI
Suzette Felton.....	From MC Assoc. Librarian to Librarian
Phill Jo	From VI HT Assoc. Librarian to HT Librarian
Jessica Minter	From WA, PT Library Aide, to HT Circ Clerk
Kristin Williamson.....	From MC Assoc. Librarian to Librarian

RETIREMENT

Rosemary Czarski	Manager of Library Operation
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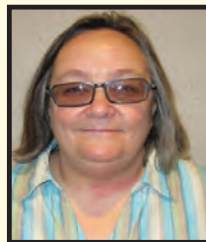
GOODBYE

Diana Booth.....	Library Aide, RE
Dee Cannon.....	Library Aide, DN
Maegyn Doyle.....	Circ Clerk, WA
Jessica Bennett.....	Library Aide, BI

The ShelfLife Quiz:

Answers

- | | |
|------|-------|
| A. 3 | F. 7 |
| B. 5 | G. 10 |
| C. 8 | H. 2 |
| D. 1 | I. 9 |
| E. 6 | J. 4 |



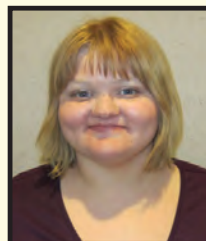
Marcie Lee



Adrien Fisher



Dawn Gehling



Laure Pool



Tonette Woody



Najah Hylton



Monte Camp



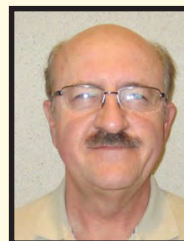
Lisa Earls



Rebecca Fesler



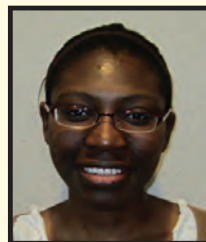
Reisha Graves



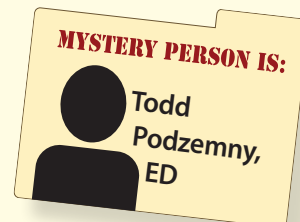
David Lowen



Angie Tran



Saidah Yakasai





March Bulletin Board

March Birthdays

GRANT YOKLEY	3/1
REAGAN KLOIBER	3/2
SHEILAH WISER	3/5
AHAD MARAND	3/5
KIRSTIE BROWN	3/5
JESSICA MOAD	3/6
SARAH KELLUM	3/6
KERRY BURROWS	3/7
PATSY GLOVER	3/8
MARIA VERDIN-CROWE	3/8
DARIN SMITH	3/8
NANCY LYTL	3/9
VICKIE ROSS	3/9
JULIE BALLOU	3/9
TAABISH NOORALI	3/11
STEVEN ISAACS	3/12
SERINA GARCIA FREEMAN	3/14
SALLY MCCURRY	3/14
TIMOTHY ROEMER	3/15
ROBIN SAGEL	3/17
CHRISTOPHER CADE	3/17
BARBARA PARR	3/17
AMY UPCHURCH	3/19
DIANNA RUPP	3/19
MARY SHOLLY	3/22
RUSSELL PIERCE	3/22
KATHRYN HATFIELD	3/22
EBRAHIM EJTEHADI	3/23
SHATIMA BENNETT	3/23
SHAHIN ASGHARI	3/25
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/25
NEIL PRUTHI	3/25
KIM COBB	3/26
PAMELA BUCHANAN	3/27
PATRICIA ORTIZ	3/30
TODD PODZEMNY	3/30
SHEILA FIXEL	3/31
JANA HAUSBURG	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
KATHY MARQUIS	3/27/2001
JESSICA MINTER	3/23/2005
JULIET ALAVICHEH	3/28/2005
JEFFREY FREDERICKS	3/13/2007
DENISE RYAN	3/26/2007
REBECCA MASON	3/27/2007
ROBYN ICKS	3/17/2008
WANDA LITTLE	3/9/2009
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/23/2009
MARIA VERDIN-CROWE	3/23/2009
PHILL JO	3/1/2010
RUTH HARDER	3/8/2010
HIEN CHAU	3/15/2010
TARYN KINGERY	3/22/2010
JACSON MELVIN	3/8/2011
SHATIMA BENNETT	3/21/2011
MARGARET MANNERS	3/5/2012
ANDREA GAITHER	3/19/2012
MARY SCHAEFER	3/19/2012
ROBERT FLORES	3/19/2012
ALEXANDRA MCLELLAN	3/19/2012
KASSIE ELSTEN	3/26/2012
JUDI BATES-NEWBERRY	3/26/2012
HEATHER KOLLIPOULOS	3/26/2012
JAROD ATKINS	3/26/2012
CASEY PATTILLO	3/26/2012

April Bulletin Board

Employee's April Date-of-Hire

LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	4/27/1979
HEIDI JOHNSON	4/30/1979
ANNE FISCHER	4/3/1981
CLYDE HERROD	4/13/1982
JEAN WILBURN	4/6/1992
DANIEL FIELDS	4/2/2001
MARY MCELROY	4/5/2001
KERI CLOUD	4/29/2002
MELANIE LEVICK	4/26/2004
JULIANNA LINK	4/25/2005
LANDON HOLMAN	4/3/2006
SANDRA LANHAM	4/3/2006
DOYLE WILCOX	4/24/2006
KEVIN SENDALL	4/9/2007
JESSICA MORRIS	4/7/2008
JUSTIN HERWIG	4/7/2008
NANCY SLUSAR	4/14/2008
VICKIE ROSS	4/28/2008
JULIA MCCONNELL	4/6/2009
ROGER BANKER	4/20/2009
HEIDI WELLS	4/19/2010
JENNIFER ENGLAND	4/19/2010
TERESA HAWKINS	4/5/2011
REBECCA SPENCER	4/5/2011
JEANIE SOLES	4/19/2011
CASEY LOWRY	4/19/2011
LATASHA TIMBERLAKE	4/22/2011
DAVID SCHULER	4/16/2012
HANNAH BETHEL	4/30/2012
WILLIAM HAMMACK	4/30/2012
CATHLEEN KELLEY	4/30/2012

April Birthdays

KEVIN SENDALL	4/1
DARLENE S. BROWERS	4/3
JEREMY CAREY	4/4
JOHN WOOD	4/4
FARRAH BUTLER	4/5
CRYSTAL SUPPES	4/7
EMILY WILLIAMS	4/7
SIOBHAN MORAVA	4/9
ANGIE TRAN	4/10
CORY PERSCHBACHER	4/10
FRANCES HARBERT	4/10
SAIDAH YAKASAI	4/10
MARGO ELLIS	4/11
CASEY LOWRY	4/14
LISA WALKER	4/14
ADELAIDA HERRERIAS	4/16
GERALD HICKMAN	4/17
GREGORY BENNETT	4/18
KERI CLOUD	4/18
ALICE MURPHY	4/19
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
ANDREA GAITHER	4/23
ALEXIS WHITNEY	4/24
DAVID MACK	4/24
JANET BOWEN	4/24
ROBIN POWELL	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
MARIA WATKINS	4/28
TIMOTHY HANNA	4/28
THOMAS GALLAGHER	4/30