

Special points of interest:

- Summer Library Program is Just Around the Corner (See Page 3)
- BCLS Benefits from Three Grants (See Page 2)



Director's Corner

So many great things have happened at the Bolivar County Library System recently, I cannot pick just one to talk about! Here are a few of my favorites:

Technology: If you have been inside Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland recently, it may appear that we have fewer computers. We

relocated the line of computers by the north windows and created an area dedicated to public access computers (PACs). The new arrangement allowed us to move the DVD shelves off

the main floor creating a more open atmosphere. Relocating the PACs away from the circulation desk also affords patrons more privacy. You may have read that we utilized our American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and our Library Services and Technology Act grants to purchase new computers



for the Cleveland library and Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2019 for the entire library system. These upgrades were much needed, and I cannot express how proud I am to offer our patrons these things.

I am most excited about our new microfilm machine at RCML! It is so nice and has so many amazing features! If you ever used our old machine, you would appreciate the automatic rewind this new machine offers! You can print your page to our network printer or save it to a USB drive. This machine has a massive screen that allows users to view the entire

Volume XVI, Issue I

page at once.

Masks: As the Center for Disease Control updated their guidance on masking, we have dropped our mask mandate. Patrons are welcome to wear a mask in the library, but it is no longer required. It has been a long two years and I have missed seeing smiles in the library!

Founders Room: Thanks to our wonderful Friends of the Library, the Founders Room at RCML is getting a facelift! It now has new floors and paint. There are a few things that still need to be done such as chairs and curtains. If you have ever used the Founders Room, you may remember it had old, dark, stained carpet that was coming apart at the seams. The walls were a darker color and had lots of dings in the paint. Now it is light and bright, and I cannot wait for everyone to use that space!

~Emily

Inside this issue:

BCLS Awarded Grants	2
Calendar	2
No Overdue Fines/ Friends' Book Sale	2
Summer Library Program 2022	3
Looking for a Good Book?	3
Some Bolivar County History...	4

A Visit with Author Rita Williams-Garcia



Youth Services Librarian Bobbie Matheney (on the right in photo) was excited to visit again with author Rita Williams-Garcia. Ms. Williams-Garcia was at the Delta Arts Alliance on February 25, 2022, to visit the students of Hayes Cooper 4th Grade and Bell Academy 6th graders who were currently reading Ms. Williams-Garcia's works, including *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* and *One Crazy Summer*.

"It was an amazing time hearing her read some of her work and to hear questions asked by the students," Bobbie shared.

LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

BCLS Awarded Grants

We are pleased to announce the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) has awarded BCLS two grants. The first is a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$7,000 and the second is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARPA) grant administered through the LSTA grant program in the amount of \$30,970.

The funds from the ARPA grant will be used to improve library

services through the purchase of new equipment—see Director's Corner on Page 1 for more info. Obsolete equipment in Cleveland will be retired, while a new laptop will be used at the Cleveland branch for programming and use by those who reserve the Meeting Room; and a new microfilm scanner/reader will be available for use in the Mississippi Room at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library. The funds from the LSTA grant were used to purchase Microsoft Office Professional Plus

2019 licenses to upgrade the patron access computers throughout the library system.

Library Director Emily Bell stated, "I am very excited about the new technology we will be able to provide our patrons and community, which will enhance our patrons' library experiences. Without such grants, we could not make such a massive upgrade." She added, "The new microfilm machine will be a much-needed addition to the Mississippi Room. Genealogists and other researchers should have a much easier time conducting their research."

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow them on Facebook and Twitter. MLC is committed – through leadership, advocacy, and service – to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians. The agency was established in 1926 by an Act of the Mississippi Legislature.

Calendar

March 18th, March 25th, April 1st, April 8th, April 15th, April 22nd, April 29th, May 6th—**Zoom Storyhour**—Every Friday at 10 a.m.—Contact Bobbie Matheney to Participate at 843-2774 x105.

March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland (**No Meeting in December**)

NOTICE: Cleveland Library Commission—No Meetings Until Further Notice.

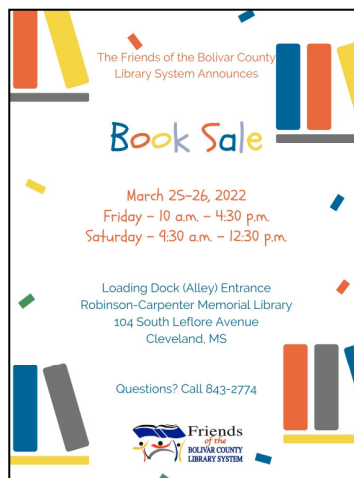
*"My library
is an
archive of longings."*

~Susan Sontag,
American Writer

No Overdue Fines

Just a reminder that on November 1st BCLS discontinued charging fines on overdue materials. No more overdue fines! If someone returns a damaged item that is deemed destroyed or unrepairable, they will still be charged for the cost of the item plus a \$10 processing fee. But materials that are merely overdue—no matter how long—will not be charged an overdue fee.

**BCLS is
Overdue
Fines Free
Everyday!!**



The Friends of the Bolivar County Library System are hosting another Book Sale on March 25th and 26th.

