

Special points of interest:

- Gala Sponsorship List for 2017
- Gala Volunteers
- National Library Week is in April

Director's Corner

April 10-13 we'll be celebrating National Library Week with thousands of other libraries across the country. National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association as a time to highlight the changing role of libraries and librarians in the twenty-first century. This year's National Library Week theme is "Libraries Transform."

Every day, the Bolivar County Library transforms lives by opening a world of possibilities for the people of Bolivar County by providing access to the world of ideas and information. Our libraries provide support to online students, K-12 and homeschool students, pre-school children and their parents, job seekers, and readers. For education, jobs, and lifelong learning, the resources at the Bolivar County Library can transform your life.

Between 1999-2007 the Bolivar County Library averaged 50,743 visits per year. Since 2008 the average number of library visits per year has grown to 81,572. The average increases to 98,569 when only the last five years are taken into account; in 2016 there were 100,106 visits. With

high speed fiber internet access now available at the libraries in Cleveland, Rosedale, Shelby, and Merigold, those numbers will only continue to grow.

Unfortunately, the services the library provides that transform lives are in danger due to significant funding cuts for libraries at the State and Federal levels. Since 2015 the Bolivar County Library System has lost over \$16,000 in funding from the State of Mississippi with more cuts to come July 1. On the federal level, Congress is currently considering the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which distributes funding for libraries and museums to every state in the nation. Without the funds provided by IMLS the Bolivar County Library System could not offer:

Inter-library Loan Service – If we don't own a book, we won't be able to borrow it for you from another library.

Summer Library Program – During the summer of 2016 we provided thirty-five (35) free programs with about 1000 K-12 students participating in activities that are safe, fun, and help

maintain grade level so that students are not behind when they start back to school in the fall.

Continuing Education for BCLS Staff – Staff training and continuing education opportunities supported with federal dollars ensure that your library staff is up to date on our professional skills so that we can help job seekers find employment online, assist readers with their newest Kindle devices, and stay up to date on publishing trends so that we have the newest Robot-Western-Romance before you even know you want it!

If you love your local library, now is the time to let your U.S. Representative and Senators know how important the library is to you. Please use the web address below to email our Congressmen today. And please, also take a moment to thank your local county and city officials for supporting our library. We're very lucky in Bolivar County to have a great library system and strong local funding.

<https://goo.gl/vqbl5c>



Inside this issue:

- 2017 Gala Sponsorship List 2
- Calendar / O. Henry Continues 2
- Friends Book Sale / Ashton Lee 2
- 2017 Gala Volunteers 3
- 2017 Gala Volunteers Continued 3
- National Library Week 3
- Some Bolivar County History... 4

Luncheon With Books featuring Mike McCall



We are pleased to welcome Mississippi author Mike McCall as guest speaker at the Luncheon With Books program on April 13th. Mr. McCall will talk about his book *Catfish Days: From Belzoni to the Big Apple*, which chronicles the United States'

catfish industry and its importance to the Mississippi Delta. A book signing will follow.

Mr. McCall was born in Jackson, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and worked for the Clarion-Ledger, the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and The Sun-Herald. He is co-founder of the Mississippi Business Journal

and has been editor of The Catfish Journal for 25 years.

Bring your lunch and join us for this exciting program at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on April 13th at 12 Noon. As always, admission is free and soft drinks will be provided.



BOLIVAR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Thank You to Our Generous 2017 Sponsors

Pulitzer

Bucky & Maureen Brooks
Carol Tatum

Pen/Faulkner

Charles & Mimi Clark
Monsanto
Quality Steel Corporation

Newbery

Emily Bell
Nehi Bottling Company
Cleveland State Bank
Planters Bank & Trust Co.
Rose Strahan

Caldecott

Danny & Betsy Abraham
Richard & Prissy Aguzzi
Gene & Cathy Bishop
Blake Surgical Associates
CableOne
Cleveland Garden Club
Cleveland Rotary Club
Cleveland Woman's Club
Gregory Cole & Rachel Tate
John & Sylvia Czarnetzky
Lance Dalton
Dot Evans
Gary & Beverly Fioranelli
Dennis & Mary Jean Gates
Keith & Leslie Griffin
Jim & Stacie Harris
Paul & Lucy Janoush
Ed & Kitty Kossman
Larry & Elaine Lambert

Nan McGarrh
Billy & Becky Nowell
Ginger Pepper
Povall and Jeffreys PA
Renasant Bank
Lynn Shurden
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh C. Smith
The Image Specialist
Mr. & Mrs. George Steen
Richard Strahan
Pat Tibbs
Weegie Walker
John & Catherine Wolfe

O. Henry

Mary Alice Cates
Nancy Chiz
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Clark
Boo & Miriam Ferriss
Caroline Gaines



Linda Strong and Myrtle Lucas graciously took tickets at the front door the night of the Gala.

