

## Grape Expectations Benefit Gala—Save the Date!

Save the date: **January 25, 2019!** The Friends of the Bolivar County Library System are busy planning an another exciting Gala on January 25th. All proceeds from the Gala and sponsorships will benefit the Bolivar County Library System.



In previous years, funds raised as part of the Gala and Sponsorship efforts have been used to benefit the library system in a number of areas. The Friends fund the Lunch With Books program, the Summer Library Program (county-wide), and purchase a subscription to *Book Page*.

Other purchases vary according to library needs. In 2011, the gala provided for 26 new computers, six new work stations, renovation of main area of Rosedale, six door counters, new doors and rug for Children’s Room at Robinson-Carpenter, and chairs for the conference Room at Robinson-Carpenter.

In 2012, funds were used for a new circulation desk and ceiling fans at Robinson-Carpenter, print management software for Rosedale and Shelby, and matching funds for a Libri grant at Mound Bayou.

In 2013, \$10,000 was set aside for a new eBook collection, a new computer for Mississippi Room, genealogical database subscriptions, and new flooring for the Circulation Desk at Robinson-Carpenter.

Other galas have provided for major renovations of the LePoint Cassibry Smith Room, the Children’s Room, and the new Teen Room, as well as new blinds in Robinson-Carpenter, Shelby, and Rosedale, and reupholstering of chairs at Robinson-Carpenter and Rosedale. Gala funds also made it possible for the library system to continue to offer several of our online databases.

As you can see, BCLS depends on the Gala and sponsorships to help BCLS provide our patrons throughout the county with the library resources they depend on for their informational and recreational needs.

Please Save the Date **January 25th** and watch for news in the media and posters in the library for more information about the 2019 Grape Expectations Benefit Gala!

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## Lunch With Books Featuring MS Author Brandi Perry



Brandi Perry will be guest speaker for Lunch With Books on November 8th, which will feature her new book *Splintered: A New Orleans Tale*. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System.

Ms. Perry, a resident of Columbia,

graduated from USM and taught for six years before emergency brain surgery changed the course of her life. As part of her therapy, she began writing and published her first novel *Wayward Justice* in 2009, followed in 2010 by *A Whisper on the Bayou*, which was nominated for a Mississippi Library Association award for Fiction, followed by *Buried Cries* (2012) and *The Jury* (2014).

A book signing will follow the program. Ms. Perry’s books will be available for purchase at the program.

Bring your lunch and join us for this fun program at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on November 8th at 12 Noon. As always, admission is free and soft drinks will be provided.

# The LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

## Bolivar Book Club

The Bolivar Book Club meets once a month on the second Thursday at 4 p.m. and features good books and even better company. So if you like to discuss books with other book-lovers, just sign-up at the Circulation Desk at Robinson-Carpenter and check-out the next month's book anytime time after a Book Club meeting.

The November book is *Unpacking the Boxes: A Memoir of a Life in Poetry* by Donald Hall. Mr. Hall was the Poet laureate of the United States for 2006-2007 and received the National Book Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in poetry for *The One Day* (1989). We hope you will join us for this exciting program.



## Holiday Schedule

**Veterans Day**—November 12th

**Thanksgiving**—Close at 1 p.m. on November 21st through November 25th—All Branches Reopen on Normal Days and Times Beginning November 26th

**Christmas**—December 21st—Close at 1 p.m. through December 25th—All Branches Reopen on Normal Days and Times Beginning December 26th

**New Years**—Closed December 31st through January 1st—All Branches Reopen on Normal Days and Times Beginning January 2nd

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**—January 21st—All Branches Reopen on Normal Days and Times Beginning January 22nd

## Calendar

“An original idea.  
That can't be too  
hard. The library must  
be full of them.”  
~Stephen Fry~

November 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th,  
December 7th, 14th—**Friday  
Preschool Storyhour @ 10  
a.m.**—Open to the Public in  
Cleveland

October 31st—**Board of  
Trustee Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**  
—Open to the Public in Cleveland

November 3rd, December 1st,  
January 5th—**Saturday Pre-  
school Storyhour @ 11 a.m.**—  
Open to the Public in Cleveland.

