



## More Gulf Coast Libraries Reopen

Louisiana has enjoyed the reopening of four library facilities in recent months. The funding comes from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of the Gulf Coast Libraries Project.

The Cameron Parish Library System dedicated a new 40 foot long book/tech mobile. The new traveling library is located at Johnson Bayou, where it serves as the local branch until a new library is built. It replaces an older donated bookmobile, which was moved to Creole, providing service to that community for the first time since Hurricane Rita.

State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton spoke at the dedication, praising the library staff and local officials for their hard work in providing library services to the citizens of the parish.

The people of St. Bernard celebrated the reopening of their public library on February 7. They had been without a library since Katrina wiped out every library facility in the parish.

The Joseph & Arlene Meraux Charitable Foundation also contributed to the effort by donating the use of land.

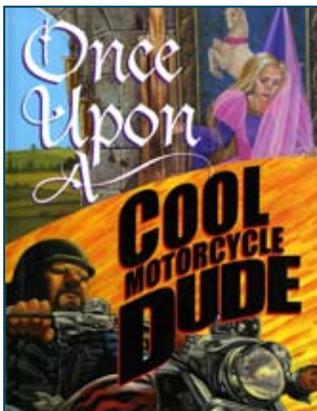
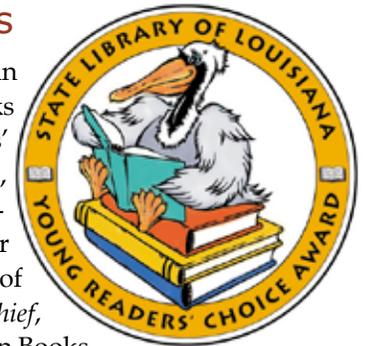
The communities served by the Jefferson Parish Library were the benefactors of two new fully-functioning temporary libraries. On Tuesday, February 26, the community celebrated the grand reopening of temporary facilities in Gretna and the Lakeshore area.

*Continued on page 4*

## SLOL Announces 2008 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Awards

### Students Choose Their Favorites

More than 20,000 students across the state in grades 3-5 and 6-8 have chosen two books as winners of the 2008 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award. *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*, written and illustrated by Keven O'Malley and illustrated by Carol Heyer and Scott Goto (Walker Publishing Company, 2005) was the top choice of third, fourth and fifth graders. *The Lightning Thief*, written by Rick Riordan (Miramax Books, Hyperion Books for Children, 2005), received the most votes from youngsters in grades 6, 7 and 8.

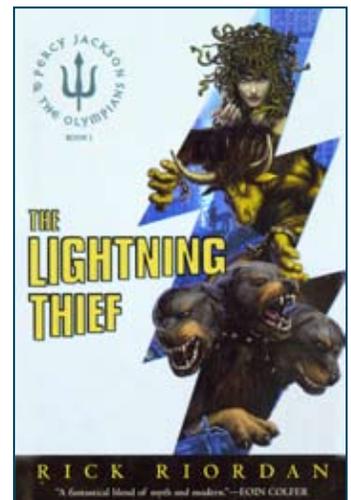


The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award, now in its ninth year, is a reading enrichment program of the State Library of Louisiana underwritten by Capitol One. It is a model collaborative reading program involving students, teachers and public librarians in all regions of the state. Students in grades three through eight are encouraged to read the high-quality books that are on carefully selected ballots: one for grades 3-5 and another for grades 6-8. Using specially prepared study guides, teachers incorporate

the books into the curriculum. Voting day is an exciting time in many schools and libraries throughout Louisiana as the students cast their votes, sometimes using the voting booths supplied by the Secretary of State's Election Division.

"This program clearly illustrates the value of partnerships between state government and private business by leveraging resources to reach youngsters throughout the state," said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu. Landrieu oversees the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which includes the State Library. "The goal is to pre-

*Continued on page 4*





# Viewpoint

We have learned over the last several years how critical it is to reinforce our value as a profession with hard data. This data helps us demonstrate our worth to lawmakers, stakeholders and potential allies or detractors in the field. It helps us further prove our value beyond what we do every day with programs and services that enhance the lives of our patrons in immeasurable ways.

