

Director's Corner

Special points of interest:

- National Library Week Programs Were a Success (See Page 2)
- Summer Library Program Registration Begins May 19th (See Page 2)

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On March 14, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order for “the reduction in the elements of Federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary” for several agencies – one being the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The order sought to reduce non-statutory components and leave the minimum number of employees who could carry out the statutory requirements. Shortly thereafter, IMLS employees were placed on administrative leave and grants processing was suspended.

Mississippi libraries do not directly receive funding from IMLS. MLC does serve as a pass-through entity for local libraries by way of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. This year, our library system was slated to receive \$8,000 in LSTA funds. We currently have \$3,000 left to be reimbursed from our award. With IMLS employees on administrative leave, we do not know if or when

we will be reimbursed. I know other libraries have many thousands of dollars left to be reimbursed for their grants. Considering that, we are lucky.

IMLS does contribute funding to state libraries, like the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC). MLC provided Hoopla statewide with some of that money. That is why the Bolivar County Library System no longer offers Hoopla. Additionally, MLC had to drop the two newest databases in Magnolia. While these items have the most notable impact, there are many other services MLC offers that trickle down to the local level. MLC offers summer reading program materials, interlibrary loan services, Talking Book Services to the visually impaired, IT support, and so much more.

Looking forward, funding for libraries is uncertain. Will IMLS fund state libraries in the future? Will LSTA or other grants be available? On the state level, the

Mississippi legislature has not created a budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2025. The state’s proposed budget cut MLC by \$400,000. Again, libraries will feel that loss.

Most of the library funding comes locally. We do not directly receive federal funding and are unsure if the LSTA program will remain in the future. We do not directly receive money from the state. MLC does administer two grants from Mississippi that are statutorily required. They are the Health & Life Grant (a reimbursement for what we pay for employee health insurance) and the Personnel Incentive Grant (meant to help with employing qualified personnel). I encourage you to stress the importance of continued library funding with any elected official (federal, state, county, or city) with which you have the opportunity to speak.

~Emily

Evening With Books Featuring MS Authors

We were pleased to welcome Ellen Ann Fentress, author of the memoir *The Steps We Take: A Memoir of Southern Reckoning* (right in top photo), and Marion Garrard Barnwell, author of the memoir *All the Things We Didn't Say: Two Memoirs* (middle in top photo), at our Evening With Books program on April 10th at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland.

The program featured a reading by each author and a discussion of key themes within the memoirs that was facilitated by Susan Allen Ford (standing in top photo) followed by a Q&A session. The program was hosted by the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System.



LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

National Library Week—April 6th-12th



Book Cover Design: Sip & Create

National Library Week was April 6th—12th and we were pleased to celebrate public libraries with some wonderful programs.

On April 7th, we offered **Book Cover Design: Sip & Create**. Adults were invited to this fun event that celebrated the art of storytelling through design.



Storybook Cosplay: Bringing Stories to Life!

On April 8th, we had **Storybook Cosplay: Bringing Stories to Life!** This children's program invited kids to dress up as their favorite literary character for a fun, creative book-inspired adventure at the Library.

On April 9th, Teens were invited to a **Nerdy Day For Teens**. The program featured refreshments, crafts, and games.

On April 10th, **Evening With Books** featured two MS authors. For details, see the article on Page 1.

The last program of the week featured a fun **Storyhour** on April 11th. As the Library System will be closed on Good Friday, this special Storyhour featured an Easter theme and included a visit from the Easter Bunny.

For more photos of these events, go to our Facebook page.



Nerdy Day for Teens



Children attending Storyhour enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny

Summer Library Program Begins Soon

The Summer Library Program is almost here! Bobbie Matheney, Youth Services Librarian at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library, has been busy planning a fun and exciting schedule of programs for this year's Summer Library Program.

The Summer Library Program features fun and creative activities for kids who will be entering the 1st through 6th grades in the school year beginning in August 2025. Unless otherwise noted,

Tuesdays feature programs for 1st—3rd graders and Thursdays are for 4th—6th graders. All programs are held from 12:30—2 p.m. at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland. Registration is required and parents/guardians may start registering their child(ren) beginning May 19th from 9-5 Monday through Friday, and 9-1 on Saturday at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library.

Here is the schedule:

- June 3rd—Legos
Ashley Kerr, MS State Ext. Service
1st—3rd Graders
- June 5th—Colors and Patterns in the Sky / Dr. Maria Weber, DSU
4th—6th Graders
- June 10th—Poochie's Pottery
Beverly Kovarcik
1st—3rd Graders
- June 11th—Wanda Woodard
MDOT
1st—3rd Graders
- June 12th—Poochie's Pottery
Beverly Kovarcik
4th—6th Graders

*"Whatever the cost of our libraries the cost is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
~Walter Cronkite~*

Calendar

April 18th-20th—**Good Friday**—
All Libraries are CLOSED

April 25th, May 2nd, 9th—**Preschool Storyhour @ 10-11 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

NOTE: May 9th is Last Preschool Storyhour for This School Year

May 21st, June 18th, July 16th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.** — Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

NOTE: The Board of Trustees Does Not Meet in August.

June—**Summer Library Program Begins**—See Article on this Page for Details.

NOTE: Seniors Day Out! Does Not Meet in June.