Calendar

"The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff."
~Timothy Healy~

April 11th—**Board of Trustee Meetings @ 9:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

April 13th—**Luncheon With Books Featuring Mike McCall @12 noon**—Open to Public Free-of-Charge at Robinson-Carpenter (See Article on Page 1)

April 14th-15th—**Good Friday**—All Libraries Closed.

April 19th—**Cleveland**

Commission @ 10:00 a.m.—Open to the Public in Cleveland

April 21st & 28th, May 5th & 12th —**Story Hour** at 10 a.m.—at Robinson-Carpenter

April 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th & May 1st—**Annual Book Sale**

May 11th—**Lunch With Books Featuring James T. McCafferty @ 12 noon**—Open to the Public Free-Of-Charge at Robinson-Carpenter

O. Henry Continued

Laura Giaccaglia
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Goins, Jr.
Raymond & Sandy Huerta
John & Beverly Janoush
Joyce Kennedy
Mid-Delta Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical Co.
James & Lekeitha Morris
Keith & Barbara Pettway
Liz Redd
Frances Scarborough
Sammie Short
Alinda Sledge
Mr. & Mrs. Pearman Smith
Ken & Marsha Swindoll

Annual Book Sale

The Friends of the Bolivar County Library System are pleased to announce the upcoming Annual Book Sale at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on the following dates and times:

Wed., April 26th—1-8, Full-Price
Thurs, April 27th—9-6, Full Price
Fri., April 28th—9-5, Half-Price
Sat., April 29th—9-2:30, Half-Price
Mon., May 1st—9-12, \$1 for 5



Ashton Lee Visits the Library



Natchez native Ashton Lee was the guest speaker for the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System's Luncheon With Books program featuring Mr. Lee.

This time around he talked about the recently released *Queen of the Cookbooks*, the 5th in his successful *Cherry Cola Book Club* series.



Grape Expectations Volunteers—Those Who Helped Make It a Success

Businesses—Wine

Cecil's Package Store
Ware Wine & Spirits
Mitchell Distributing Company
Andy's Fifth Avenue

Hors d'oeuvres

A La Carte Alley
Airport Grocery
Backdraft
Catfish Cabin
Christina's Exquisite Edibles
Cleveland Country Club
Crave Bistro
Crawdads
Fat Baby's Catfish House
Mississippi Grounds
Papa Roc's
The Starving Musician
The Warehouse

Flowers

Kroger

Jane Dunlap
Allium

Supplies

Cleveland Country Club

Sponsorship Poster

Adventure Frames

Friends' Gala Chairs

Lynn Shurden
Cathy Bishop

Friends Board Members

Cathy Bishop, President
Ken Davis, Vice-President
Lynn Shurden, Treasurer
Catherine Wolfe, Membership
Lonye Sue Pearson, Luncheon
Tamara Blackwell, Secretary
Myrtle Lucas
Deloris Anderson
Emily Bell

Maureen Brooks
Bucky Brooks

Arbor

Gene Bishop
Cathy Bishop
Ken Davis
Lynn Shurden
Teen Advisory Committee
Bobbie Matheny

Wine Pull

Bob Wilbanks

Bartenders

Bucky Brooks
Ken Davis
Gene Bishop

Cashiers & Ticket Sellers

Lynn Shurden
Rose Strahan



Teen Advisory Committee (TAG) members generously donated their time to help erect the arbor this year.

Great Expectations Volunteers—Continued

Door Attendants

Linda Strong
Deloris Anderson
Myrtle Lucas
Catherine Wolfe

Floral Creations

Jane Ellen Bobbitt
Jane Dunlap
Joyce Kennedy
Lynn Shurden
Frances Tims
Anne Koonce
Carolyn Goodman
Stephanie Jordan
Pat Warren

Kitchen & Food

Prissi Aguzzi, Coordinator
Cathy Bishop
Cleveland Woman's Club
Carolyn Johnson
Bucky Brooks
Maureen Brooks
Mary Anna Davis
Elaine Lambert
Carol Manning
Sally Rogers
Lynn Shurden
Jeanette Tarsi
Carol Tatum
Pat Tibbs
Weegie Walker
Mary Helen Waller
Frances Williams

Charlene Wolfe
Matt Wood

Miscellaneous

SAE Fraternity, DSU
Tamara Blackwell
Bolivar County Library System Staff

Paid Entertainment

Sarah Levingston

Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who donated wine for the Wine Pull and anyone else who isn't listed above, but also helped with the Gala. We apologize for any omissions!

