



## Director's Corner

### Special points of interest:

- Braylen Rimmer— Author Visit
- National Library Week Celebrated (Page 3)
- Shaniajah Calhoun is the Pandemic Poetry Contest Winner (Page 2)
- Summer Library Program is Announced (Page 3)

Recently, the Bolivar County Library System Board of Trustees met and discussed the General Reopening Plan for the Library System, which was approved.

In a continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bolivar County Library System (BCLS) recognizes the need to balance the need to return to normal library operating hours with the safety of the community, library patrons, and library staff in mind. As new information has been received from health experts and governmental authorities, our response needs to be modified. Serving our community is still our priority.

Accordingly, effective Monday, May 3, 2021, all libraries will return to normal pre-COVID hours to include reopening Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library

in Cleveland on Saturdays and BCLS will also reinstate the policy of collecting overdue fines.

For the safety of the community and our staff, masks are still required. Meeting rooms will continue to be closed and we will not hold in-person, indoor programming until further notice. The Mississippi Room will also continue to be available by *appointment only*; call the Reference Services Librarian at 662.843.2774 x104 for appointment.

Many things will stay the same. While some of our library processes will change, the most notable changes patrons will see will be the return of normal hours and the return of overdue fines. Don't worry about the fines too much! The last Friday of the month will come back as Fine Free Friday!

### Normal library hours:

#### Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library (Cleveland)

Monday – Thursday	9-6
Friday	9-5
Saturday	9-1

#### Rosedale Public Library (Rosedale)

Monday/Wednesday	10-5
Tuesday/Thursday	1-5
Friday	12-5

#### Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library (Shelby)

Monday/Wednesday	10-5
Friday	12-5

#### Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold)

Tuesday/Thursday	1-5
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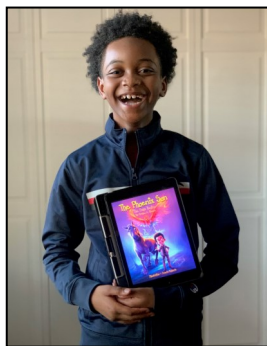
Welcome back!

~Emily

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## Author Visit—Braylen Rimmer



The Friends of the Bolivar County Library System are pleased to host young Cleveland author Braylen Rimmer for a book signing on \*May 29th at 10 a.m.-11 a.m. in the courtyard at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library (RCML) in Cleveland.

Eight-year-old Braylen will publish his first book *The Phoenix Son: The Saga Begins* (Publisher unknown, May 2021) next month. The children's book is illustrated by Ananta Mohanta. After receiving a laptop at Christmas at age six, Braylen developed a love of writing and aspires to write novels and screenplays when he's older.

Copies of Braylen's book will be available for purchase at the program.

The public is invited to attend this fun, free program on \*May 29th at 10 a.m. at the RCML. If you have any questions, please call us at 843-2774.

**\*In case of rain, the program will be moved to Saturday, June 5th at 10 a.m. at the RCML.**

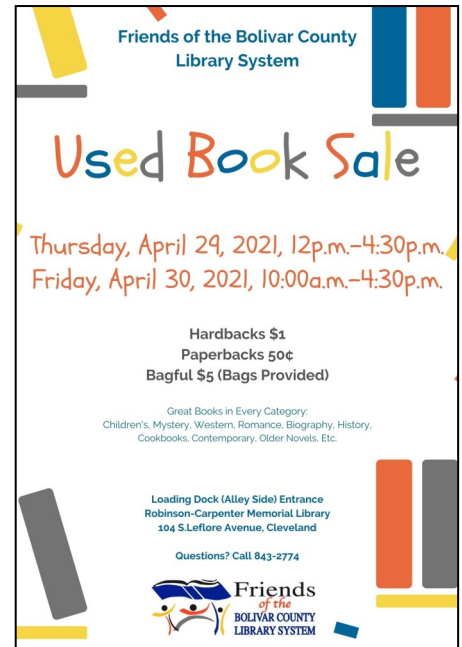
# LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

## Anti-Racism Reading Book Shelf

We are happy to report that we have completed the Anti-Racism Reading Book Shelf project that we reported in our January 6th newsletter. With grant funds (including a matching grant from the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System), we purchased twenty-eight (28) different titles (103 books total), creating anti-racism print collections at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library (Cleveland), the Rosedale Public Library, the Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library (Shelby), and the Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold).

