



Special points of interest:

- Storyhour to Resume in September
- Summer Library Programs A Success
- Librarians Recommend Some Good Books

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Director's Corner—NEA Big Read Grant

We are excited to partner with Delta State University and other community organizations in the upcoming National Endowment for the Arts Big Read project (NEA Big Read). Sixty-two non-profit organizations nationwide were awarded this grant and Delta State University is the only organization in Mississippi to be a recipient.

Upcoming programming will be centered around *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. The project will span December 2022 until completion in March 2023. Free copies of *Homegoing* will be available for students, faculty and staff at Delta State University and all branches of the Bolivar County Library System beginning December 1, 2022. During this project, there will be five book discussions, a panel discussion, film screening and lecture, and a presentation

regarding Black culinary history by Adrian Miller. Also included will be a special musical performance and writing workshop for area high school students. Personally, I am excited to be able to offer our patrons all the wonderful upcoming programming. This project should include something of interest for everyone in our community.

Summary for *Homegoing* (2016) states the book is about "two half sisters, Effia and Esi, unknown to each other, are born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. Effia will be married off to an English colonial, and will live in comfort in the sprawling, palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle, raising half-caste children who will be sent abroad to be educated in England before returning to the Gold Coast to serve as administrators of the

Empire. Her sister, Esi, will be imprisoned beneath Effia in the Castle's women's dungeon, and then shipped off on a boat bound for America, where she will be sold into slavery. Stretching from the tribal wars of Ghana to slavery and Civil War in America, from the coal mines in the north to the Great Migration to the streets of 20th century Harlem, Yaa Gyasi's has written a modern masterpiece, a novel that moves through histories and geographies and--with outstanding economy and force--captures the troubled spirit of our own nation."

Currently, there is one copy of *Homecoming* available at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland for checkout. Additionally, there is also an eBook version available in AXIS360 for circulation.

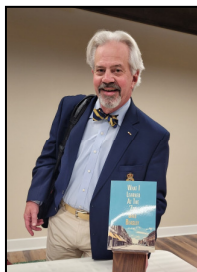
~Emily

Preschool Storyhour to Resume in September

Preschool Storyhour will Resume on September 9th at 10—11 a.m. and every Friday thereafter. As the name suggests, the Storyhour program is designed for preschool age children that are homebound (i.e., haven't started school or are homeschooled). Advance registration is not required. For more information, contact Bobbie Matheney at (662) 843-2774, ext. 105.



LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter



We were delighted to have three Mississippi authors scheduled to visit the library system recently.

On May 31st, Dale Beasley (above) was guest speaker in Cleveland. Mr. Beasley talked about his books *What I Learned at the 'Zoo*, a fictionalized account of a summer he spent in Yazoo City as a child, and *We Will Not Be Home by*

Authors Visit Bolivar County

Christmas: Cards, Letters, and Photographs From Soldiers During Wartime. The event was hosted by the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System.

On June 11th, Elizabeth "Libby" Olivi Borgognoni (seated in the photo below with, from left to right, Rosedale Librarian Martha Lawson, BCLS Director



Emily Bell, and the author's son) was guest speaker with her son Dr. Anthony Borgognoni in Rosedale. Mrs. Borgognoni talked about her new book, *The Italians of Sunnyside: The History—From 1865* about the immigration of Italians to the Sunnyside Plantation in Lake Village, Arkansas and their eventual dispersion throughout the Delta. The event was hosted by the Friends of Rosedale.

On June 25th, award-winning author Linda Williams Jackson (seated in the photo to the right with Rosedale Librarian

Martha Lawson) was the scheduled guest speaker at the Rosedale Public Library, but the lack of A/C in the building forced it to be moved to another location. Ms. Jackson talked about her new book *The Lucky Ones*, as well as *Midnight Without a Moon* and *A Sky Full of Stars*. The event was hosted by the Friends of Rosedale.