"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim."
~Linton Weeks~

National Library Week Events Planned

National Library Week will be observed April 9th—15th this year and the theme is "Libraries Transform," which stresses the importance of libraries to their communities. Here's what is planned:

- Monday, April 10th—Patron Appreciation Day. Snacks will be served all day.
- Monday, April 10th—Cleveland Yearbook @ 5 p.m. This project is of a group of

college student (Charles Coleman, Aallyah Wright, Nicholas Houston, and Alecia Wilson) whose goal is "to build a creative platform for voices and stories in Cleveland" [...] "through photography, interviews and a participatory art installation with the Delta Arts Alliance."

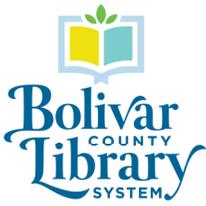
- Tuesday, April 11th—GASB 68 presentation for local public officials by Tom Chain, Director of Technical Assistance, Office of the State

Auditor.

- Wednesday, April 12th—Talking Book Services by Shellie Zeigler, MLC @ 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 12th—Reader's Theatre with Fly Zone and Letters About Literature
- Thursday, April 13th—Luncheon With Books featuring Mike McCall. (See Article on Page 1.)



Olympian and retired soccer player Julie Foudy is the National Library Week Honorary Chair For 2017.



Some Bolivar County History...

“BOLIVAR COUNTY TROOPS IN THE CIVIL WAR

BY Captain W. R. Shepherd

In looking over the roster sent me by Dr. Rowland, from the State Department of Archives and History, of “Bolivar Greys”, I find it is made up of men of all four companies from Bolivar County.

I find thirteen names of member of the McGehee Rifles, some of the Bolivar Troop, some members of Mason’s Dragoons; the remainder of this roster were members of Captain Dan Cameron’s Company, commonly called “Feather Bed Rangers.”

I see that J. G. McGehee is on this roster as 3rd lieutenant. Jim never was a commissioned officer of the company; he was on detached service most of the war, as aide of General Withers’ staff, with rank of 1st lieutenant.

I will give the names of the officers of each company that was organized in Bolivar County, in 1861, at the time of their enlistment. Until a few years ago, I could recall the entire roster of the McGehee Rifles; time has dimmed my memory somewhat, but I will recall as many as I can.

On the roster sent me, I find thirteen men of the McGehee Rifles, one of the Bolivar Troop, three of Mason’s Dragoons, and the rest of the roll of the Home Guards. That is the reason there are so many on the roll. That company was mustered into service with forty men, served four years and had four hundred on the roll at the end. All the soldiers of the county when retired from active service because of wounds joined this company.”

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al (Spartanburg: SC: 1976 [1948])

Captain W. R. Shepherd’s account will continue in the next newsletter.

Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00—6:00
Friday 9:00—5:00
Saturday 9:00—1:00

Closed Sundays & All Legal Holidays

Phone: (622) 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 at www.facebook.com/lbcls; you may also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:
Phone: (662) 843-2774
Email: bishopcathy@yahoo.com



Bolivar County Library System Information:

Board of Trustees:

- Ms. Natalie Peeler, Chair
- Ms. Rebecca Lewis, Vice Chair
- Mr. John Raymond Bassie, Secretary
- Ms. Deloris Johnson
- Mr. Nathaniel Grammer

Cleveland Commission:

- Ms. Jurist Green, Chair
- Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Weegie Walker, Secretary
- Ms. Carol Tatum
- Ms. Cheryl Line

Library Staff:

- Jennifer Wann, Director
- Sharon Williamson, Assistant Director
- Bobbie Matheny, Youth Svcs
- Terrye Jackson, ILL / Special Services
- Melanie Free, Systems Administrator
- Tamara Blackwell, Reference Svcs / Newsletter Editor
- Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs
- Megan Fleming, Circulation Manager
- Jelisa “Lisa” Hatcher, Circulation
- Shelby Lee, Circulation
- Kevin Reed, Circulation
- Mike Emerson, Circulation
- Martha Lawson, Rosedale / Gunnison

- Tina McGee, Benoit/Circulation
- Marie Shorter, Shelby
- Evelyn Brown, Merigold / Circ.
- Clara, Housekeeping

Branch Information:

- Benoit (662) 742-3112
Hours M & Th 2—6
- Gunnison (662) 747-2201
Hours T & Th 1—5
- Merigold (662) 748-2105 (ph) / (662) 748-2596 (fax)
Hours M, T, W & Th 1—5
Mound Bayou—**Closed Until Further Notice**
- Rosedale (662) 759-6332
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5
- Shaw—**Closed Until Further Notice**
- Shelby (662) 398-7748
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5



Front Row (L to R) Tamara, Martha, Shelby, Bobbie, Marie, Clara, Lisa, & Evelyn; Top Row: Bethany, Melanie, Megan, _____, Sharon, Tina, Jennifer, & Terrye.