

Special points of interest:

- Lunch With Books featuring James P. Pate in March—See This Page
- Looking for a Good Book? See Page 3
- Our Biographical Sketch of Blanch Kelso Bruce Continues—See “Some Bolivar County History” on Page 4
- The Heart of Black History Program Was February 19th—See Page 3

Inside this issue:

Gala / Snowden Wright	2
Calendar	2
Donna Taylor / Sharon Liner-Ervin	2
Heart of Black History	3
Did You Know? / Julian Rankin	3
Looking for a Good Book?	3
Some Bolivar County History...	4

Director's Corner—Here I Go Again!

The first lines of the song “Here I Go Again” are: “I don't know where I'm goin' / But I sure know where I've been.”

I retired in April 2013 as the Director of the Bolivar County Library System, but yet here I am again. The Director, Jennifer Wann, resigned effective December of 2018 and the Asst. Director, Sharon Williamson, resigned effective March 2019.

With these resignations, the Administrative Board asked if I would come back to help get things on track before a new director is hired. It's pretty tough to say no to folks who you've known for many years. So I decided to work part-time until we can get everything running smoothly once again. One thing for certain is that there are



Preschool Storyhour on February 15th

wonderful people working in this library system, so that's the easy part. And we have a great Friends Board who are willing to help in so many ways.

Regular events of Storyhour, Seniors Day Out!, and Lunch With Books are ongoing. And we are especially excited to have a new program, which is the LibraryFlix & Chill Film Series, showing new

movies at the library in Cleveland. This series is made possible with an LSTA Grant. I've always

loved a challenge and I truly believe that we don't have things put on us that we can't handle. So give us a little time and all will be worked out. If there is anything that any of us can help you with, please don't hesitate to give us a call or shoot us an e-mail. We are here to assist in any way possible.

~Lynn Shurden

Lunch With Books Featuring James P. Pate



Mississippi author and historian James P. Pate, Ph.D. is the guest speaker at the Lunch With Books program on March 14th. Dr. Pate will

talk about his book *The Annotated Pickett's History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, from the Earliest Period*. Dr. Pate edited, annotated, and wrote the

forward for this classic book by Albert James Pickett. A book signing will follow the program, where the author's book will be available for purchase.

Dr. Pate is an independent scholar/writer and an emeritus professor of history at the University of West Alabama, where he served as department chair, Dean of General Studies, and Vice President of

Academic Affairs. He earned his B.S.E. from Delta State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Mississippi State University.

Bring your lunch and join us for this exciting program at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on March 14th at 12 Noon. As always, admission is free and soft drinks will be provided.

The LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter



Mary Lou Dilworth putting on the finishing touches



The Grandbois were enjoyed by all!

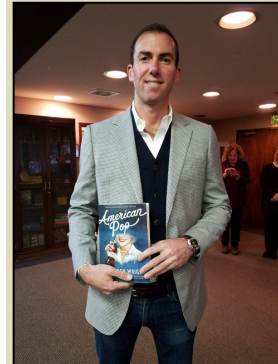
Grape Expectations Gala

The Grape Expectations Benefit Gala was January 25th and the Friends and the Bolivar County Library System would like to thank the public for their continuing support of the library system.

Also, thank you to everyone who volunteered (with arrangements, flowers, food prep, food service at the event, etc.) and/or donated (flowers, food, wine). We couldn't do it without you.



Snowden Wright—Author Visit



MS author Snowden Wright was the guest of honor at a special book signing held on February 8th in celebration of the publication of his new book, *American Pop* (William Morrow, 2019).

American Pop has garnered a lot of attention and was

included in the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance's Winter Okra Picks, which are described as the "best forthcoming Southern books" chosen by indie booksellers each season.

Calendar

*"Libraries will get you
through times
of no money better
than money will get
you through times of
no libraries."
—Anne Herbert*

March 14th—**Lunch With Books** featuring Dr. James P. Pate @ 12 Noon—Open to the Public in Cleveland

March 22nd, 29th, April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th—**Friday Preschool Storyhour** @ 10 a.m.—Open to the Public in Cleveland

March 27th & April 17th—**Cleveland Commission Meeting** @ 10:00 a.m.—Open to the

Public in Cleveland

March 27th & April 17th—**Board of Trustees Meeting** @ 1:30 p.m.—Open to the Public in Cleveland

April 6th & May 4th—**Saturday Preschool Storyhour** @ 11 a.m.—Open to the Public in Cleveland.

March 23rd—**LibraryFlix & Chill Film Series** @ 10:30 a.m.

—Movie Title is Forthcoming—Open to the Public in Cleveland—Admission and Light Refreshments Are Free

April 2nd—**Seniors Day Out!** @ 10 a.m.—Open to Public in Cleveland

NOTE: Bolivar Book Club is taking a break and will resume in May; details are forthcoming.

Donna Taylor—Author Visit



MS author Donna Taylor was guest speaker at the January Lunch With Books program. Ms. Taylor talked about her books *May I Have This Dance?: God's Purpose in Marriage* (Independent, 2018) and her memoir *Coming Home on Highway 84: Weaving In and Out, Through the Tapestry of Our Lives* (2009). Ms. Taylor, who was joined by her husband Thomas, is a marriage and family therapist in private practice with her husband.

Sharon Liner-Ervin—Author Visit

A book signing at the Rosedale Public Library celebrated the publication of MS author Sharon Liner-Ervin's first book *Getting to Know Samson* (Independent, 2018), a humorous children's book about her cute pup Samson. Samson was the center of attention, of course—and loved every minute of it!



