



LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

Volume XVII, Issue I

Special points of interest:

- Grape Expectations Rocking the Library Gala a Success!
- NEA Big Read: Bolivar County Gets Under Way
- LSTA Grants Benefit Children & Teens

Director's Corner

The Grape Expectations: Rocks the Library Gala on January 27, 2023, was a huge success! The last Gala was in 2019. COVID derailed the event planned in 2020.

I know the Friends of the Library will acknowledge all of those who made the night successful later, but I want to take this moment to thank the Friends of the Library for hosting the event and for the countless hours they put into it. They begin planning the event months ahead and their meetings really ramp up in the weeks before the Gala to make the night seem seamless.

These individuals are selfless volunteers who work tirelessly for our libraries in Bolivar



Director Emily Bell with her husband William at the Grape Expectations Gala

County. This was the first Gala the library has held since I have become Director. I was nervously excited in anticipation of the night.

In addition to the Friends, I would like to thank everyone who attended Grape Expectations. The community really turned out and showed up for the Friends and the libraries in our communities. We had roughly 150 visitors that evening! I was blown away! The support was amazing, and the night was FUN!

People had the opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old friends, enjoy incredible food, listen to the amazing music, and even dance! I cannot wait for the next Grape Expectations in 2025!

~Emily

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NEA Big Read: Bolivar County

As you may have already heard, BCLS is partnering with Delta State University on the NEA Big Read: Bolivar County grant that features programs and events centered around our chosen book: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi.

There are four programs scheduled to be held at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland.

On Tuesday, February 21st at 4 p.m. is a Little Read Event that

features the juvenile book *This is the Rope* by Jacqueline Woodson.

On Tuesday, February 21st at 6 p.m. is the Big Read Event: *Homegoing* Book Discussion that is co-hosted by BCLS and DSU Roberts-LaForge Library.

On Friday, February 24th at 12 noon is Big Read Event: Heritage Quest, a Genealogy Workshop co-hosted by BCLS and Mississippi Library Association staff.

And finally, on March 21st at 4 p.m. is the Little Read Event that features the juvenile book *The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander

To sign up for the free book and for a full listing of all events AT ALL BOLIVAR COUNTY LOCATIONS, go to: <<https://www.deltastate.edu/dei/big-read/>>.

For events in other BCLS branches, see Page 2.

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Grape Expectations Rocked the Library January 27th!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Grape Expectations Gala a success!



Calendar

*"My father found
hours to sit by me by
the library fire and
tell fairy stories."*

~Hedy Lamarr~
Actress

February 10th, 17th, 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st—**Preschool Storyhour @ 10 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 11th—**NEA Big Read Book Homegoing Discussion @ 12 noon**—Open to Public at Rosedale Public Library

February 15th, March 15th, April 19th—**Library Commission Meeting @ 10 a.m.**—Open to the Public in Robinson-Carpenter

February 15th, March 15th, April 19th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 21st—**NEA Little Read** featuring *This is the Rope* by Jacqueline Woodson @ 4 p.m.—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 21st—**NEA Big Read Book Discussion @ 6 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 24th—**NEA Big Read HeritageQuest Workshop @ 12 noon** - Robinson—Carpenter Memorial Library

March 21st—**NEA Little Read** featuring book *The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander @ 4 p.m.—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

For full listing of all NEA Big Read: Bolivar County events, go to: <https://www.deltastate.edu/dei/big-read/>.

NEA Big Read in Branches

We are pleased to co-host NEA Big Read: Bolivar County events in Rosedale and Shelby, too:

February 11th @ 12 noon at the Rosedale Public Library—NEA Big Read: Freedom Project.

TBA @ Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library in Shelby – NEA Big Read: *Homegoing* Book Discussion hosted by Bolivar County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Chi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Shelby Women United.

Friends Donate to NEA Little Read

BCLS Youth Services Librarian Bobbie Matheney coordinated with Michelle Johansen, NEA Big Read: Bolivar County coordinator to create the NEA Little Read for children to participate in the NEA Big Read program, too. Two wonderful books were selected for the Little Read programs: *This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration* by Jacqueline Woodson and *The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander. Thank you to the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System for their in-kind donation of \$3,400.25 worth of these books for the Little Read programs: The NEA Little Read programs will be held at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland and in Bolivar County schools.