Libraries today are much like businesses with large budgets that need to be invested and managed like any other business...and as public servants we are all accountable to the taxpayers.

That is why it is so important to carefully gather and report your annual statistics. These statistics, which are due April 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, go a long way in proving our worth in a variety of venues. I use them when speaking to lawmakers as a way to help them clearly understand the impact libraries have on the lives of our people. You can use them when speaking to local officials as well.

Did you know that in 2006, over 2.5 million Louisianans were registered public library users, representing almost 60% of the state's entire population? They borrowed over 17.4 million items during that year.

Louisianans visited their public libraries 13.3 million times last year, which is equivalent to filling the Superdome 190 times, or Tiger Stadium 145 times.

Additionally, 4.3 million patrons used the Internet at our public libraries. If all of these patrons used

the Internet at their local coffee shop, the total cost would be \$43 million to them. If Louisiana's public library patrons had to buy the books they borrowed from their public libraries, they would have spent a total of \$356,609,780.

And, in 2006, Louisiana public libraries supplied over 96,000 items to each other via interlibrary loan. That number is larger than half of the library collections in our state.

Libraries today are more than mere collections of books. Libraries are vital to the citizens of the state, promoting reading to children, providing computer access and training to those who can't afford a computer, helping people find a job or start a business, providing a place for groups to meet and programs for people to attend. And finally libraries provide a place of refuge after a natural disaster.

Our statistics prove our relevance in today's society and among agencies that compete for our dollars. Libraries are powerful tools for success and we cannot short change ourselves by not measuring in every way we can, the impact that we have. I have said it a thousand times and I believe it completely--libraries do indeed change lives.



State Librarian

## Digital Download Pilot for the Blind Expanded

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, began a project that allowed a select group of patrons to beta test a digital book downloading web site. This digital download project required patrons to evaluate each download by responding to a set of questions before being allowed to proceed with additional book selections. This initial phase of the download pilot project was so successful that NLS recently relaxed the enrollment requirements. Additional patrons are now allowed to enroll in the digital download project.

In order to qualify to be a part of this project, patrons must:

- » Be active readers in good standing with Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) at the State Library of Louisiana.
- » Have access to a commercially available digital player that is compatible with NLS materials. (Do not buy a reader without first consulting with SBPH.)
- » Have an email address.
- » Have access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Applicants must fill out an online application at [www.nlstalking-books.org/dtb](http://www.nlstalking-books.org/dtb)

Once NLS confirms eligibility, patrons may set up a user name and a password and learn how to download digital books. There are more than 7,000 books and a number of magazines available from the download web site. Children's books and some Spanish language materials are included in this digital collection.

For more information, contact Margaret Harrison at the Section for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, State Library of Louisiana, 225-342-4942 or email [sbph@state.lib.la.us](mailto:sbph@state.lib.la.us).



# People & Places

## At the State Library

**Danny Gillane**, former State Library Library Consultant, is now working for the Lafayette Public Library.

**Conner Fugler** joined the State Library in the Circulation department. She is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University.

## Around the State

Congratulations to **James Davis**, Information Specialist for the Jefferson Parish Library, was named the 2007 Departmental Employee of the Year. In his more than seven years of service to the library, he has performed "beyond the Call of Duty" to improve service, quality and the library's image.

**Beth Vandersteen** is the new director at West Baton Rouge. Vandersteen came from Rapides Parish Library.

**Dr. Teri Maggio** is the new director of the Assumption Parish Library and has been at the helm since December 3, 2007. Dr. Maggio is a native of Shreveport but has just returned to the state from southwest Georgia.

**Susanna LeBouef** has been named the Director of Lafourche Parish Library. A native of South Louisiana, LeBouef graduated with a Master of Library Science degree from Louisiana State University.