For a full listing of books available, pamphlets are available at all branches.

Thank you again to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mississippi Humanities Council for this wonderful grant opportunity, and the Friend of the Bolivar County Library System who graciously matched the grant amount.



## Calendar

April 30th, May 7th & 14th—

**Preschool Story Hour—View**  
Virtually on Facebook Anytime  
After 10 a.m.

May 19th, June 16th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**  
—Open to the Public in Cleveland

April 29th-30th—**Friends of Library Used Book Sale—**  
Robinson-Carpenter: April 29th  
from 12-4:30 p.m. and April 30th

from 10:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

May 29th—**Author Visit**  
**Featuring Braylen Rimmer @**  
**10 a.m. at Robinson-Carpenter—See Article Page 1**

May 31st—**Memorial Day—All Branches Will Be CLOSED**

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

## Telephone Books

With the break up of the “Ma Bell” Telephone Company, a phone book has become a hard item to find. However, Yellow Book is still distributing The Real Yellow Book telephone directory. If you have not received one lately, you can call Yellow Book at 844.339.6334 to request one. You also have the option of accessing the digital Yellow Book online at [www.TheRealYellowPages.com](http://www.TheRealYellowPages.com).

*"Libraries always  
remind me that there  
are good things in  
this world."*

~Lauren Ward~  
Singer & Actress

## Pandemic Poetry Contest Winner—Shaniajah Calhoun



Shaniajah Calhoun receives her prize from Bobbie Matheny, Youth Services Librarian at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland

As part of National Library Week, we were excited to host the Pandemic Poetry Contest to commemorate the occasion. The contest encouraged children to submit an original poem of not more than six stanzas based on the theme “pandemic” by April 7th. Susan Ford and Georgene Clark graciously agreed to be judges for the event.

On April 8th, second-grader Shaniajah Calhoun was chosen as the winner for her poem titled, “I’m Sad.” For her achievement, Shaniajah was awarded a prize package that included: a journal, pens & pencils, writing paper, and a library-themed t-shirt.

Congratulations to Shaniajah on a job well done!

## Summer Library Program

Summer is still a couple of months away, but Bobbie Matheney at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library (RCML), Martha Lawson at Rosedale Public Library, Marie Shorter at the Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library (Shelby), and Annie Henry at the Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold) have been hard at work planning the upcoming Summer Library Program (SLP)!

This year's SLP theme is "Tails and Tales" and we are all excited about the wonderful possibilities for this year's program.

At RCML, the program will be during the month of July and parents should call Bobbie Matheney by June 30th to register their child for the program. What do participants have to look forward to? Well, there will, of course, be the reading challenge that encourages children and teens to read books they love. The top readers each week will be designated Star Readers and will receive recognition for their achievement. Due to the continuing pandemic, this year will again feature Activity Packets for

participants that will be made available for pick-up on Monday of each week. As last year, there will be also be several special virtual programs that will be available on Facebook. These virtual programs will be announced at a later date on Facebook and through flyers at all branches.

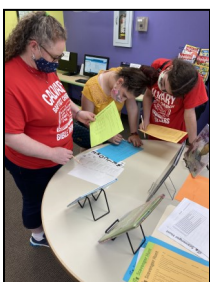
For SLP at Rosedale, Shelby, and Merigold branches, call the branch where you want your child to attend for registration and program details.

See you soon at the Library for the Summer Library Program!

*"Nothing is pleasanter  
than exploring a  
library."*

~Walter Savage Landor~  
Writer & Poet

## National Library Week—April 4 – 10, 2021



We kicked off our National Library Week celebration on Monday, April 5th with Patron Appreciation Day. We had Scavenger Hunts for adults/teens and children all week. A virtual Storyhour was posted to Facebook on April 7th. Bobbie Matheney interviewed young author Braylen Rimmer (photo second from the right), who will publish his first book next month (see Article Page 1). The Pandemic Poetry Contest (See Article Page 2). Faulkner Bailey (photo on far right) also received her first library card during National Library Week on April 5th.