The Heart of Black History Month Program

Tuesday, February 19th was our annual "Heart of Black History" program sponsored by TAG (Teen Advisory Group). Following TAG Vice-President Rushy Nalamalapau's welcome, the event featured a skit, poems, songs, and a review of black history inventions. "Although the day was stormy," Mrs. Bobbie shared, "we still had a great program that celebrated black history past and future."



Bolivar Book Club

The Bolivar Book Club is taking a break and will resume with the May 9th program. Watch for flyers and Facebook posts for book details and availability for check-out.

Did You Know?

You can access **MAGNOLIA** databases from home? Yes, all you need to do is stop by any branch or call us and ask for the access code. MAGNOLIA is a collection of online databases paid for by the MS Legislature for all Mississippians that may be accessed from MS schools, colleges & universities, and public libraries and provides access to over 47,000 full-text journals. Check it out today!

You can request we purchase **eBooks/eAudios, Audiobooks on CD & DVD/Blu-Rays?** Yes, just as with books, if we don't have an item you would like, you can place a request. We can't guarantee we will purchase all items requested, but if we don't purchase it, we will try to borrow the item for you through Inter-Library Loan (ILL). Just ask for a Request Form at the Circulation Desk.

Julian Rankin—Author Visit

MS author Julian Rankin was guest speaker at the February 14th Lunch With Books program. The author talked about his new book *Catfish Dream: Ed Scott's Fight for His Family Farm and Racial Justice in the Mississippi Delta* (U. of Georgia, 2018), which chronicles the difficulties and hardships endured by African-American farmer Ed Scott as he pursued his dreams of being a successful farmer in the Delta. We were pleased to welcome to the library Ed Scott's daughter Willena Scott White, who graciously purchased Mr. Rankin's book for the library.



Looking for a Good Book?

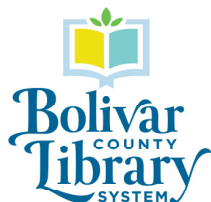
Martha: *What Doesn't Kill Her* (Cape Charade series) by Christina Dodd. Kellen Adams is now living with Max, the father of her child, Rae. Not happy just staying at home, Max finds her a job with an old friend of hers transporting a priceless artifact. When Kellen finds out her driver is not who he seems, she ditches him. Then she not only realizes she is being pursued by men that want to kill

her—but that her daughter Rae has stowed away with her! Now, Kellen has to protect her daughter at all costs, while trying to survive on foot in the wilderness. This is a thrill ride from start to finish. I cannot wait for the next book in this series. (Fiction—Print)

Tamara: *Curious Minds* (a *Knight and Moon* Novel) by Janet Evanovich & Phoebe Sutton. Riley Moon is a junior analyst at a mega-

bank and her first client is the eccentric billionaire Emerson Knight, who entangles her in his belief in a conspiracy of epic proportions. Is Knight a reliable detective? Or is he just... well, eccentric? This first book in Evanovich's new series is funny with snappy dialogue and fast-paced action. I can't wait to check-out the next book in the series! (Fiction—Print)

"When you absolutely
positively have
to know,
ask a librarian."
~American Library
Association

**Bolivar County Library System**

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Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00—6:00
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Closed Sundays & All Legal Holidays

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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: Emily Bell
Phone: (662) 843-2774
Email: beller01@gmail.com

Some Bolivar County History...

Blanche Kelso Bruce (Continued) 1849-1898

"Bruce's advocacy for African Americans was most evident in issues affecting black war veterans. He was a staunch defender of black servicemen, promoting integration of the armed forces and fair treatment. On April 10, 1878, he unsuccessfully attempted to desegregate the U.S. Army, citing the U.S. Navy as a precedent.¹⁴ Two years later, Bruce delivered a speech asking the War Department to investigate the brutal hazing of black West Point cadet Johnson C. Whittaker. The following year, he supported legislation that prevented discrimination against the heirs to black soldiers' Civil War pensions.¹⁵ He also submitted a bill in 1879 to distribute money unclaimed by black Civil War soldiers to five African-American colleges. As the bill gained publicity, however, more claimants came forward and depleted the fund. The Senate Committee on Education and Labor eventually reported against the bill.¹⁶

Senator Bruce also favored the interests of other ethnic and racial minorities. During a debate on the Chinese Exclusion Act, with which he disagreed, Bruce became the first black Senator to preside over a Senate session, on February 14, 1879. Bruce also demanded more equitable treatment for Native Americans. On April 6, 1880, he railed against federal management of Native Americans in a Senate Floor speech. "Our Indian policy and administration seem to me to have been inspired and controlled by stern selfishness," Bruce declared. Admonishing those who placed the goal of territorial expansion over honoring treaties, he continued, "We have in the effort to realize a somewhat intangible ideal, to wit, the preservation of Indian liberty and the administration and exercise of national authority.... The political system that underlies our Indian policy ... is foreign in its character; the individuals and the system of laws are not American."¹⁷

Excerpt: *History, Art & Archives, U.S. House of Representatives*, "BRUCE, Blanche Kelso," [https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/B/BRUCE,-Blanche-Kelso-\(B000968\)/](https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/B/BRUCE,-Blanche-Kelso-(B000968)/) (August 30, 2018)

[Superscript numbers refer to footnotes. To read footnotes, go to the URL listed in the excerpt citation above or see Vertical Files at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library under "Senators—BRUCE, Blanche Kelso".]

We're On the Web!

bolivar.lib.ms.us



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Ms. Anita Reginelli

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Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair

Ms. Weegie Walker, Secretary

Ms. Carol Tatum

Ms. Cheryl Line

Library Staff:

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Melanie Free, Systems
Administrator

Tamara Blackwell, Reference
Svcs / Newsletter Editor

Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs

Martha Lawson, Rosedale

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Alex Cox, Circulation

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Clara, Housekeeping

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