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## NEWS BRIEFS

The **American Library Association (ALA)** has launched a new online **Continuing Education (CE) Clearinghouse** at [www.ala.org/ce](http://www.ala.org/ce) to meet professional development needs and career interests of library staff and boards. Education and Continuous Learning is one of five key action areas adopted by the ALA as part of its mission to promote the highest quality library and information services for all people. The CE Clearinghouse is a searchable database of continuing education opportunities offered by ALA, its divisions and other units. The result of input from many ALA members and work groups, it includes

face-to-face workshops, conferences and online learning, as well as workshops that can be licensed by local institutions.

A digitized copy of *The New Orleans Bee/L'Abeille de la Nouvelle Orleans*, volumes 1-173 (September 1827 through December 1923) is now available **online** via the Jefferson Parish Library website at <http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us>. *L'Abeille*, a New Orleans French-language newspaper, began publication in September 1827. An English section was added three months later. The newspaper continued as a dual language publication until 1872 when the English portion was dropped. A Spanish language section was published briefly from 1829-

1830. Originally published three times a week, *The Bee* became a daily after a few years. Publication ceased in 1925. This resource is useful to historians as well as to those interested in genealogical research and can be accessed by visiting the Library's website. At the library's home page, users can click on the Reference tab and choose the Genealogy category from the drop-down menu, select *New Orleans Bee* from the list by clicking on it, then follow the step-by-step instructions provided. (Acrobat Reader is required to access the pages; a link is provided to enable users to download it if needed.)

# COMMUNIQUE

Vol. 21, No. 1

January / February 2005

## State Library receives National Leadership Grant

*Federal grant from Institute for Museum and Library Services will help digitize significant Louisiana historical materials held by State Library, State Museum and Historic New Orleans Collection*

Educators, students and independent learners in Louisiana and across the U.S. will soon have easy online access to thousands of nationally significant historical materials, thanks to a new library-museum partnership.

The Louisiana Gumbo project will digitize items held by the State Library, the Louisiana State Museum and the Historic New Orleans Collection. These items include historical paintings, maps, photographs and documents; science and technology artifacts; vintage jazz radio broadcasts, interviews and performances; musical instruments; Acadian textiles; costumes; flags; parade posters; and bulletins.

The project is made possible by a \$470,000 National Leadership Grant for Libraries, awarded to the State Library of Louisiana by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS is an independent grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities. Other project partners include the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology at the state Department of Education and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network, an affiliate of Louisiana State University.

"When this project is complete, people across Louisiana and the U.S. will have easy access to a wide variety of historical resources that were previously underutilized," noted State Librarian Thomas F. Jaques. "This is a great example of how agencies can partner in new ways to maximize public access to the wealth of items in library and museum collections."

Work on the project has already begun. Over the next two to three years, approximately 28,000 items in varying formats will be digitized.



*This photo of the old Labadieville pull ferry on Bayou Lafourche is among thousands of historical items being digitized for easy online access.*

In addition to publicizing the availability of the items to educators and librarians, workshops will be held across the state to assist educators and librarians in understanding, accessing and using the materials. The project also includes development of 50 lesson plans that utilize the digitized resources, in accordance with standards set by the state Department of Education. The lesson plans will be available via the Louisiana Center for Technology website.

Additional information about the project is available from Christy Reeves, State Library special projects coordinator, by calling 225/219-9501 or via email at [creeves@state.lib.la.us](mailto:creeves@state.lib.la.us).

# Viewpoint

## The New Year

Here it is 2005 already, and I'm just getting used to writing the year without putting 19— in front of it. It seems the pace of everything has quickened. Someone once explained to me why time seems to go faster when you are older.....a year to a 10-year-old is 10 percent of their life span, much larger (and therefore seems much longer) than a year to a 50-year-old, which represents only 2 percent. I really don't like to think about it and I'm sorry I brought it up.

Like it or not, a new year makes us think about the future. Others more erudite than I have thought about it and made comments. Here is a sample:

Yogi Berra: "The future ain't what it used to be."

Dan Quayle: "The future will be better tomorrow."

Albert Einstein: "I never think of the future. It comes soon enough." Maybe we should look elsewhere for inspiration.