Things will be a little different this time. There will be no posted sale prices. Instead, everyone will be asked to make a donation that they think is appropriate for books they want to take home.

We hope to see you there!

Summer Library Program 2022

Ahoy Matey,

Are you looking for some volunteer time in the community this summer? The Bolivar County Library System will be hosting its “Oceans of Possibilities” Summer Library Programs this summer. High schoolers, teachers, professors, businessmen, etc., how would you like to share about 30 minutes of your time and knowledge with students who will need to continue exercising their minds while on summer vacation? We are asking for presentations on anything pertaining to water or whatever subject of interest you would like to share. The sky is the limit.

Please contact me at <bmatheney@bolivar.lib.ms.us> or call me at 662-843-2774 extension 105.

Thank you in advance.

~Mrs. Bobbie



Looking for a Good Book?

Martha: *Flight (The Texas Murder Files)* by Laura Griffin. Planning to put crime scenes behind her, former forensic photographer Miranda Rhoads moves to Lost Beach. Her plans are derailed when she comes across a murder and must assist Detective Joel Breda in find a serial killer before they strike again. A really good book that holds your interest all the way through. Totally unexpected ending! (Fiction—Print)

Anna: *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke. A short, engaging read that is sure to hold your attention. Piranesi lives an isolated life within a labyrinth of infinite halls, where he occupies his time by writing in his journal, interpreting messages from the halls' many statues, and chatting with his mysterious companion, "The Other." With the appearance of a strange new visitor and the discovery of his past journals, Piranesi begins to piece together his identity and

how he wound up in his strange home. This book is truly one of a kind and the perfect mix of fantasy, suspense, and mystery. (Fiction—Print & Large Print)

Tamara: *Park Avenue Summer* by Renée Rosen. Set in 1965, this novel is a fictionalized account of Helen's beginning as the editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine as seen through the eyes of her secretary. Alice, who moves to NYC with aspirations to be a photographer but with no idea who to accomplish that dream. Helen had never been an editor before – she had never even worked in the magazine business before – and she had to learn the “ropes” while also fighting the male establishment at the Hearst Corporation, which owned *Cosmopolitan*, to bring her vision for the new “*Cosmo*” to fruition. Coming of age during the rise of feminism, Alice has a few things to learn, too. I remember reading *Sex and the Single Girl* by

Helen Gurley Brown when I was a teenager around 1974 and by then *Cosmo* was the leading magazine for single working women! An eye-opening account of Helen's success. Highly recommended to Helen Gurley Brown fans or those who are intrigued by the media industry. (Fiction & eBook—Print)

Tamara: *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Jake, a once promising novelist who is now rather desperate for a good plot for a new novel, meets Evan at the MFA program—and Evan has a great plot for a novel... When Evan dies unexpectedly, Jake uses Evan's great plot to write a novel that is a sensation. But someone knows about Jake's secret to success and is threatening to tell. The novel unfolds with a palpable sense of impending doom for Jake. The suspense doesn't let up to the startling conclusion. Highly recommended! (Fiction—Print & eBook)

“What a school thinks
about its library
is a measure of what it
feels about education.”

~Harold Howe,
Former U.S.
Commissioner of
Education





Bolívar 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/1bcls; you may also access the page from our website.



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

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

Some Bolívar County History...

This continued excerpt is from the section titled "Early Settlers" that was written by Walter Sillers and begins on Page 6.

Final sentence from the last newsletter: "... and others, all personally known to me, and the many others not known to me, were men of prominence in the building of the county before the War, and in defending it during the War."

"The settlement of a new country is generally attended with hardships, trials, and sacrifices. This was not so in the first settlement of the Yazoo-Delta. Comfortable quarters were provided for the slaves and comfortable homes for the master's family. The quarters for the slaves were made from hewn logs, "chinked" with clay or plaster; covered with boards, rived from cypress trees of the forest; and floored with plank; especially prized were the great open wood fireplaces. These houses were built in double rows, having the appearance of a village. The first homes of the planters were generally of the same material, with four rooms, with hall between, and a long front gallery, and were furnished with the handsome furniture brought from the home state of the planters. Steamboats and trading boats (floating stores) brought all the necessities and even luxuries to the very doors of the rich planters, who were able to live with ease and comfort, and, to a degree in luxury, in the forest.

As soon as the lands were cleared and the splendid crops began to reach the market, the planters realized that in the rich lands of this fertile delta they had acquired gold mines; and their thoughts turned to the building of permanent homes. With their wives and daughters they planned for the beautiful homes of their dreams. Architects were busy drawing plans; choice plots of woodlands were reserved for the sites of plantation homes. Preparations were begun to build these homes—dreams and hopes never realized. The war clouds which had been gather in the north burst in a storm that shattered all dreams and drove all hope away."

[Thus ends the section titled "Early Settlers."]

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

Bolívar County Library System Information

Board of Trustees:

Mr. Nathaniel Grammer, Chair

Ms. Katherine Crump,
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

Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs
Martha Lawson, Rosedale

Marie Shorter, Shelby

Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs
Kevin Reed, Circulation

Valencity Rogers, Circulation

Anna Sims, Circulation

Samantha Williams, Circulation

Rachel Guerry, 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.

Rachel Guerry, Librarian