**Deborah B. Troxclair** has been appointed as Assistant Director of the Jefferson Parish Library. Ms. Troxclair has been an employee of the Jefferson Parish Library since 1977.

## Pratt-Smoot Day

**P**ratt-Smoot Day, March 3, is the date which established libraries for those who are blind or physically handicapped. In 1931, identical bills submitted by Representative Ruth Pratt and Senator Reed Smoot established that the Librarian of Congress was authorized to arrange other libraries to circulate materials for blind adults. Over the years the program expanded to include children and those who are physically handicapped, ultimately becoming the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

## Union Parish Celebrated Black History Month

**U**nion Parish Library hosted a month long series of activities to emphasize Black History Month. One activity included representatives from the community who spoke on the lives of African Americans.



Union Parish Library also hosted "Breakfast and a Book" with Harriet Tubman. Local patron Antoinette Curry, dressed in period costume, shared stories and adventures of the heroic life of Harriet Tubman with area children.



Shown are Farmerville Mayor Willie Davis (left) and Robert Simmons who spoke to the community on the topic from Civil War to Civil Rights. Mayor Davis presented information on the Buffalo Soldiers brigades. Robert Simmons portrayed Martin Luther King and presented the entire "I have a dream" speech. The Buffalo Soldier exhibit was provided on loan from the North Louisiana Military Museum.

Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the State Library is part of this nation wide network serving patrons with special needs. If your library would like free promotional materials, applications or a guest speaker highlighting this service, please contact Margaret Harrison, Coordinator of Special Services, at (225) 342-4942.

**Save the Date!**

Thursday, May 22, 2008

**Spring Administrative Librarians Conference**

West Baton Rouge  
Conference Center  
Port Allen

We will be sending details on the conference soon.



## Boston Group Shirim Performs at Calcasieu

Calcasieu Parish Public Library, in partnership with the McNeese State University Banners Series, presented the sextet Shirim to a packed audience at Central Library on February 14. The group collaborated with master storyteller and illustrator Maurice Sendak, best known for his children's classic, "Where the Wild Things Are," to produce "Pincus and the Pig." Brenda Bachrack narrated the musical storytime for families. Shirim specializes in the old songs of Eastern Europe called "klezmer," the contraction of two Hebrew words meaning "instrument of song." The Boston based group is featured on Woody Allen's film "Deconstructing Harry."

## 2008 LYRCA (continued)

pare every student in Louisiana for success through education and literacy, and to instill in them a lifelong love of reading," Landrieu said.

A committee of school and public librarians chooses the 15 recent children's titles for each age group that comprise the annual LYRCA ballots. The lists offer a well-balanced array of excellent, enjoyable books in various genres, including fiction, nonfiction, folklore and poetry.

"Studies indicate that children who read for pleasure are more likely to excel at reading and succeed in school," noted state librarian Rebecca Hamilton. "Teachers, librarians and parents recognize that the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award program is an excellent way to encourage students to read by enabling them to participate in selecting the winning book."

Information about the program is available on the State Library web-

site at [www.state.lib.la.us](http://www.state.lib.la.us) by clicking on Center for the Book, then on Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award. The list of nominees for 2008 is now available on the State Library's website.

Previous winners of the award are *Gator Gumbo* by Candace Fleming (2007 Grades 3-5); *So B. It: A Novel* by Sarah Weeks (2007 Grades 6-8); *Alligator Sue* by Sharon Arms Doucet (2006 Grades 3-5); *Skeleton Key* by Anthony Horowitz (2006 Grades 6-8); *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* by Mark Teague (2005. Grades 3-5); *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman (2005 Grades 6-8); *Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood*, by Mike Artell (2004); *My Dog, My Hero*, by Betsy Byars, Laurie Myers and Betsy Duffey (2003); *Weslandia*, by Paul Fleischman (2002); *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling (2001); and *Verdi*, by Janell Cannon (2000).

## Calcasieu Parish Awarded Planning Grant

The Calcasieu Parish Public Library has been awarded a grant to develop a new strategic plan of service that will enable the library to maintain its commitment to quality service for parish residents through the next decade and beyond.

