



LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

Special points of interest:

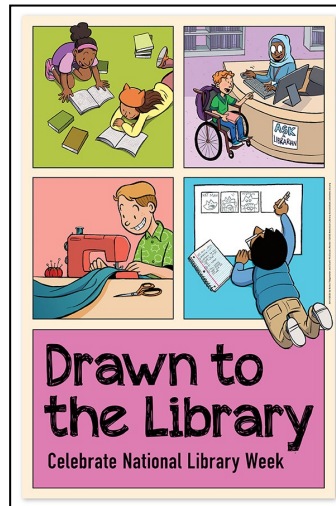
- MS Author Meredith Coleman McGee Visits (See Page 2)
- Changes to the Talking Book Services Program (See Pages 2 & 3)
- Former BCLS Board Member Geraldine Grammer Honored (See Page 2)

Director's Corner

What draws people to the library? Everything! From books and digital resources to job assistance and creative programming, libraries are essential to thriving communities.

National Library Week, April 6–12, 2025, is a time to celebrate the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination, and support lifelong learning.

At Bolivar County Library System, we invite the community to join the celebration! Whether you're a longtime patron or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the library has to offer. Our library provides unique programs, computers, Wi-Fi, digital collections, makerspaces, STEAM kits, and so much more.



Which reminds me, don't forget to reserve your Easter Bunny costume for this Easter! Ensuring that everyone has access to resources that educate, inspire, and connect is our priority. Whatever draws you in, the library has

Volume XX, Issue I

something for everyone!

This National Library Week, take time to rediscover the library and see how it draws us together as a community. Whether you're visiting for books, resources, or a place to connect, we are here for you.

First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April.

Follow our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lbcls) to learn about upcoming special programming!

~Emily

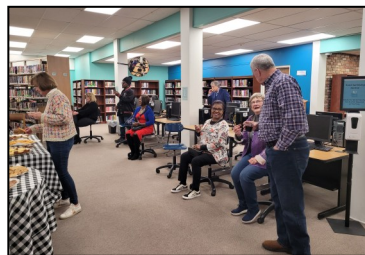
Inside this issue:

- Evening With Books **2**
- Calendar **2**
- Geraldine Grammer / Talking Books Braille **2**
- Talking Books Update & iBill Reader **3**
- Looking for a Good Book? **3**
- Some Bolivar County History. . . **4**

Grape Expectations Benefit Gala

Our Grape Expectations Benefit Gala was January 31st and with the help of the GranBoiz, we rocked the library!

For more photographs, go to our website at www.bolivar.lib.ms.us/photo-gallery/, or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lbcls.

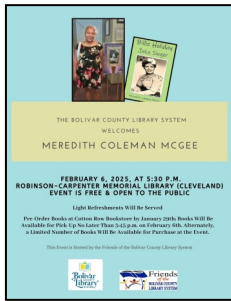


LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

Evening With Books Featuring Meredith Coleman McGee

We were so excited to have Mississippi author Meredith Coleman McGee visit the library for the third time on February 6th at our Evening With Books program.

Ms. McGee talked about her newest book *Billie Holliday: Jazz Singer*, and her impassioned presentation was a heartfelt tribute to life and music of Billie Holliday.



“Aren’t bookstores strange, sitting there with quiet menace as if they were just a shop and not an entry point to 30,000 different universes?”

~Matt Haig, American Author

Calendar

February 14th, 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, May 2nd, May 9th—**Preschool Storyhour @ 10-11 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 17th—**President’s Day**—All Libraries are CLOSED

February 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th—**Library Commission Meeting @ 10 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

February 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

April 1st, June 3rd—**Seniors Day Out! @ 10—11:30 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

April 10th—**Evening With Books featuring Marion Barnwell & Ellen Ann Fentress @ 5:30 p.m.** at Robinson-Carpenter

June/July—**Summer Library Program**—Details are forthcoming: Watch for Flyers at the Library and Check our Facebook Page

April 11th—**Friends Book Sale @ 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

April 12th—**Friends Book Sale @ 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

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

Geraldine Grammer



Congratulations to Mrs. Geraldine C. Grammer on being honored on September 10, 2024, by MS Congressman Bennie Thompson, Second Congressional District in Mississippi, on the floor of the 118th Congress. Mrs. Grammer was recognized as a champion of education and community service, and dedication to Bolivar County, surrounding counties and the State of MS. Mrs. Grammer was a Board member of the BCLS from 2007 through 2016.

Talking Books Services—Braille Options

Talking Book Services provide accessible audiobooks, large print books, braille materials, and other services to qualifying individuals and institutions across the state of Mississippi. You may obtain an application for these services at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland or from our website. The service includes the following Braille options for qualified individuals:

- Twin Vision books (full picture books with a braille overlay for caregivers and children to read together)
- Other physical braille books and magazines
- Refreshable Braille Displays (e-readers)
- BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)
- Braille-on-demand

For more info about Talking Books Services, see Page 3 of this newsletter.

Talking Book Services Update and iBill Currency Readers

The Talking Book Services (TBS), which used to be called the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Service, is available to eligible Mississippi residents who are unable to read standard print due to a visual, physical or organic reading disability and for institutions which serve these eligible individuals (schools, hospitals, living facilities, etc.).

UPDATE TO TBS. As of October 1, 2024, all patrons under the age of 18 must have a Parental Acknowledgement form signed by a parent or guardian to

continue using the program. If you have questions, please contact the TBS department at the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) at (601) 432-4151 or toll-free 1-800-446-0892. MLC administers the TBS program in Mississippi.

