



## Louisiana Gumbo Project: A Recipe for Empowerment

**P**erched up on the fifth floor of the SLOL, tucked away in the closed stack, special collections area, graduate student Melissa Eastin is surrounded by piles of ancient photographs. She picks one up, peeks at the back, compares it to a contact sheet and lays it down on one of the piles. She sits behind a state of the art computer workstation with an enormous digital scanner to her right.

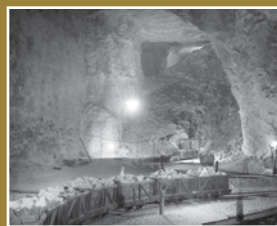
Today she's found a ghostly image standing on the front porch of an old mansion, circa 1930's. Maybe so, maybe not, but it sure made for interesting talk around the State Library that day, and lots of Photoshopping to bring out the image. Not exactly CSI, but it's enough to make everyone give a thought to what fascinating treasures may be found in these old photographs and documents.

Working on the *Louisiana Gumbo Project: A Recipe for Empowerment*, Eastin is digitizing thousands of these pieces in an effort to preserve Louisiana's historical and cultural heritage. The LA Gumbo Project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through a \$470,000 National Leadership Grant for Libraries, awarded to the State Library of Louisiana in

*Continued on page 7*



*Jan Day, SLOL Grants Coordinator and Judy Smith, SLOL Head of the Louisiana Section, watch as Eastin studies an interesting find.*





## Viewpoint

**W**ith National Library Week approaching, it is an appropriate time to celebrate not only our Louisiana libraries but also all that our librarians do for the people of Louisiana. In Louisiana we have a strong history of library support, an excellent track record of service and we are strong supporters of Intellectual Freedom.

Free and unrestricted access to information and ideas is vital to our society and to us. Today's libraries look very different than they did even ten years ago. Patrons expect information to be available in many other formats than books.

In 2005, the citizens of Louisiana used public access computers in our public libraries 4,417,643 times. This number illustrates the continuing need of many of our citizens to access the Internet for free via their local public library. For those who cannot afford to buy a computer or pay for an Internet connection, our public libraries are irreplaceable. Libraries are, of course, the great equalizer.

Our responsibility to provide all points of view to our citizens is profound. Being able to absorb all available information and to form our own opinions is the core of what this country was built upon - freedom. Our forefathers fought hard for our independence and freedom and we must, as gatekeepers to information, continue this mission. Our expertise, guidance and the information that we provide to our citizens allow them to make the best decisions that they can.

As librarians, we distinguish between our personal beliefs and our responsibilities as keepers of information and learning. We may not agree with all of the information that passes through our hands, but we have the awesome task of providing that information, without judgment, on to our patrons.

As William O. Douglas so eloquently stated: "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us."

Rebecca L. Hamilton,  
State Librarian

## "Femme, Femme, Femme"

The New Exhibition at the New Orleans Museum of Art, is a Must See!

**L**ibrarians, library staff, library school students, faculty and staff are invited to NOMA for "Librarian's Day" on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the Museum to see the wonderful exhibition *Femme, femme, femme: Paintings of Women in French Society* from Daumier to Picasso from the Museums of France (March 4 - June 3, 2007).

Bring ID that clearly shows that you are employed in a library, or are a student, faculty or staff member at a library school to receive the Louisiana resident's admission rate and a 10% discount in the gift shop.

Tickets are available at the door but if you require a guaranteed admission time use [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and fill out the LA Resident box.

When you have looked around the museum please join me in the Felix J. Dreyfous Library for refreshments and a library tour.

Call Sheila Cork at 504-658-4117 or email [scork@noma.org](mailto:scork@noma.org) if you have any questions and to let her know what time you would like to visit the library. Visit NOMA's web site at [www.noma.org](http://www.noma.org) for more information about this unforgettable exhibition.

**"Every burned book  
or house enlightens  
the world; every  
suppressed or  
expunged word  
reverberates through  
the earth from side  
to side."**

– Ralph Waldo Emerson





## Grant Writer Joins SLOL

Jan Day has joined the State Library staff as Grants Coordinator. Day will seek out and administer grant funding for the State Library and will assist public libraries in applying for grants as well. One of Day's first projects will be to compile a list of likely grants and funding bodies and create a web page with information about each. She will also assist public libraries by identifying appropriate grants and working with individual libraries to compose the best possible proposals. Later, she plans to offer a grantwriting workshop for public library staff.