November 8th—**Lunch With  
Books featuring Brandi Perry  
@ 12 Noon**—Open to the Public  
in Cleveland

November 8th—**Bolivar Book  
Club @ 4 p.m.**—Open to the  
Public in Cleveland

November 21st Beginning at  
1 p.m. through November 25th—  
**Thanksgiving** —All Libraries  
CLOSED

December 4th—**Seniors Day  
Out! @ 10 a.m.**—Open to  
Public in Cleveland

December 13th—**Lunch With  
Books featuring Meredith  
Coleman McGee @ 12  
Noon**—Open to the Public in  
Cleveland

December 13th—**Bolivar Book  
Club @ 4 p.m.**—Open to the  
Public in Cleveland

## MS Author Charlie Spillers

We were pleased to welcome Mississippi author Charlie Spillers

back to BCLS as guest speaker for our Lunch With Books (LWB) on October 11th. He talked about his new fiction book *Whirlwind: A Frank Marsh Novel* and his non-fiction *Confessions of an Undercover Agent*. LWB is

sponsored by the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System.



Charlie Spillers with Lonnye Sue Pearson, Friends' Chair of the LWB program

## Library Visitors

The children from the Mound Bayou Headstart were welcomed at the Robinson-



Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on October 2nd for a library visit.

## Teen Read Week

The teens celebrated Teen Read Week with a special program on October 10th that featured special guest attorney Jennifer Adams-Williams of the Adams Law Firm out of Grenada. TAG Secretary Nykyry Hill, and TAG member Hunter Carpenter made the introductions. Ms. Adams-Williams talked about cyberbullying, sexting, and dating violence followed by an open discussion. Ms. Adams-Williams presented a well deserved program for the teens!



## Teens Pink Out!

On October 16th, TAG (Teen Advisory Group) hosted a special program to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For the occasion, the Teens made pink ribbons to pass out along with pink balloons and popcorn.



## Did You Know?

**That we have earbuds available for purchase?** When using the computers, we ask our patrons to use headphones/earbuds when accessing content that has an audio component. Accordingly, you may bring your own headphones/earbuds or we have them available for purchase at the Circulation Desk for \$1.50 each. Unfortunately, we are unable to loan headphones/earbuds for health reasons.

**That, in addition to the stationary mobile charging stations, we also have portable chargers available for in-library use?** Yes, you may use your library card to check-out a portable charger to use in the library when you want to keep your mobile device with you. Ask to check-out a portable charger at the Circulation Desk. Just turn in the charger before leaving the library.

**That we have Santa suits available for check-out?** Yes, we have several Santa suits available for check-out with a non-refundable \$5 cleaning fee.

The Santa suits are very popular and it is recommended that you call the library at 662.843.2774 x109 early to make a reservation. Reservations are on a “first come, first served” basis.

*“To build up a library is to create a life. It’s never just a random collection of books.”*

~Carlos María Domínguez~

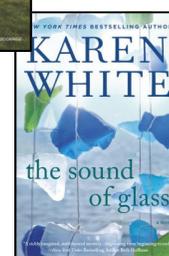
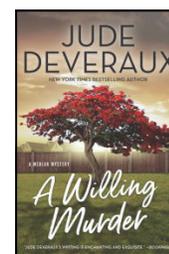
## Looking for a Good Book?

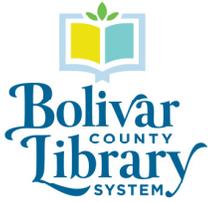
**Martha:** *A Willing Murder* by Jude Deveraux. I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery and am looking forward to reading the next one in the series. Jackson Wyatt and his friends Sara Medlar and Sara’s niece Kate are investigating the property Jackson bought in Lachlan, Florida, when Kate falls into a hole created by a downed tree and feels something clutching her hair... And they find a couple

of human skeletons! Who were they and how did they end up there? A very engaging story that will keep you guessing and reading late into the night. (Fiction—Print)

**Tamara:** *The Sound of Glass* by Karen White. Widowed Merritt is surprised when her late husband’s reclusive grandmother wills her the family home. Her plans for a quiet life are ruffled when her recently widowed, very young

step-mother arrives with her son Owen, Merritt’s 10-year-old half-brother—neither of whom Merritt has ever met. Further complicating her life are her brother-in-law, who was disinherited, and the unraveling of deep family secrets that will affect all their lives. Beautifully written, this is a haunting story that will stay with you long after you turn the last page. (Fiction—Print)