If you've visited to our website, you know that the U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing in partnership with MS TBS, has iBill currency readers available to those who are blind or visually impaired. Go to our website at <https://www.bolivar.lib.ms.us/services/talking-book-large-print-library-services/>

to find a printable PDF of the application in either English or Spanish. The iBill currency readers are small, compact, and run on a triple-A battery, which is included. To use the reader, simply insert any U.S. bill into the iBill device, press the button, and the reader will identify the denomination. Instructions on using the iBill currency reader are included in large print, braille, and audio CD.

You may sign-up for TBS at any public library or go to the website above for an application. For specific Braille services that are part of TBS, see page 2 of this newsletter.



“The standard library saves programmers from having to reinvent the wheel.”

~Bjarne Stroustrup,
Danish Computer Scientist

Looking for a Good Book?

Samantha: *Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* by Grady Hendrix. In 1970, fifteen-year-old Fern's parents pack her off to Wellness Home, a home for unwed mothers like herself. Life at the Home is strictly controlled, which has Fern feeling resentful and powerless. Then, a trip to a bookmobile introduces Fern to a librarian who gives her a book on witchcraft. Now, Fern and her friends at the Home begin to experiment with spells from the book... Part mystery, part horror—I loved this! (Fiction—Print & eBook)

Martha: *Shattering Dawn* (#3 *Lost Night Files*). What a good ending for the third book in the “Lost Night Files” series! Talia March, Pallas Llewellyn, and Amelia Rivers co-host a podcast called the “Lost Night Files” that investigates cold cases, while they look for others that share their unusual psychic ability. The first book focused on Pallas, the second on Talia, and now the third focuses on Amelia

as she tries to find out the identity of her stalker. Amelia suspects the stalker is somehow connected to the source of Pallas, Talia, and her newfound psychic abilities. A really good book—nobody is as they seem. It keeps you guessing until the very end! (Fiction—Print & eBook)

Tamara: *The Sequel* (*The Book #2*) by Jean Hanff Korelitz. The follow-up to *The Plot*, this sequel takes up where it left off with Anna contemplating her future as a widow of a bestselling author. Then, her husband's editor encourages her to write a novel of her own. Soon, she's touring in support of that now best-selling novel. At first, Anna is very happy with the way things have worked out since her husband's death. Until she begins to receive unexpected gifts from an unknown sender, that is. The excerpts are from her late brother's unpublished novel—yes, the bestselling novel that her late husband

plagiarized from *The Plot*. A twisty, snarky (if people only knew what Anna is really thinking!) mystery that is just plain fun. (Fiction—Print)

Tamara: *She Left* by Stacie Grey. I love Agatha Christie and *She Left* is worthy of being compared to a Christie mystery! The book opens with a dejected Amy leaving a party at which she felt she didn't belong, and walking home by herself. Which was fortunate as it turns out—all of her “friends” died that night. Now twenty years later, Amy (now calling herself Therese) is invited to a gathering at a remote mansion by a journalist who wants to revisit the crime and its aftermath. As a storm sets in, a body is found. What is really going on? Author Georgina Cross describe this novel as “*Knives Out* meets Lucy Foley's *The Hunting Party* in this tense, locked-room mystery.” Wow, was this good! (Fiction—Print)





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 for Select Individuals May Be
Found at Our Website.

“Like” Us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/lbcls; You May
Also Access the Page from Our Website.



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Phone: (662) 843-2774
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Some Bolivar County History . .

“Rosedale by Florence Sillers Ogden” - Continued

The last excerpt was “Banks,” that ended with the last sentence: “The Bolivar County Bank operated for a short period, 1920 to 1930, when it failed under the impact of the depression.”

“MODERN IMPROVEMENTS”

“Until 1900 or thereafter, there were no electric lights, running water, screens, or telephones in Rosedale. Steppingstones, made of huge round cypress blocks, were used as street crossings as late as 1889. In 1884 C. L. Jones was given the contract to build plank sidewalks, and was allowed \$184 for materials and work. Board walks became the mode. Snakes and wasps made their homes under them. After flooding rains citizens who lived in the north end of town would often have to go to the south end to claim their walks, which had floated away in the night. In the overflow of 1897 sidewalks drifted off in every direction. Some of the people floated them into their front yards and used them as piers, to which they fastened their variety of water craft. Not until 1902 did Dr. Sutherland build the first brick walk, in front of his home. The first concrete walks were laid by W. B. Roberts, J. L. Wilson, and W. A. Shelby. In 1912, under the John V. Lobdell administration, a town ordinance was passed requiring property owners to lay concrete walks along certain properties, the owners to pay all the costs.

The streets were deep in mud in winter, in dust in summer. Wagons would get stuck in the mud on the main thoroughfares and sometimes remain in the middle of the streets the whole winter through. The first bit of gravel to be laid on any city thoroughfare in the county, according to J. L. Wilson, was a short stretch from the Rosedale depot to what is known as the Owen house. It was laid by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company as an experiment[.] These experiments proved satisfactory, and Rosedale streets were graveled, about 1914, and later oiled. In 1926, through the efforts of Mayor Wilson, the people voted a bond issue to pave the streets.”

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

The excerpt will continue with Rosedale’s “Lighting System” section in the next newsletter.

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

Cleveland Commission:

- Ms. Jurist Green, *Chair*
- Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, *Vice-Chair*
- Ms. Carol Tatum
- Ms. Heather Walker
- [Vacant]

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
- Valency 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