"As a representative of the State Library of Louisiana, I will be available to the libraries by phone or email," said Day. "I plan to visit the public libraries to let them know that I am here to help."

You may contact Day at 225-219-9501 or [jday@state.lib.la.us](mailto:jday@state.lib.la.us).



*New Grants Coordinator in Administration Jan Day joins SLOL.*

## Allen Parish Libraries Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup>

The Allen Parish Libraries system celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007. The public is invited to a reception at the Oberlin Headquarters Library on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. The Kinder Branch Library will host an open house on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m., and the Oakdale Branch Library will have its open house later in the fall.



*Danny Gillane, SLOL Library Consultant and Sara M. Taffae, SLOL Library Systems Administrator, peer out from behind stacks of suggested books for the Notable Books List. Taffae and Gillane will have read nearly 200 books by the time the final list is chosen.*

## Staff Serve On National Council

Two State Library staff members are serving on the Notable Books Council, a section of the American Library Association (ALA). Sara M. Taffae, Library Systems Administrator, has been appointed as Chair of the Notable Books Council for the coming year. Danny Gillane, Library Consultant, is serving his first year on the council.

According to the ALA, "the goal of the Notable Books Council is to make available to the nation's readers a list of 25 very good, very readable, and at times very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader."

To be considered for selection to this national, 12-person council, candidates must first be members of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the ALA. Candidates are invited to apply, and are eligible to serve two year terms for up to four years total.

"Council members will have read about 200 titles by the end of the year," said Taffae. An obviously avid reader, she was asked to apply to the Notable Books council by Kathleen McCook, the former dean of the LSU Graduate School. Taffae first served as Vice Chair before becoming Chair.

Gillane was a faculty member of the Dupre Library at University of Loui-

siana at Lafayette. "As such, we were encouraged to participate in professional organizations and serve on committees," said Gillane. "Sara invited me to apply for an opening on the Notable Books Council. It combined a personal interest with a very visible involvement in the ALA. I couldn't lose."

Both expressed gratitude that State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton strongly encourages professional involvement and training for her staff.

The selection of titles that finally make it to the Notable Books List is a complicated affair. Each member is responsible for reading his suggestions for the list, which can be as many as 15 titles each month. After reading his own suggestions, the member may choose to withdraw the title from consideration or to nominate it to be considered for the final list. Every member of the committee must read all of those titles that have been nominated. The group meets twice a year to vote on the final Notable Books List.

The final Notable Books List is used extensively by libraries, reader's advisors and library school classes. To see books chosen last year, visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaprotools/rusanotable/thelists/notablebooks.htm>.



# Job Openings

## Adult Services Librarian Iberville Parish Library

### Qualifications:

- Required: M.L.I.S. degree --or-- library experience and working toward degree.
- Administrative and managerial experience.
- Hands-on experience in an automated public library environment desired.
- Experience using The Library Corporation's (TLC) software preferred.
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and speech with co-workers and the public.

### Responsibilities:

- Develop relevant Adult materials' collections for high school students through senior citizens via online orders and work with booksellers.
- Work with Director, staff members and the entire community to maintain, grow and publicize library programs & services.
- Provide ongoing instruction to staff of all eight Iberville libraries on how best to answer the information needs of adult library patrons, including the use of print and computer resources.
- Responsible for working with other departments to manage the work duties of volunteers and student workers.
- Perform other duties as needed.

### Salary & Benefits:

Salary dependent upon skills and experience. Competitive benefits package includes ample vacation, holidays, and sick leave. The Library currently pays 100% of employee's medical insurance. Continuing education and attendance at conferences is supported.