August 5th—**Seniors Day Out! @ 10-11:30 a.m.**—Open to All Older Adults at Robinson-Carpenter

June 17th—Kids Painting
Mantra Henderson, Delta Health
1st—3rd Graders

June 19th—T-Shirt Tie Dyeing
NOTE: Participants should bring a clean, white t-shirt to dye.
4th—6th Graders

June 24th—To Be Announced

June 26th—Wanda Woodard
MDOT
4th—6th Graders

For more information contact Bobbie Matheney at 662.843.2774, extension 105.

Heart of Black History

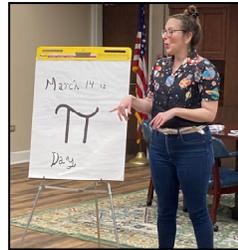
Black History Month was celebrated with a Heart of Black History Storyhour on February 26th. Ms. Mantra Henderson was our guest reader and fifth grader, Naomi, from Bell Academy, volunteered to read a story, too.



Pi(e) Day

On March 14th, Pi(e) Day was a fun learning experience with guest speaker Dr. Maria Weber, Delta State University, teaching kids about the Greek

letter Pi (π) and what is special about it in mathematics—fun and educational.



Looking for a Good Book?

Marie: *Bent, But Not Broken* (A *Lexington, Alabama Novel #5*) by Mary Monroe. Wishing to escape her selfish family, Naomi marries an devout, older man—but he is not the savior she thought he would be. When she meets Homer, Naomi thinks she's met the love of her life, but when Naomi's plans for a fresh start are disrupted, she makes the difficult decision to remain in her unhappy marriage. Now her hope is centered on her daughter Etta Mae, but when Etta Mae brings "good news," Naomi's life is again thrown into turmoil. This is a very good book—I couldn't put it down! (Fiction—Print & Large Print)

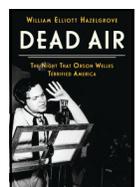
Martha: *Girl Anonymous* by Christina Dodd. Maarja Daire has been on the run since the tragic death of her mother, who sacrificed herself to kill the Mob boss and save her daughter. Maarja, now an adult working in the art world, has

a new job that brings her back to the site of her mother's death and into the world of the Arundel Mob family. There, she meets the new patriarch Dante Arundel. Will he remember her? Will he plot his revenge? An unexpected event leads Dante to trust Maarja, but as the passion grows between them, Dante's enemies plot to destroy them both. This was such a good book! But be aware the book does contain a lot of profanity and sex. While a standalone novel, the book is loosely based on Dodd's "Gothic" series, including some of the same characters. Another excellent book from Christina Dodd! (Fiction—Print & eBook)

Tamara: *Dead Air: The Night that Orson Welles Terrified America* by William Elliott Hazelgrove. I listened to the "H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*" broadcast (on CD) at a Halloween party years ago, and it was so believable! I had thought this was a localized event,

and had no idea just how widespread the panic was—it affected the entire United States. The book touches on the many different elements that led up to the broadcast and the hysteria that ensued, including the genius and ambition of Orson Welles, who craved fame and recognition of his talents; the early days and popularity of the then new technological medium of radio; and, the mindset of the audience in the 1930s, a population that had experienced WWI and was currently in the throes of the great depression. While the author is sometimes repetitious, especially in his descriptions of the panic (on at least three separate occasions he mentions someone falling down the stairs and breaking a leg, for example), the book is a well-researched and fascinating exploration of the "War of the Worlds" broadcast and its aftermath. Highly recommended. (Non-Fiction—Print)

Books are
hindrances to
persisting stupidity."
~Spanish Proverb~





Bolivar County Library System
 Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library
 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 for Select Individuals May Be
 Found at Our Website.

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 to capture the QR code
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Some Bolivar County History . . .

“Rosedale by Florence Sillers Ogden” - Continued

The last excerpt from Rosedale’s history was the section “Modern Improvements.”

“Lighting System

The first contract for street lights was given to Robert J. McGuire in 1890. He was allowed \$59.35 for installing lights, which were coal oil lanterns hung on posts in designated parts of town. In 1905 the city purchased an electric light plant from the Refuge Cotton Oil Mill. Mr. R. H. Field was the first superintendent. The lights were on from dark until midnight. At a quarter before twelve, they blinked a warning for everybody to get home and in bed. Sometimes they went out early and stayed out. George Thompson served as superintendent from 1910 to 1925. Under his management the plant and service improved, and only on rare occasions did the lights go out. In 1925 a franchise was sold to the Mississippi Power and Light Company. T. R. Simmons was the first manager under the new regime. Under the new system, with its increased voltage, ceiling fans, cooking ranges, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, radios, and other household conveniences were installed in the homes; electric motors and appliance in industrial plants.¹

¹From the files of Mrs. Shelby.”

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

The next newsletter will continue the history of Rosedale with “Water System.”

Bolivar County Library System

Board of Trustees:

- Ms. Katherine Crump, *Chair*
- Ms. Lynn Shurden, *Vice-Chair*
- Ms. Lucille Holmes, *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Mr. Nathaniel Grammer
- Ms. Cora Jackson

RCML 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, Circulation
- Valencity Rogers, Technical Svcs
- Samantha Williams, Circulation
- Yolanda Spearman, Merigold
- Cindy Williamson, Circulation
- Hadiya Cooks, Circulation
- Clara, Housekeeping
- Donny, Rosedale/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

Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold)

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