**Bolivar County Library System**

104 South Leflore Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00—6:00  
Friday 9:00—5:00  
Saturday 9:00—1:00

Closed Sundays & All Legal Holidays

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 at [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: [lfshurden@gmail.com](mailto:lfshurden@gmail.com)

## Some Bolivar County History...

### Blanche Kelso Bruce 1849-1898

Upon his arrival in Mississippi, Blanche Bruce witnessed a stump speech by Republican gubernatorial candidate James Alcorn, which inspired him to enter politics.<sup>5</sup> On an 1870 trip to Jackson, the young, articulate Bruce caught the eye of white Republicans. That same year, the district military commander, General Adelbert Ames, appointed Bruce registrar of voters in Tallahatchie County. When the first postwar Mississippi legislature met in late 1870, Bruce, who was large and imposing, was elected sergeant at arms. In 1871, he was elected to the joint office of sheriff and tax collector of Bolivar County. The following year, the Republican state board of education appointed him county superintendent of education. In a singular achievement, Bruce turned the Bolivar County school system into one of the best in the state, creating a segregated but equally funded system that boasted the support of both blacks and whites.<sup>6</sup> Bruce’s wealth also increased. He invested in land, becoming a successful planter by the late 1870s. In 1872, he was named to the board of levee commissioners for a district containing three counties. The commissioners were empowered to raise revenue and build embankments in the Mississippi Delta region.

By the mid-1870s, Blanche K. Bruce was among the best-recognized politicians in the state.<sup>7</sup> However, he faced a difficult decision when the state Republican Party split into two factions. A moderate, primarily white faction, led by then-Senator Alcorn, began ignoring African Americans’ demands for civil rights. Then Alcorn’s political rival Governor Ames adopted a more radical stance, abandoning efforts to reach out to conservative whites. Although Bruce disagreed with the Radical Republicans, because he believed that political stability required biracial cooperation, he allied himself nonetheless with the Ames faction so as to support his fellow blacks. Governor Ames offered Bruce the position of lieutenant governor in 1873, but Bruce refused, eyeing the governor’s vacant seat in the U.S. Senate.<sup>8</sup> In January 1874, the state legislature met to nominate a U.S. Senator to fill Ames’s unexpired term, and to select someone for a full six-year term beginning in the 44th Congress (1875–1877). Unlike Senator Hiram Revels before him, Bruce was selected to serve the full term primarily by black Republican colleagues, taking 52 of the 84 votes in the second ballot over Republican carpetbaggers, Representative George McKee and U.S. District Attorney G. Wiley Wells. The full legislature elected Bruce nearly unanimously on February 4, 1874.<sup>9</sup>

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](http://Bolivar.lib.ms.us)

## Bolivar County Library System Information:

### Board of Trustees

- Ms. Natalie Peeler, Chair
- Ms. Rebecca Lewis, Vice Chair
- Mr. John Raymond Bassie, Secretary
- Mr. Nathaniel Grammer
- Ms. Maggie Crawford

### Cleveland Commission:

- Ms. Jurist Green, Chair
- Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Weegie Walker, Secretary
- Ms. Carol Tatum
- Ms. Cheryl Line

### Library Staff:

- Jennifer Wann, Director
- Sharon Williamson, Assistant Director
- Melanie Free, Systems Administrator
- Tamara Blackwell, Reference Svcs / Newsletter Editor
- Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs
- Martha Lawson, Rosedale
- Marie Shorter, Shelby
- Evelyn Brown, Merigold / Circ.
- Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs
- Tina McGee, Benoit/Circulation
- Shelby Lee, Circulation
- Kevin Reed, Circulation
- Mike Emerson, Circulation

- Alex Cox, Circulation
- Brandy Collins, Circulation
- Clara, Housekeeping

### Branch Information:

- Benoit (662) 742-3112  
Hours M & Th 1—5
- Merigold (662) 748-2105 (ph) / (662) 748-2596 (fax)  
Hours M, T, W & Th 1—5
- Rosedale (662) 759-6332  
Hours M & W 10—5,  
T & Th 1—5, F 12—5
- Shelby (662) 398-7748  
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5