### Application:

Search will remain open until position is filled. Send letter of application, resume, and names and addresses of at least three references to:

Dannie Ball, Library Director  
Iberville Parish Library  
P.O. Box 736  
Plaquemine, LA 70765-0736.  
Email: [dball@state.lib.la.us](mailto:dball@state.lib.la.us)  
Phone: (225) 687-2520 cell: (225) 776-4620  
FAX: (225) 687-9719

## Lafayette Public Library

**Librarian II** -- The Lafayette Public Library is currently seeking to fill vacant Librarian I positions in the reference section and in the children's section. Experience and/or concentration of study in the area of interest is desired. Applicants must possess a MLIS from an ALA-accredited institution. Lafayette Consolidated Government offers competitive benefits, civil service protection, and starting pay of \$2,565/month. To obtain an application, send resume= to: Lafayette Consolidated Government, Civil Service, P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502 or Fax# (337)291-8349 or call (337)291-8330 or [jmouton@lafayettegov.net](mailto:jmouton@lafayettegov.net). Applications can also be found on our website at [www.lafayettela.gov](http://www.lafayettela.gov)EOE

**Librarian II** -- Duties include supervising, scheduling, and staffing public services desk, assisting the public with print, non-print, and electronic resources, providing readers advisory, conducting tours of the library, assisting with departmental programming, and selecting materials. Master's degree from an ALA accredited Library and Information Science school required. \$2,829/ Monthly To obtain an application, send resume= to: Lafayette Consolidated Government, Civil Service, P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502 or Fax# (337) 291-8349 or [jmouton@lafayettegov.net](mailto:jmouton@lafayettegov.net) For additional information or to download an application, please go to [www.Lafayettela.gov](http://www.Lafayettela.gov) EOE

Contact Person: Jeffery Mouton  
Phone (337) 291-8331  
Fax (337) 291-8349

## Library Director Union Parish Library

202 West Jackson Street  
Farmerville La 71241

Date Position Available: June 15, 2007. Seeking a highly motivated, confident, and energetic individual whose responsibilities include:

- Administer the operation of the Union Parish Library.
- Oversee physical facilities.
- Organize and provide customer services in the library and on the bookmobile.
- Hire, schedule, and supervise all employees.
- Create, coordinate, and direct programming.
- Prepare annual budget and oversee expenditures.
- Work with and report to the Library Board and the Union Parish Police Jury.

### Qualifications:

- Master's Degree from an accredited School of Library Science desired.
- Administrative, technical and supervisory experience.
- Written and oral communication skills with staff and public.
- Library experience with hands-on experience in an automated public library environment.
- Desired: experience using The Library Corporation's (TLC) software.

**Benefits:** Annual benefits of 20 days vacation leave, 12 days sick leave, and 15 days of paid holidays. Health Insurance benefits are available, and enrollment in the Parochial Retirement System.

Salary is commensurate with qualifications, skills and experience.

Qualified applicants apply by April 20, 2007 with: (1) letter expressing interest in position specifically indicating how applicants background and experience meet the qualifications; (2) a current resume summarizing education and experience; (3) 3 professional references with complete contact information, including address, telephone, and email.

Send to:  
Union Parish Library Board  
c/o Marjorie Terral  
202 West Jackson Street  
Farmerville LA 71241

**"The crime of book purging is that it involves a rejection of the word. For the word is never absolute truth, but only man's frail and human effort to approach the truth. To reject the word is to reject the human search."**

— Max Lerner



## SLOL Staff Take Advantage of Continuing Education Opportunity

The State Library sent 12 staff members to the Louisiana Library Association Conference, held in Baton Rouge March 6 - 8. The annual conference offered many opportunities for continuing education, which helps the State Library staff offer the most up to date resources and methods for our clients.

In addition, the State Library's Gale Criswell, Children and Teen Services Consultant, presented the session Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award Program 2008 and also presided over the Performing Arts Showcase Panel. Sally Wellman, Head of Cataloging for the State Library, co-presented the session All About ISBN 13.

The State Library also had an exhibitor's booth, where staff promoted various programs offered by the State Library.

## Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Programs at LLA

Two programs, coordinated by Gale Criswell, Children and Teen Services Consultant of the State Library of Louisiana, were presented at LLA to announce the 2007 winners of the award. The award winner for the grades 3-5 category is *Gator Gumbo* by Candace Fleming. The award winner for the grades 6-8 category is *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks.

The titles on the 2008 ballots were announced and information was provided about how to implement the program in schools and libraries. The staff of the East Baton Rouge

Parish Library demonstrated techniques for introducing students to the books that will be on the ballots. Students will be reading these books during the fall of 2007 and voting for their favorite one by February 1, 2008.

The Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Award is a reading enrichment program sponsored by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. It is underwritten by Capital One with additional support from Perma-Bound Books.

## Louisiana Library Association Conference

### LLA Performing Artist Showcase

Eighty people enjoyed an afternoon of storytelling, music and arts at the Performing Artist Showcase Thursday, March 8, 2007. This program, coordinated by Gale Criswell, Children and Teen Services Consultant of the State Library of Louisiana, is sponsored by the Public Library Section and the Storytelling Interest Group. The purpose of the showcase is to provide the libraries and schools with samples the children's programs offered by Louisiana performers. The featured artists included storytellers Oneal Isaac of Baton Rouge and Alana Villavaso of New Orleans; musicians Philip Melancon of New Orleans and Buster Jordan of Many; visual artist Trish Ransom of Grand Coteau; plus author and wetlands advocate Wendy Wilson Billiot.

## Classical Guitarist Performs at the Allen Parish's Kinder Branch



On March 1st, the Kinder Branch of the Allen Parish Libraries presented a free musical performance by classical guitarist Peter Fletcher.

Fletcher has been performing since he was 15 years old and is a two-time recipient of the Eastman Graduate Award.

He has three recordings out: *The Art of Classical Guitar*, *A Peter Fletcher Recital*, and *Federico Mompou: Guitar Works*. His latest recording, *Peter Fletcher plays Erik Satie*, was released in September, 2005.

In February 2007, Mr. Fletcher made his New York Debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.





## A Program for the Communities of the Gulf Coast Public Library Recovery Project

State Library Staff attended "A Program for the Communities of the Gulf Coast Public Library Recovery Project" on March 6, 2007 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. Sandra Nelson presented the workshop and focused on promoting libraries directly affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Librarians from affected libraries in Louisiana and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast attended the day-long session.

Consultant Sandra Nelson specializes in public library planning and management issues. She is a leader in the development of planning and management tools for public librarians and is the Senior Editor of the Public Library Association (PLA) Results series, an integrated library of planning and resource allocation manuals.

Participants received instruction and actively engaged in discussions with other professionals on planning and marketing techniques such as: identifying and describing the library's value to the community, presenting

a professional and polished image to the public, identifying the people who control and influence the allocation of resources for libraries, gaining an understanding of funding priorities, and preparing and delivering an effective presentation to a person or group of people with influence.

Workshop content addressed the need to be able to describe the library and/or its needs in five minutes or less. Participants prepared statements about their libraries that were directed at different segments of their constituency – professional or community organizations, elected officials and the general public. Each participant also prepared and delivered a five-minute presentation.

An update on the progress of the Gulf Coast Public Library Recovery Project was also presented by Mary-Ellen Santiago, Manager, Gulf Coast Library Recovery Project, SOLINET. The opening of two temporary libraries in Cameron Parish featured prominently in her presentation.



*SLOL staff Deputy State Librarian Diane Brown, Senior Library Consultant Dorothy White, State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton, Associate State Librarian Bethany Ryder and Access Services Head Kytara Gaudin.*

*Communiqué* is a monthly publication of the State Library of Louisiana to provide information to Louisiana libraries and people with an interest in libraries. Inquiries, subscription information or requests on obtaining large print or audiocassette versions should be directed to the Communications Section.

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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.

"Censorship is never over for those who have experienced it. It is a brand on the imagination that affects the individual who has suffered it, forever. "

– *Nadine Gordimer,*  
*South African Author*



## Gumbo Project *continued*

partnership with the Louisiana State Museum, The Historic New Orleans Collection, and LOUIS.

With an eye to providing electronic access to this material, the organizations involved hope to raise awareness of Louisiana's rich cultural history. The *LA Gumbo Project* is a two-year effort to provide digital resources to K-12 education. However, patrons have also used the collection to conduct research for books, articles, documentaries, personal research and genealogy. Items can be searched by keyword and the results can be printed, downloaded or emailed. <http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/collections.php>

The State Library has two collections in this project which will eventually include over 10,000 photographs and 2,000 print documents.