The \$84,000 planning grant is part of the Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery Project, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation designed to assist public libraries in Louisiana and Mississippi impacted by the hurricanes of 2005. In the next six months, these funds will result in a Master Plan for Calcasieu Parish library services that defines the service priorities and program goals, an organizational review, a facility improvements schedule, and a comprehensive financial plan for the future operating and capital improvement needs.

## Libraries Reopen (continued)

The Gretna Library is located in Jefferson Parish's historical parish seat. It has been in its present location in picturesque Garden Park since 1968.

The original state-of-the-art Lakeshore library was designed with the lake in mind. The art hangings designed by Douglas MacCash were one of the outstanding features of this branch.

The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) administers the grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant and works with the local library and the manufacturer to make sure the new library facilities provide the best service possible.



## Public Libraries Receive IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf

The Institute of Museum and Library Services recently announced that 851 museums, libraries, and archives, representing every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have been selected to receive the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf. The contents of the bookshelf were selected by a blue ribbon panel of conservation experts; it includes an essential set of books, online resources, and a user's guide that can profoundly impact the ability of small libraries and museums to care for their collections.

Bossier Parish Library History Center, Vermilion Parish Library, and Vernon Parish Library all gave the State of Louisiana cause for great pride in being chosen among this very select group.

State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton expressed her pleasure at having three of the state's public libraries earn the Bookshelf. "I've spoken many times about our state's rich literary heritage," said Hamilton. "In addition to our culture, thoughts and ideas, this literary heritage is also held in a very tangible form through our historical books, artwork, letters and manuscripts. Bossier, Vermilion and Vernon Parish Libraries will be able to use the Bookshelf to help keep their collections in trust for the next generations."

The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for living collections. It addresses topics including the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

Staff at the Bossier Parish Library History Center plan to use the Bookshelf to care for the Center's nearly 12,000 item collection of manuscripts, photographs, microfilm and various historical objects. Pamela Carter, Assistant Director of Public Outreach is grateful to IMLS. "The Bookshelf is a great idea. I'm looking forward to seeing what else they'll come up with in terms of helping public libraries care for our collections," said Carter.

Vermilion Parish Library staff also plan to use the grant to preserve items in their collection. "We are delighted to receive this award and look forward to putting it to work to best serve the needs of our patrons," said Jackie Choate, library director.

To see the full list of recipients, go to [http://www.ims.gov/news/2008/021908\\_list.shtm](http://www.ims.gov/news/2008/021908_list.shtm).

Bayouland Library System held its annual I Love Technology conference on Valentine's Day for a crowd of tech-lovers, all gathered to see the latest bells and whistles being developed around the state. As always, the room was full of eager believers and they were treated to a day of information, fun and red and pink goodies.

In addition to Paul Ardoin, Jackie Choate, Sona Dombourian, Tracy Guyan, Ted Landry, Josh LeBlanc, Adam Melancon, Trudy Patterson and Lori Smith, two State Library staff members participated in the program. Judy Smith and Bryan Babin were presenters at the February 14 Bayouland Library System's I Love Technology workshop.

Smith, head of the Louisiana Collection, spoke about the use of technology in searching the database for the

## SLOL Staffers Present at Workshop Bayouland — I Love Technology

IMLS grant project *Louisiana Gumbo: A Recipe For Empowerment*. She said, "The Louisiana Digital Library contains 83,000 items, yet it would be virtually impossible to locate an item or group of items without using the searchable database." Smith discussed and emphasized the ins and outs of the selection of materials as well as tips for searching the database. You can access the project at: <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.com/>.

Babin, the State Library's head of IT, presented "The Joy of Computing", based on the *MaintainIT* project. This three-year project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helps public libraries identify best practices of technical support for public computers. *MaintainIT* is a project of

TechSoup, a nonprofit with extensive experience helping other nonprofits use technology effectively.