Calendar

"Nothing is pleasanter
than exploring
a library."

~Walter Savage Landor
English writer and poet,
1775-1864

July 19th—**Summer Library Program (Cleveland) @ 10:30 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

July 21st, 26th, 28th—**Summer Library Program (Merigold) @ 3 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Thelma Rayner (Merigold)

July 20th, September 21st, October 19th—**Library**

Commission Meeting @ 10 a.m.—Open to the Public in Robinson-Carpenter (Cleveland) (No Meeting in August)

July 20th, September 21st, October 19th —**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter (Cleveland) (No Meeting in

August)

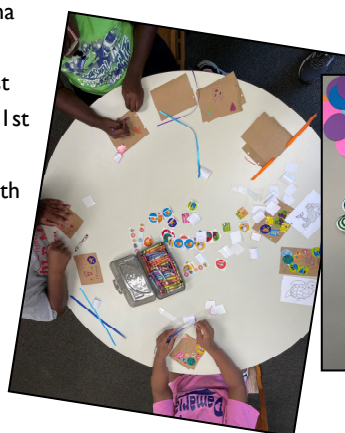
August 2nd—**Seniors Day Out! @ 10:00-11:30 a.m.**—Robinson-Carpenter (Cleveland)

September 5th—**Labor Day Holiday**—All Branches Will Be CLOSED

September—**Preschool Storyhour**—Will Resume in September; Watch for Flyers

Summer Library Program in Merigold

The Summer Library Program at Thelma Rayner Memorial Library in Merigold continues with the last two activity programs on July 21st and July 28th starting at 3 p.m. The last Storytime is on July 26th at 2 p.m. Stop by for some fun programs with Rachel Guerry (out-going librarian) and Yolanda Spearman (new in-coming librarian).



Summer Library Program in Cleveland



On June 21st, Wanda Woodard from MDOT, along with Myrtle the Turtle, talked about littering and its effect on the environment.



On June 23rd, Hunter Kovac and Thomas from Cleveland Waste Water Department talked about water conservation.



On June 28th, Ashley Kerr from MS Corporative Extension Services presented an excellent program on sea turtles.



"The only thing that
you absolutely
have to know,
is the location of the
library."

~Albert Einstein

Looking for a Good Book?

Anna: *The Candy House: A Novel* by Jennifer Egan. This book reads more like a compilation of thematically-linked short stories than a true novel. Nonetheless, it is an ambitious, engaging work by Egan, who truly shows her creative chops with this book. With the advent of Own Your Unconscious, a new technology that allows humans to externalize, share, and relive all their memories, characters must learn to adapt to a rapidly changing world. A world in which one's entire personal experience can be commodified. Thought provoking!! (Fiction—Print & Audiobook on CD)

Martha: *Out of the Clear Blue Sky* by Kristin Higgins. With her son off to college, Lillie expected her life to change, but not this drastically! When her husband dumps her "out of the clear blue sky," she goes a little crazy... This book started off slow, but it's so worth sticking with. It was an excellent

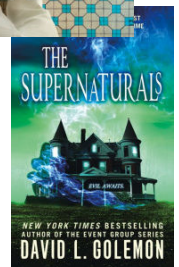
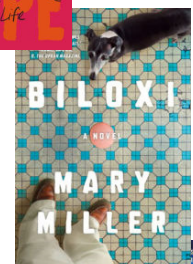
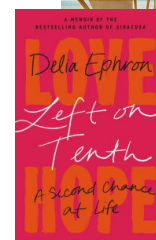
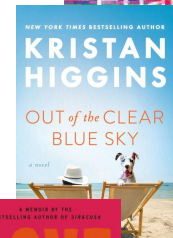
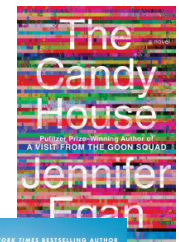
book that I thoroughly enjoyed. As usual, with a Kristin Higgins book you can expect some humor and a heartwarming story. (Fiction—Print)