The *Works Projects Administration (WPA) Collection* includes traditional songs, beliefs, customs, sayings, stories, recipes, legends, jokes, and accounts of local history. Placed in the custody of the library when the WPA was terminated nationally in 1943, the material has remained, more or less in storage, and to a large degree inaccessible. WPA projects ranged from street paving and bridge building to bookbinding and adult education. The *Federal Writers Project (FWP)*, part of the WPA, compiled local histories and transcribed both important and mundane documents. WPA photographers documented a considerable amount of the agency's varied activities in Louisiana.

The *Historic Photograph Collection of the State Library of Louisiana* features predominantly black and white photographs from the 1930's to 1970's. There is a strong emphasis on photographs of notable Louisiana personalities: governors, artists, authors and musicians. Historic buildings and other architectural gems, such as plantations and churches, are in-

*Continued on back cover*



*Ann and Jimmie Peltier*

her newly published book, "Sometimes God Says No," Ms. Peltier recounts the struggles she and her husband, Dr. Jimmie Peltier, endured as they nurtured, loved and finally let go four of their seven children to a rare disease.

"I wrote it with the desire to help others who may face illness or other problems," said Peltier. "I believe this book could be helpful in life's struggles and I would hope readers find encouragement, as my husband and I did, from our faith. Hold onto whatever it takes to get over the crisis."

Peltier, currently in her twentieth year on the State Library of Louisiana Board of Commissioners has been active in serving others. She also served 5 years on the Lafourche Parish Library Board of Control in addition to being on the founding committee that established the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University.

The Peltiers lost four of their seven children to congenital obstructive hydrocephalus, a rare condition where fluid builds up in the brain's cavities, causing an enlarged head as the bone expands to accommodate the build up of fluid. James Robert, Jr, Benita Ann, Annette Marie, and Adrienne Elizabeth Peltier all lost their lives within a fourteen-year span.

Asked how difficult it was for Peltier to write "Sometimes God Says No," Peltier said she found it "draining, but a catharsis. I've gotten a lot of peace from writing it."

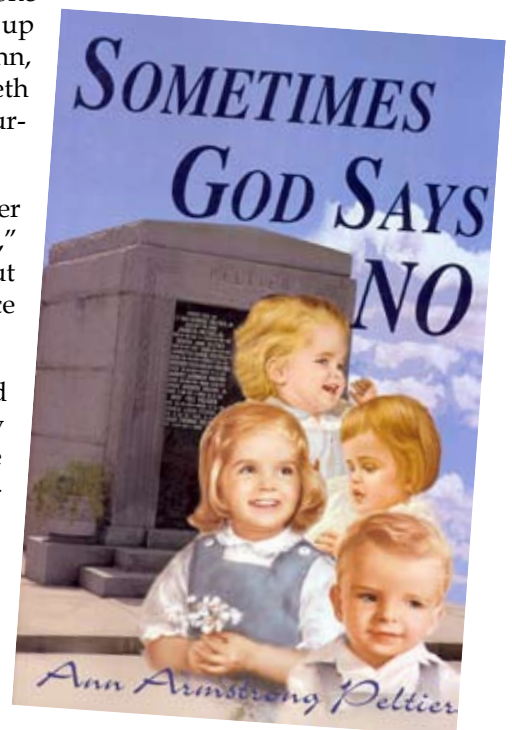
For the Peltiers, they actually found happiness during their ordeals. "They all had great personalities. They were happy and bright children," said Peltier. "They were a joy and each one of them enriched our lives."

Although the title of the book is "Sometimes God Says No," Peltier relates, through her book, that in the end God did indeed say, "Yes."

## State Library Board Commissioner Authors Book

**F**our beautiful children. What can it mean to lose four beautiful children?

For Ann Armstrong Peltier, it meant the discovery of being able to experience an intense love, a deepening faith and a wish to help others who have endured horrific tragedies. In







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## Gumbo Project *continued*

cluded. Because Louisiana has long had historic ties to the military, the collection includes the 1940 Maneuvers as well as various military facilities. The recreational aspects of "The Sportsman's Paradise" are emphasized with images of hunting, fishing, and camping.

So sit down, pull up a computer, and take a look through the LA Gumbo Project. You never know what in-

teresting images might pop up. Try these two links:

<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/LHP/Pages/home.php>

<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/LWP/Pages/home.php>