Despite the unpredictability of the future, it is clear that change is in the air for the State Library, and much of it is good. The Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism is rolling out a new strategic plan, *Roadmap for Change*, that will bring focus and accountability to the agencies under its umbrella. In an era of tightening budgets, rising expenses and anti-tax sentiment, a more careful analysis of what we do and why is healthy and helpful. For some time, we have wanted to measure and articulate the economic impact of libraries. An economic impact study by the department will soon help us identify our Return on Investment (for every dollar spent, what is the value returned?). In addition, a new initiative to promote Louisiana's Cultural Economy (which includes libraries, publishing and book sales as well as music, art, film, etc.) will give greater visibility to our economic contributions.

The State Library is now developing our own strategic plan, listening to our customers and aiming to alter our operations to more adequately address your needs and ours. Technology in libraries will, of course, continue to be a challenge. If technology is a racing stallion, we are hanging on for dear life, straining to steer in the right direction without hitting a fence or getting lost in the dust. Thank you for your patience as we all ride this nag as far as it will take us.

As in any other new year, change will happen. Programs, services and people are fluid, flexible and adjustable. The trick is to keep on track, to use new approaches and ideas to accomplish what we know to be immutable ends. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it well: "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it."



**Thomas F. Jaques**  
State Librarian

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[www.state.lib.la.us](http://www.state.lib.la.us)

*The State Library of Louisiana is one of our state's greatest resources for research information, government documents, genealogical data, books in Braille, audiobooks and more.*

*The State Library's mission is to build an informed, literate and democratic society by ensuring access to informational, cultural and recreational resources, especially those resources unique to Louisiana.*



## LOUISIANA BOOK REVIEW

**R***oux To Do: The Art of Cooking in Southeast Louisiana* is the official cookbook of St. Tammany Parish, but can be enjoyed by everyone. Louisianans pride themselves on their culinary skills and *Roux To Do* will be a nice addition to any cook's collection. There is even a list of Roux Dos and Don'ts for those of us who have never created a roux and are eager for this uniquely Southern experience. As with many Louisiana dishes, "first you start with a roux..." *Roux To Do* will help ensure that you do your roux correctly.

*Roux To Do* has a lively, colorful cover of things reminiscent of Louisiana, such as eggplants, bell peppers, onions, and garlic, pianos and a trumpet that calls to mind good food, good music and good times. Inside, the Junior League of Greater Covington has gathered together the favorite recipes of its members.

Each recipe is well-described, with detailed information on ingredients and preparation. There are recipes for appetizers (Deviled Eggs Luziane, Mandeville Marinated Oysters, Smoked Gouda Crawfish), salads and soups (Mardi Gras Salad, Crab Meat Soup, Crawfish Corn Bisque), breads and brunch (Corn

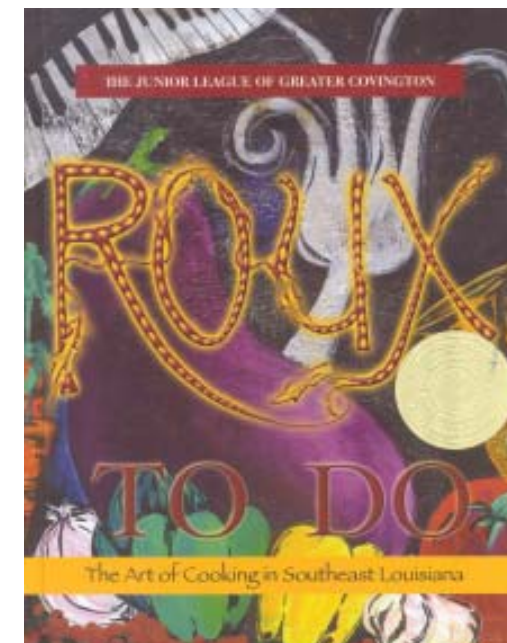
Bread, Crawfish Bread, Shrimp and Cheese Grits), side dishes (Crawfish Pecan Dressing, Muffuletta Pasta, Cabbage Casserole), seafood (Northshore Seafood Gumbo, Stuffed Whole Red Snapper, Crab Napoleon) main entrees (Covington Cannelloni, Crescent City Meat Loaf, Pork St. Tammany), desserts (Bananas

Foster, Crème de Chambord, Sweet Potato Cheesecake) and lagniappe and libations (Swampwater Martini, Cranberry Kick, Mint Julep). Roux Dos, helpful tips to make sure the recipes turn out correctly, are added throughout the book.