The State Library has placed a link on both our web site and the public library extranet so that anyone may download *MaintainIT* project Cookbooks. The first Cookbook is "Small and Rural Library" to help libraries learn about locking down public computers using a handy maintenance checklist. The second, "Recipes for a 5-Star Library", will help libraries learn about wireless, print and time management, and laptop checkout programs. Both are excellent references for dealing with the many issues that arise in providing public access computing at our public libraries.



## State Library Honors Longtime Employees

On Tuesday, January 15, 2007, the State Library held its annual service award ceremony. Twenty four employees were recognized for their years of commitment and service to the State Library. Together, these twenty four employees have offered more than 310 years of service.

## Soar to Excellence With Informative Teleconferences

The State Library of Louisiana is providing a series of teleconferences for library staff across the state. The "Soaring to Excellence" program presented by the College of DuPage is a wonderful opportunity to learn new and innovative ways of providing library services to your patrons. The most recent live teleconference was held on February 8, 2008 featuring the program, "People Watching with a Purpose: Meeting Needs Before They Need It."

In this program, the two speakers concentrated on what they called "Community Informatics" meaning how information and technology can help communities. The focus is active communication within your community instead of staying solely within the confines of your library. According to speaker Ann Bishop, library professionals should work with communities to create community networks, community tech centers, libraries, archives, youth

development services, and software applications. Real-life examples of how libraries have put these ideas into practice can be found at: the PrairieNet Community Network ([www.prairienet.org](http://www.prairienet.org)), Books to Prisoners ([www.books2prisoners.org](http://www.books2prisoners.org)), the BT Washington After School Program <http://ilabs.inquiry.uiuc.edu/ilab/btwalp>, and Service Learning at [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org).

An interesting example shown in the webinar was a well-prepared librarian presenting a program on early literacy for parents. However, she scheduled the program during the day and nobody came. If she had looked at the community, she might have thought to include the children along with the parents so parents would not have had to provide childcare to go to the program. The speakers went on to explain how we, as librarians, often plan programs from our perspectives rather than the users'.

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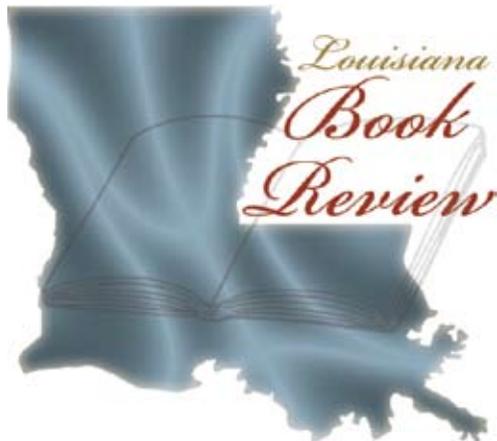
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The State Library of Louisiana is one of our state's greatest resources for research information, government documents, genealogical data, books in Braille, audiobooks and more.

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.

Be sure not to miss the next workshops! They provide an excellent opportunity to learn about what will impact our libraries and our users. Upcoming programs include "Library Space: Future Needs" on March 7, 2008 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and "Trends, Fads, or Folly's: Spotting the Library Trends That Really Matter" on April 8, 2008 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. For more information about these workshops contact Riley Bordelon at the State Library: [rbordelo@state.lib.la.us](mailto:rbordelo@state.lib.la.us)



## Historic Photos of New Orleans

Melissa Lee Smith

Turner Publishing Company

November 2007

ISBN: 1-59652-407-7

Pages: 204

Price: \$39.95

**H**istoric Photos of New Orleans captures the history of New Orleans in impressive black and white photography that should not be missed. This is a most timely selection given us by Melissa Lee Smith, a historian and archivist knowledgeable about New Orleans. Gleaned from local and national archives, the images span 200 years of New Orleans history.

*Historic Photos of New Orleans* offers readers a visual feast of black and white imagery of people, places and events that helped to shape the history of New Orleans. Since Hurricane Katrina affected many of New Orleans' residents and historical structures, Melissa Smith's images call to mind another, less hurried time. This resource helps to keep the city's history alive. From the French Quarter, Mardi Gras, Plantations, floods, war, poverty, hurricanes and fires to mansions, society, horse racing, steamboats, streetcars, cityscapes, families and more, the images are New Orleans.