Anna: *Left on Tenth: A Second Chance at Life* by Delia Ephron. I was genuinely laughing out loud while reading this book. This is a hilarious satire about academia, race, and relationships. When burned-out Ph.D. candidate Ingrid uncovers disturbing information about the poet whose work she's analyzing for her dissertation, all hell breaks loose, and she is forced to reconsider and question many aspects of her life. Absurd, funny, brilliant. (Biography—Print)

Tamara: *Biloxi: A Novel* by Mississippian Mary Miller. The story is about a sixty-year-old man who is not dealing well with his recent divorce, his self-imposed estrangement with his daughter, or his recent retirement. He's lonely, unhappy, set in his ways, not

always very charitable toward others, and he's drinking way too much, but realizes he needs to change. He starts by taking in an unwanted dog he names Layla... Funny, sad, and hopeful, I really enjoyed this book.

Tamara: *The Supernaturals* by RITA Award nominee David L. Goleman. The first book in the Supernaturals series, this introduces the reader to the top-rated TV show *Hunters of the Paranormal*, which "investigate" haunted houses and is not above "salting the mine" to achieve the thrills needed to keep their show on top. Now, they plan to investigate the so-called Summer Place that has been the site of several unexplained deaths and disappearances and air live a Halloween special from the house. But they may get more than they bargained for—a lot more! I loved this and can't wait to read the second book in the series. (Fiction—eBook)





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: (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.

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Some Bolivar County History...

"Rosedale" by Florence Sillers Ogden

The last line from the previous excerpt: "The landing was spoken of as "Lower Rosedale" and was not a part of the original plantation."

"According to the original entry book, the place where Rosedale now rests changed hands many times, chiefly through tax sales. The land is listed as follows: "This land was patented October 9, 1835, to J. A. Girault, by U. S. A.; November 16, 1856, to John J. Craig; November 13, 1865, to Elisha Warfield; December 3, 1869, to J. H. Field, who sold it to H. T. Florey."

In 1872 the Radical and Carpetbagger leaders surreptitiously obtained an act of the legislature removing the county seat from Beulah, and on May 22, the Board of Police met in the plantation home of J. H. Field in Lower Rosedale and negotiated for this two-story residence for a courthouse. They paid Mr. Field \$10,000 for his frame dwelling and \$4,000 for a wooden stable, which was renovated and used for a jail². They removed the county records that night from Beulah, under cover of darkness, to the new county seat, which they named Floreyville, in honor of Florey, the leading Radical of the county. During this period Bolivar County was entirely at the mercy of the Radicals, who placed Negroes in all offices they did not fill themselves.

Some of those who composed the settlement of Floreyville were: H. T. Florey, L. Webber, J. H. Field, Sally Field, Eldon Field, Joe Ousley (a Negro), James Joor, B. K. Bruce, sheriff (a Negro), C. M. Bowles, M. B. Sullivan, Charles Scott, Dr. Reeves, Dr. Peeples, Judge Ben Trimble, Dr. McGowan, Mrs. Carpenter, Will Carpenter, Colonel Alex Yerger, Mrs. Mary Thomas and children, Bessie and Oscar Thomas, O. G. McGuire, Mrs. M. A. Purnell, Mrs. Josephine Preston, Mrs. Slawson and family, Charlie McGuire, W. P. Jones and family, Captain Noel, Mr. Leftwich, John Reinhart, J. J. Jennings, E. Gardner, and others."

²Costs were low at this period and this price was exorbitant—political pie.

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:

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Vice-Chair

Ms. Maggie Crawford

Ms. Anita Reginelli

Ms. Lynn Shurden

Cleveland Commission:

Ms. Jurist Green, Chair

Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair

Ms. Carol Tatum

Ms. Cheryl Line

Ms. Heather Walker

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