February 21st at 4 p.m.—**Book Discussion of *This is the Rope*** by Jacqueline Woodson

March 21st at 4 p.m.—**Book Discussion of *The Undeclared*** by Kwame Alexander

Register at the NEA Big Read website: <https://www.deltastate.edu/dei/big-read/>.

Children & Teen LSTA Grants

We are pleased to announce BCLS has been awarded two LSTA grants that will enhance Teen and Children's programming at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland. LSTA grants are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grants to States Program as administered by the Mississippi Library Commission.

The first grant will allow for the purchase of four VR headsets and over 20 VR games that will be available for teen programming and, when not in use at a program, will be available for in-library checkout to teens and adults; children may use the equipment, too, but the VR headsets and games must be checked out by an adult and children must be closely supervised by the adult while using the equipment.

The second grant will allow for the purchase of a STEM-themed Makerspace Mobile Project Cart targeted for children ages 3-7. Monthly programs will be scheduled utilizing the Makerspace and, when not in use in a program, will be available for in-library checkout for self-directed learning when supervised by a parent or guardian. School or daycare groups may also coordinate with the Youth Services Librarian to utilize the Makerspace at the library by appointment.

Looking for a Good Book?

Rachel: *How to Sell A Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix. When Louise finds out her parents have died, she dreads going home to Charleston. She doesn't want to deal with her family home, stuffed to the rafters with the remnants of her parent's lives (more specifically, her mother's lifelong obsession with puppets and dolls). But most of all, she doesn't want to deal with her brother Mark, who never left their hometown, can't hold down a job, and resents her success. Unfortunately, she'll need his help to get the house ready for sale because it'll take more than some new paint on the walls and clearing out a lifetime of memories to get this place on the market. But some houses don't want to be sold... *Content Warning: This book contains gore and puppets.* (eBook—Fiction)

Martha: *The Dachshund Wears Prada* (*Paws in the City Book #1*) by Stefanie London. In this romantic comedy, Isla was a social media consultant and influencer—that is, until a major mistake ruined her career. When she suddenly becomes her younger sister's guardian, she needs to find a job, fast. So despite her reservations, she accepts the job of caring for Camilla, the dachshund of the title who has a reputation for being rather unmanageable. Her reputation is better than her owner Theo's, though, who is purported to be a brutish recluse. However, it doesn't take Isla long to realize things aren't always how they seem... This is a really cute book that I thoroughly enjoyed. (Print—Fiction)

Tamara: *Stuff They Don't Want You to Know* by Ben Bowlin with

Costumes Available for Checkout

Just a reminder that Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland has costumes available for checkout with a valid BCLS library card in good standing (no fees, fines, and/or overdue materials) plus payment of a \$5 non-returnable fee.

We have four different types of costumes available. To complement the ever popular Santa costumes (in two sizes), we added two Mrs. Claus costumes (in two sizes) and two elf costumes (one unisex fits most size). Additionally, we also added two Easter Bunny costumes (one unisex fits most size).

All costumes are available for checkout year-round for children's parties, costume parties, Halloween, etc. Checkout period for costumes is three days. Call 662-843-2774 to make a reservation.



“That perfect tranquility of life, which is nowhere to be found but in retreat, a faithful friend and a good library.”

~Aphra Behn~
English Playwright

Matt Frederick and Noel Brown, who are hosts of the popular podcast of the same name. They provide a thoughtful discussion of various conspiracy theories, including UFOs, propaganda, human experimentation, political corruptions, and drugs. They mention many of the most notorious conspiracies, sifting the ridiculous from the facts, noting that most conspiracies have some basis in fact (they mention the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, for example). An excellent discussion that received positive reviews from *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, *Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly*. A more comprehensive system of citations would have been welcome, as would a bibliography for further reading. Nonetheless, I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the subject. (Print—Non-Fiction)





Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9a.m.—6p.m.
Friday 9a.m.—5p.m.
Saturday 9a.m.—1p.m.
Sunday Closed

All Branches Are Closed on All Legal Holidays (Except Columbus Day) and on Good Friday; note that If Friday is a Legal Holiday, the Saturday Following It Will Be Closed, Too.