Each section is fronted with a colorful, glossy reproduction of a festival poster, such as the Seafood Festival, the BluesBerry Festival, the Bayou Lacombe Crab Festival, the Chef Soiree and the Strawberry Festival, to name a few. There is a list of recipe contributors, hostesses to contact for tasting parties and an index to help readers quickly

find that special recipe.

*Roux To Do* is sure to become a popular Louisiana cookbook. A well-written, organized and affordable resource, *Roux To Do* will find a welcome place in the home and the library setting.



*Reviewed by Charlene Bonnette, reference librarian in the Louisiana Section of the State Library of Louisiana*

### Check out these resources on the State Library web site.....

Continuing education & other activities: <[http://www.state.lib.la.us/la\\_dyn\\_templ.cfm?doc\\_id=154](http://www.state.lib.la.us/la_dyn_templ.cfm?doc_id=154)>

Books about library organizations & services: <[http://www.state.lib.la.us/la\\_dyn\\_templ.cfm?doc\\_id=160](http://www.state.lib.la.us/la_dyn_templ.cfm?doc_id=160)>



# JOB OPENINGS

## State Librarian

### State Library of LA - Baton Rouge

Serve as chief librarian/CEO of State Library of LA; director of statewide library development, service; secretary of State Library Board of Commissioners. Requires bachelor's degree; ALA-accredited MLIS; at least five years experience as administrative librarian or director of state or public library serving population of at least 50,000; knowledge of library science, library technology, public finance, public administration, human resource management; ability to work in harmony with professional colleagues, staff, govt. officials. Must have knowledge, interest in governmental process at local, state, federal levels. Send resume, references to Mrs. Paulette Holahan, Chair, LA State Library Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 131, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 by Jan. 31. Position available July 2005. State Library info online at <[www.state.lib.la.us](http://www.state.lib.la.us)>.

## Library Director

### Audubon Regional Library - Clinton

Direct 3 branches that serve 36,000 people with \$280,000 annual budget. Requires ALA-accredited MLIS or active pursuit; strong ability to provide leadership/management, develop/administer budget, work/communicate effectively with stakeholders. Grant writing knowledge/experience a plus. Salary plus benefits. Send resume to Aline Woodside, Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 515, Jackson, LA 70748 (225/683-3416).

## Library Director

### St. James Parish Library - Litcher

Oversee operations of Litcher headquarters, Vacherie branch serving 23,000 people with \$700,000 annual budget, including financial management, collection development, programs, Internet usage, facility management; supervise employees, volunteers; handle finances, public relations; write grants; serve as liaison with government, education, community groups; coordinate, develop short, long range plans, policies, procedures. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; eligibility for state accreditation; 3 years public library experience; knowledge of networking, Internet, relevant computer applications; demonstrated management ability. Salary \$37,000 - 40,000, excellent benefits, including retirement. Send resume, 3 references to Mr. Jody Chenier, St. James Parish Council, P.O. Box 106, Convent, LA 70723.

## City Librarian

### New Orleans Public Library - New Orleans

Requires ALA-accredited MLS plus 5 years professional administrative experience. Salary \$73,325 minimum. Early interviews offered at

ALA Midwinter Conference in Boston to applicants who have submitted resume. Application available from the New Orleans Public Library, Executive Assistant to Board of Directors, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112 or via phone at 504/596-2608 or email at <[rtrigs@gno.lib.la.us](mailto:rtrigs@gno.lib.la.us)>. Send resume, application to above address.