Rich imagery is not the only attractive feature of this resource. Each of the book's four chapters begins with an interesting historical narrative. Chapters are divided into *Dawn of A New Era: Recovery From the Post War Period (1870-1899)*, *A City At A Crossroads (1900-1910)*, *The Great War, The Jazz Age and the Depression (1911-1939)* and *World War II and Post-War Changes (1940-1969)*. Each photograph has accompanying historical narrative that further enriches the image. There is no index, which would have been a nice feature. There is a *Notes on the Photographs* section if readers are interested in which archives the images came from.

*Historic Photos of New Orleans* by Melissa Smith will make a nice addition to a library's collection on historic photography, New Orleans and Louisiana, as well as enhance a private collection.

*Charlene Bonnette is a Reference Librarian in the Louisiana Section of the State Library of Louisiana*

## State Librarian Speaks at Junior League of Baton Rouge

**I**n February, State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton addressed the membership of the Junior League of Baton Rouge, giving the group a wrap up of the 2007 Louisiana Book Festival. The JLBR has been a strong volunteer force for the LBF during the last two years, graciously agreeing to handle the Young Readers Pavilion from set up and monitoring to clean up.

Hamilton told the group that the festival broke all attendance records, with a 131% increase from the 2002 LBF debut year. Nearly 16,000 people attended the 2007 LBF. Perhaps the best news is that a post festival report compiled by LSU's Public Policy Research Lab showed that 96% of those polled will return next year, indicating how well-received the LBF was.

## Spring Gala/Author Book Signing

The Friends of the Clinton Branch of the Audubon Regional Library will host a spring gala/author book signing on Saturday, April 5 from 4-6 pm at the Wildflower Inn. Tickets are \$15 for one or \$25 for two. Proceeds go to the Clinton Library Building Fund.

Director Mary Lindsey will be delighted to give any interested librarian a tour of the current library on Lawyers Row.



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## Trustee Workshops Coming to a Venue Near You

In response to your requests, the State Library is presenting a series of workshops geared to library management that will be presented in numerous locations throughout the state. Please mark your calendars for the Trustee Workshops coming this spring.

Diane Brown, Deputy State Librarian at the State Library of Louisiana will

present 11 workshops on Strategic Planning. Ms. Brown is a seasoned librarian with 13 years of training experience.

Participants will review the process and elements of strategic planning, identify steps in effective project management, use various tools for prioritization and examine the use of outsourcing vendors and consultants. This series of

workshops is geared towards library trustees, directors and administrators.

The workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the cost of registration. Registration forms will be mailed.

If you have questions, please contact Jerome Cummings at 225-342-4931 or [jcummings@crt.state.la.us](mailto:jcumings@crt.state.la.us).

**Monday, April 21, 2008**  
State Library of Louisiana  
Baton Rouge

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008**  
Hamilton/  
South Caddo Branch  
Shreveport

**Thursday, April 24, 2008**  
Richland Parish Main Library  
Rayville

**Friday, April 25, 2008**  
Concordia Parish Library  
Vidalia Branch

**Monday, April 28, 2008**  
Calcasieu Parish Main Library  
Lake Charles

**Wednesday, April 30, 2008**  
St. Tammany Parish  
Main Library  
Covington

**Thursday, May 1, 2008**  
St. John Parish Main Library  
LaPlace

**Friday May 2, 2008**  
Terrebonne Parish Main  
Library  
Houma

**Monday, May 5, 2008**  
Lincoln Parish Library  
Ruston

**Tuesday, May 6, 2008**  
Arts Council of  
Central Louisiana  
Rapides Foundation Building  
1101 4th Street  
Alexandria, LA 71301

**Wednesday, May 7, 2008**  
Lafayette Public Main Library  
Lafayette