Phone: (662) 843-2774
Fax: (662) 843-4701
Email: info@bolivar.lib.ms.us

Individual phone numbers and email addresses may be found at our website.

“Like” us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/bclsl; you may also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:
Phone: (662) 843-2774
Email: friendsofbclsl@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
bolivar.lib.ms.us

Even easier! Use your phone to capture the QR code below to go to our website.



Some Bolivar County History...

“Rosedale by Florence Sillers Ogden”

The last excerpt left off at the end of the paragraph ending: “The plantation is owned by Alfred Welshans, Norwood Smith, Neal Streater, and others, at the present time.”

“By an act of the legislature the town of Rosedale was reincorporated on April 7, 1890. The following were present at the reorganization: Dr. J. W. Dulaney, mayor; T. R. McGuire, C. H. West, Harry Adams, councilmen; A. J. Johnson, marshal and tax collector; Fred Clark, treasurer; Colonel F. A. Montgomery, attorney; W. A. Cooper, clerk. Cash in the bank at the time of reorganization was \$21.75; the amount due the city \$200.

The officials for 1894 were O. G. McGuire, mayor; W. A. Shelby (elected to succeed Harry Adams, deceased), R. L. D. Evans, Thomas S. Owen, aldermen; John L. Gill, clerk; A. J. Johnson, marshal; T. J. Davis, treasurer. Upon the resignation of O. G. McGuire in 1895, R. O. Johnston was elected mayor. The officers for 1896 were: Robert J. McGuire, mayor; Thomas S. Owen, W. H. Fitzgerald, R. L. D. Evans, C. C. Farrar, councilmen; Frank Wingfield, clerk; A. J. Johnson, marshal.

In 1897 a quarantine ordinance against yellow fever was passed, by which all persons, baggage, express, freight, good, and chattels were barred from all points south. No person was permitted to enter the city limits without a health certificate. No strangers were admitted from any point. The mosquito theory was then unknown and people fled to the woods of Arkansas, across the Mississippi, to escape the dread disease and established camps there. Among them were the Sillers, Christmas, and W. A. Shelby families. The next and final quarantine for yellow fever was in 1905.”

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* (DAR, 1948) by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al.

This excerpt will be continued in the next newsletter.

Bolivar County Library System Information

Board of Trustees:

Mr. Nathaniel Grammer, Chair
Ms. Katherine Crump,
Vice-Chair
Ms. Anita Reginelli
Ms. Lynn Shurden
Ms. Lucille Holmes

Cleveland Commission:

Ms. Jurist Green, Chair
Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair
Ms. Carol Tatum
Ms. Heather Walker
Ms. Corrinne Hegwood

Library Staff:

Emily Bell, Director
Melissa Robinson, Office
Manager
Melanie Free, Systems
Administrator
Tamara Blackwell, Reference /
Newsletter Editor
Martha Lawson, Rosedale
Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs
Marie Shorter, Shelby
Kevin Reed, Circulation
Valencity Rogers, Technical Svcs
Anna Sims, Circulation
Samantha Williams, Circulation
Rachel Guerry, Circulation
Yolanda Spearman, Merigold
Clara, Housekeeping
Donny, Housekeeping

Rosedale Public Library

(662) 759-6332/Fax: 734-0825
702 Front Street
Hours: M & W 10a.m.-5p.m.
T & Th 1p.m.—5p.m.
F 12p.m.—5p.m.
Martha Lawson, Librarian

Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library (Shelby)

(662) 398-7748/Fax: 775-7002
211 Third Street
Hours M & W 10a.m.—5p.m.
F 12p.m.—5p.m.
Marie Shorter, Librarian

Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold)

(662) 748-2105/Fax 748-2596
201 Front Street
Hours: T & Th—1p.m.-5p.m.
Yolanda Spearman, Librarian