## Library Director

### Lafayette Public Library - Lafayette

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; 3 years public library management experience; substantial experience in building programs, design; ability to operate effectively with board, public officials, library support organizations, community; exceptional executive, leadership skills. Plan, implement services for main library, 9 branches with \$5 million budget serving 190,000 people in university community with strong technology presence amid Cajun, Creole cultures. Details online at <[www.lafayette.lib.la.us](http://www.lafayette.lib.la.us)>. Salary \$70,000 - 74,000; excellent benefits. Flexible start date early 2005. Send vision for public library of future, resume; 5 references to Library Director Search Committee, Office of Human Resources, Lafayette Consolidated Govt., P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502.

## Assistant Library Director

### Tangipahoa Parish Library - Amite

Experienced, community-oriented leader to manage multidisciplinary public service activities: collection development, coordinate children's/teen services, grants, staff development. Requires ALA accredited MLS; 3-5 years library experience; 1-2 years supervisory experience; ability to demonstrate proven leadership skills in teambuilding, communication, technology expertise, problem-solving. Salary \$32,000 up, great benefits. Send resume to Pat Sledge, Director, Tangipahoa Parish Library, 200 E. Mulberry St., Amite, LA 70422-2752 (985/748-7559).

## Teen Services Librarian

### St. Tammany Parish Library - Covington

Seeking approachable, animated, outgoing librarian with sincere desire to serve informa-

tional, recreational needs of young adults at 12 branches in community that appreciates, uses library's collection, services. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; ability to interact with public, maintain strong relationships with staff; plan, recommend, implementing attractive, broad-ranging services/activities for ages 12-17. Prefer experience working with teens, familiarity with young adult literature, excellent reference skills. Schedule will include some evening, weekend hours. New/upcoming graduates encouraged to apply. Salary \$32,937 - 42,975, generous benefits. For info, contact Louanne Bertrand, Teen Services Coordinator, at <[louanne@stpl.us](mailto:louanne@stpl.us)>. Mail resume, cover letter explaining why you're perfect for the job to Janice L. Butler, Director, St. Tammany Parish Library, 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433 or fax to 985/871-1224.

## Children's Librarian

### Lafayette Public Library - Lafayette

Plan, execute programs for children, parents, caregivers; select children's material; provide reference reader's advisory service. Requires ALA-accredited MLS, familiarity with current children's material. Salary \$2,371 per month. Application available at <[www.lafayettela.gov](http://www.lafayettela.gov)> or mail resume to Lafayette Consolidated Govt., Civil Service, P. O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502, fax to 337/291-8349 or email to <[sboswell@lafayettegov.com](mailto:sboswell@lafayettegov.com)>.

## Seeking a library job? Have an opening?

The State Library website  
<[www.state.lib.la.us](http://www.state.lib.la.us)> lists library jobs.  
Post vacancies free via email to  
<[rhamilto@state.lib.la.us](mailto:rhamilto@state.lib.la.us)>. Visit  
<[groups.yahoo.com/group/lalibjobs](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lalibjobs)> to  
learn more and subscribe to the only  
electronic mailing list concentrating on  
job openings in Louisiana libraries.  
Post vacancies free via email  
to <[vnestin@bellsouth.net](mailto:vnestin@bellsouth.net)>.

## What's new at your library?

**Libraries are invited to submit details and photographs of accomplishments and milestones; new or innovative events and programs for potential adaptation by other libraries; community partnerships; friends group activities; and changes in board members and management staff, including new hires, promotions and job openings. Submit information (by Jan. 24 for the March/April issue) to Catherine Carlock Simpson, State Library communications director, at <[csimpson@state.lib.la.us](mailto:csimpson@state.lib.la.us)> or 225/342-9713.**

# Spotlight ON Success

## Voters in 12 parishes approve library taxes in 2004

Louisiana voters proved their support for public libraries during 2004 by handily passing 12 of 13 library tax proposals on election ballots across the state. The lone rejected proposal was approved on the second try.

Tax millages dedicated to public libraries that were successfully renewed this year (and projections of the resulting annual revenues) include the **Acadia Parish Library** (\$700,000), the **Bossier Parish Library** (\$3.8 million), the **Claiborne Parish Library** (\$350,000), the **East Carroll Parish Library** (\$190,000), the **Iberia Parish Library** (\$1.5 million), the **Jennings Carnegie Public Library** (\$165,000), the **St. Martin Parish Library** (\$460,000), the **Tangipahoa Parish Library** (\$800,000) and the **Winn Parish Library** (\$175,000). These millages are dedicated to day-to-day maintenance and operation expenses for each library. The approved uses of most millages have been expanded to include construction and capital improvements.