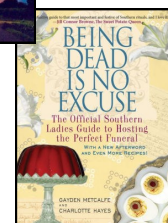
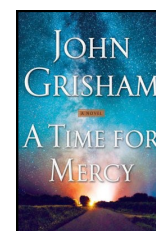
## Looking for a Good Book?

**Shonshunah:** *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham. A favorite author of mine, this is Grisham at his best. Jake Brigance risks all again—this time for a 16-year-old boy accused of killing a deputy sheriff. The book is very interesting and well-written. There was immediate tension and suspense and I could not have been more pleased. If you like old school legal thrillers, then this is the book for

you! (Fiction—Print and eAudiobook)

**Tamara:** *Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral* by Gayden Metcalfe & Charlotte Hays. This isn't new (published 2005), but if you haven't read it you are missing out! The Mississippi Delta born authors (Metcalfe is from Greenville) have written a

book that is part etiquette, hostess tips, recipes, and hilarity on the topic of death and funerals as conducted in the South. What could be more fun? Or, as Curtis Wilke says about the book, "As Southern as cheese straws, as peculiar as the Mississippi Delta, and as irreverent as the book's 'Crocheted-Bedpan-Award.'" Seriously, you'll love it! (Non-Fiction—Print)





#### Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

#### During COVID-19 Phase Four (Beginning May 3, 2021):

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—If Friday is a Legal Holiday,  
the Saturday Following is Closed, Too

Phone: (622) 843-2774  
Fax: (662) 843-4701  
Email: [info@bolivar.lib.ms.us](mailto:info@bolivar.lib.ms.us)

Individual phone numbers and email  
addresses may be found at our website.

“Like” us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/lbcls](https://www.facebook.com/lbcls); you may  
also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:

Phone: (662) 843-2774

Email: [maureenbucky@cableone.net](mailto:maureenbucky@cableone.net)

**We're on the  
Web!  
[bolivar.lib.ms.us](http://bolivar.lib.ms.us)**

## Some Bolivar County History. . .

“OTHER LETTERS” [ADDRESSED TO MISS NANCY STEPHENS, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA]

“Mississippi, Bolivar County  
August the 20th, 1849

Dear Sisters:

After a long silence, which I hope you will forgive me when you know the cause, I have no paper, there was a little store on the river two miles and a half from here, but the storekeeper died in March and there has been none here since.

Dear sisters, I suffer a great deal of uneasiness about you on account of the Cholera. Every paper that we get states that the Cholera is raging in Chincinnati [sic], but I trust to Providence that we will all be spared to see each other once more, as for my own part, I never enjoyed very better health in my life, and all of the family have enjoyed very good health all summer, except mother, whose health is declining. I like to have forgotten to tell you that we had a Methodist protracted meeting a few weeks ago. I believe there were twenty joined the Church. We have a Sabbath School of twenty scholars, society is improving fast.

We are getting fixed a little comfortable at home, but not half as comfortable as you are there in the city. I want Samuel to come with you. Tell him he can get some of the finest fishing poles he ever saw and plenty of fish, too. The men have fish fries out on the lake every once in a while.

Dear Sister Nancy, I want you to come as soon as you can, and fetch Sis. I want each one of you to write to me as soon as you receive this letter and do not wait for me to write. I want you to write me a journal of everything that happens. You do not know how interesting it will be to me. Be sure to write to me as soon as you hear from Brother John. Nothing more at present, but remain,

Your affectionate sister,  
Susan R. Wilson”

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

NOTE: This ends the “Letters Addressed to Miss Nancy Stephens, Evansville, Indiana.”

## Bolivar 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

Tina McGee, Circulation

Kevin Reed, Circulation

Mike Emerson, Circulation

Shonshunah Winford,  
Circulation

Annie Henry, Merigold /  
Circulation

Clara, Housekeeping

### Branch Information

#### COVID-19 Phase 4 (Beginning May 3, 2021):

Rosedale Public Library  
(662) 759-6332  
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 in Shelby  
(662) 398-7748  
211 Third Street  
Hours M & W 10a.m.—5p.m.  
F 12p.m.—5p.m.  
Marie Shorter, Librarian

Thelma Rayner Memorial Library  
(662) 748-2105/Fax 748-2596  
201 Front Street  
Hours: T & Th—1p.m.-5p.m.  
Annie Henry, Librarian