In addition, Orleans Parish voters approved a citywide bond issue, of which \$8.1 million is dedicated to capital improvements at **New Orleans Public Library** branches. In St. Mary Parish, voters agreed to continue funding a capital improvements bond issue for the **St. Mary Parish Library**, worth nearly \$2 million. The funds will be used for major renovations and new construction.

The **Webster Parish Library** succeeded—on the second try—in convincing voters to double the library's millage. The tax is expected to generate about \$1.4 million annually, which will be used to upgrade operations and renovate the historic original library adjacent to headquarters.

## Third annual Louisiana Book Festival a huge success

Readers of all ages, including many families, attended the third annual **Louisiana Book Festival** on Nov. 6. The event drew 15,000 people to downtown Baton Rouge for readings, lectures, discussions and workshops at the State Capitol, the State Library and the new Louisiana State Museum, slated to open in May 2005. At the Young Readers Pavilion near the State Library, children and teens listened to professional storytellers, saw costumed storybook characters, made crafts and learned about the art of bookmaking.

The festival promotes reading, from scholarly works to mystery and romance, and highlights Louisiana writers. Most of the 100-plus authors who presented this year have



LOUISIANA  
**BOOK FESTIVAL**  
NOVEMBER 6 2004 BATON ROUGE

Louisiana roots or other connections to the state.

Free creative writing workshops for students in grades 4-9 were

offered at this year's festival for the first time as part of the Louisiana Writing Project, an innovative effort aimed at producing a new generation of Louisiana writers. Adult writing and publishing workshops, conducted by authors and other professionals, were also offered this year for the first time.



# NEWS BRIEFS

On Dec. 8, in the final minutes of the 108th Congress, the Senate passed House Resolution 5419 by voice vote, resolving the accounting problem that halted distribution of **e-rate funds to libraries and schools** in August. The legislation enables thousands of schools and libraries to continue providing telecommunications services to communities. After the e-rate program was suspended, Louisiana librarians were among ALA members who convinced Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to restore the e-rate via hundreds of letters and emails describing benefits for library users.

Dec. 15 marked the anniversary of ratification of our nation's **Bill of Rights** in 1791. The League of Women Voters, which promotes informed, active participation of citizens at all levels of government, offers **free downloadable bookmarks** that list the Bill of Rights. The bookmarks are available online in several formats at <http://www.lwv-la.org>.

Two Louisiana school systems were among 92 recipients across the nation of the **U.S. Department of Education's 2004 Improving Literacy through School Libraries grant program**. Grantees included the **Bienville Parish School Board** (\$399,676) and **New Orleans public schools** (\$349,987). Eight rural Bienville Parish schools, with 2,521 students, will be served through the *Schools Literacy Through Libraries* project, aimed at increasing their scores on standardized tests. *Project SOLAR* (*Supporting Orleans Libraries And Reading*), seeks to improve student achievement, particularly in reading. It will impact 5,475 urban students at eight schools. Estab-

lished under the No Child Left Behind Act, the program is a competitive one-year grant for school districts in where at least 20 percent of the students are from impoverished families. It is designed to improve students' literacy skills by providing access to up-to-date school library materials, technologically

He is a native of Ames, Iowa and a visiting professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The recipients of numerous awards and honors, Kooser is the author of 10 collections of poetry, most recently *Delights & Shadows* (2004).

The **Louisiana Association of School Librarians** meets **Jan. 22** at

*The 2004 Louisiana Writer Award was presented to novelist and short story author Shirley Ann Grau of New Orleans (far right), who received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1965. The ceremony, which kicked off the third annual Louisiana Book Festival, featured Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu.*



*State Librarian Tom Jaques (center right), presented the award. Author and editor Robert Phillips (left), interviewed Grau during the event.*

advanced school library media centers and trained, certified school library media specialists.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington appointed **Ted Kooser** as the 13th **Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry** to the **Library of Congress** to succeed Louise Glück. Billington described Kooser as "a major poetic voice for rural and small town America and the first poet laureate from the Great Plains, whose verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways."

Dutchtown High in **Geismar**, the first LASL midwinter conference since 1997. Administrators and classroom colleagues are invited to attend the conference, which addresses issues such as best books for middle school, stretching budgets to cover the newest software, information literacy and research skills, digital libraries for young people, search engines for children's research needs and collaborative teaching units. Details are available online at <http://www.laonline.org/sig/lasl>.

# People & Places



**Paulette H. Holahan** was elected chair of the **State Library Board of Commissioners**. She has served on the board since 1974, including three previous terms as chair, and has worked with libraries for over 30 years.

**Julie W. Champagne** was named director of the **St. Mary Parish Library**. She was previously parish librarian for the St. James Parish Library, manager of the Lafourche Parish Library's Thibodaux Branch and assistant librarian for St. James.



**Lon Dickerson** was named director of the **Jefferson Parish Public Library**. A Michigan native, he headed libraries in Georgia, Nebraska, Minnesota and Washington state over the past 30 years. A former Peace Corps volunteer librarian in Sierra Leone, he later served as acting director of the University of Liberia Libraries. Former director **Joan Adams** retired in October.

**Gabriel Morley** was named director of the **Washington Parish Library**. A reporter and editor at Louisiana and Mississippi daily papers for the past seven years, he received an MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in December.

**Mary Hurlbert Stein** was named assistant director of the **East Baton Rouge Parish Library**. An employee since 1984, she previously headed teen and young adult services and also worked at the New Mexico State University Library and LSU.

**Ed White** and **W.T. "Buddy" Blackwell** were named to the board of the **Morehouse Parish Library**.

**Sally Wellman**, head of the **State Library Audiovisual Resource Center** was elected vice-chair/chair-elect of the **National Media Market Board of Directors**. Previously elected to the general board to represent public libraries, she will chair the 2006 National Media Market.

The **Allen Parish Library's Oberlin headquarters**, built in 1984, hosted an October open house to celebrate completed renovations that created a spacious children's area near the entrance and carved a staff kitchen and director's office from existing space. A new 2,500-square-foot wing houses a 50-seat meeting room, patron restrooms, adult computer terminals and reference and

adult collections. Creamy white paint and new carpet, tile and lighting throughout make it seem larger than 7,500 square feet. Splashes of vivid primary colors echo the library's original color scheme, incorporating the existing bright yellow circulation desk and blue countertops in staff areas. The **Oakdale Branch**, built in 1978, was also renovated, including re-carpeting, new tile in the hall and staff work area, repainting, re-lighting patron areas and wallpapering the meeting room and hall.

The **Hollywood-Union Avenue Branch** of **Shreve Memorial Library**, formerly the Extension/Bookmobile Center, moved in October to a temporary location in the old Hamilton Branch building on Hillcrest St. The move heralded demolition of the old building and construction of a new one at the site by early 2006. The project is part of the third phase of Shreve's building program. The **Cedar Grove-Line Avenue Branch**, Shreve's oldest branch, celebrated 75 years of service in November. It was established in April 1929 on Southern Ave. in the former town hall for the village of Cedar Grove. The new facility on Line Ave., built in 1999, features a drive-up book drop, public meeting room and children's story area with adjoining patio, funded by a 1996 tax election.

The **Hineston Branch** of the **Rapides Parish Library** held an open house in November celebrating the library's 20th anniversary. It opened in 1984 in a building donated by State Police on land given by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Townley.

The **East Baton Rouge Parish Library** established a new **Outreach Center** for the parish Juvenile Detention Facility near the Metro Airport, which houses 52 young offenders aged 10 to 17, mainly low-literacy, disenfranchised teenagers with minimal success in traditional education systems. To help educate and enrich the lives of these at-risk youth, the center provides a special deposit collection of hundreds of new books, audios, videos, DVDs, and magazines, carefully chosen to meet Hi-Lo (high interest-low literacy) standards and present challenging teen issues in a relevant, accessible manner.



## In Memoriam

**Frank Tugwell**, Morehouse Parish Library board member.

**Louise Guillotte**, Catahoula Parish Library board member for more than 15 years.