



Communiqué

A newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana

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LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

The Seventh Chapter of the Louisiana Book Festival Was Epic

The 2009 Louisiana Book Festival has closed its covers for this year, but not without having provided a fine time and grand adventure to festival goers, authors and everyone else fortunate enough to have been there on a gorgeous mid-October Saturday in downtown Baton Rouge.

"I had a blast yesterday and loved every minute of the festival," said panelist Cheré Coen, author, journalist and teacher. "Louisiana is a better place because of the annual Louisiana Book Festival. I heard nothing but great comments from everyone," said Coen.

More than 23,000 attendees; 200 plus authors and panelists; and nearly 500 other participants flooded the Capitol Park area on October 17. The free event was presented under the auspices of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana and is the premier event of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton is proud of the growth of the festival, not only in terms of how many people came out and enjoyed the day, but especially in the quality of the programming. "Traditionally, the Louisiana Book Festival has enjoyed a fine stable of authors and panelists," she said. "Each year, that reputation permits us to bring in even more of these distinguished and talented authors. As a result, today the Louisiana Book Festival is now recognized as one of the preeminent book festivals in the South as well as throughout the nation," said Hamilton.

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu's office oversees the State Library of Louisiana and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. "I see the Louisiana Book Festival as an opportunity to lend broad support to the goals of DCRT. This festival helps us to build Louisiana's cultural economy. By leveraging our unique literary culture, we are able to diversify Louisiana's economy – and that's exactly what the Louisiana Book Festival allows us to do," said Landrieu.



To kick off the festival, a special ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber where State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton and DCRT Secretary Pam Breau honored Louisiana author Tim Gautreaux as the recipient of the 2009 Louisiana Writer Award.

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SLOL Hosts 2009 Fall Administrative Librarians Conference

The State Library of Louisiana is hosting the 2009 Fall Administrative Librarians Conference November 5 - 6 at the Baton Rouge Marriott.

This year's program will focus on a variety of topics. Karen Patterson, State Demographer for Louisiana, will present information on the 2010 Census and other population related topics. Dr. Thomas Karam will present a talk on "Effective Interpersonal Communication." Barbara Burton, owner of Capitol Inclusion and a member of the LATAN Advisory Council, will speak on "Disability and Sensitivity Awareness." Dainna

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50 LYRC Book Set Grants

The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice program, a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana, is off to a great start this year. Thanks to a generous donation from Capital One bank, the State Library provided 50 complete sets of LYRC books to 15 parish library systems: 25 sets of the 3-5th grade titles and 25 sets of the 6-8th grade titles.

The public libraries that received the book sets submitted grant applications stating their intended strategies to partner with local schools to promote LYRC and literacy. Grant requests were

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VIEWPOINT

From its very inception, the State Library has always exercised a strong commitment to providing the best advice and training to everyone who works with the state's public libraries. As you know, many public libraries are facing a crisis in staffing, both in administration and in their support staff. Louisiana's population has dropped in the past several years, with many graduates leaving the state, and the baby boomer generation is retiring in record numbers, leaving public libraries in a position of having to operate, in some cases, without trained professional librarians. Several years ago, we began to think of ways to address this issue.

This past year, the State Library requested to be a pilot site for the American Library Association's Library Support Staff Certification Program. I am happy to report that the State Library was one of only five entities to be chosen to participate in this pilot program. In fact, I am proud to report that the State Library had yet another first: we were the first of the field test sites to have its course approved by the ALA-APA

We offered our first course, Supervision and Management, just last month, with 17 students from across the state enrolled. We plan to offer this course every year. This puts us on the fast track to ensure that more of Louisiana's public libraries will have a trained support staff to work in the state's public libraries,

who can offer citizens the best that librarianship has to offer.

In another area of training opportunities for library staff, we are continuing with our IMLS grant funded Executive Leadership Training for Louisiana Public Librarians. This training is helping our future leaders in public libraries prepare to be library administrators in the state of Louisiana.

I am personally traveling the state and meeting with library board members to provide a workshop for library trustees. With this training I reach new library board members and existing board members with a half a day course on how to be a good library board member. My consultants and I continue to meet with new library directors as they come on board to provide a library director orientation.

We still go each semester to the LSU School of Library and Information Science to meet with each graduating student receiving their Master's Degree. We promote public libraries to the students, and encourage them to consider a job in a public library upon graduation. We also assist graduates in securing positions and promotions within the library world.

I detailed all of this for you to see the unique comprehensive training that we are providing. This enables us to grow our own library leaders and deal with the fact that it is getting harder to find good library staff. All together, these programs give us the opportunity to meet with and train appropriately each individual connected to libraries

in Louisiana from the bottom up. They help us ensure that the people responsible for library service throughout the state at least have the appropriate training to do a good job. This is unprecedented for a state library agency to do this range of training that touches all involved in public libraries literally from students to governing boards. It is also the first ever time at the State Library that all of this across the board training is happening all at once and has been incorporated into our Continuing Education Program.

We have the potential to touch every generation of librarian in Louisiana. We know and respect that this is a tremendous responsibility – a responsibility to which I am committed to fulfilling now and in the future. As we go into the year 2010, we continue to face many obstacles, and we will have to fight hard to prove our worth, but I will always fight my hardest to maintain our high level of service. I am confident that we will meet the challenges head on, that we can and are anticipating potential problems before they reach critical levels, and that the future of Louisiana public libraries is a bright road that we will fight hard to travel successfully.



State Librarian



Lafourche Library Director Appointed

Lafourche Parish Public Library Director Susanna LeBouef was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. at its annual meeting on October 16.

LAMP is a cooperative effort to enhance performance in the investment of public funds. LAMP's Board of Directors

governs 619 participants with a combined \$2.2 billion investment.

LeBouef, with more than 40 years of experience as a librarian, became the director of Lafourche Parish Public Libraries in February 2008. She says of her appointment, "My experiences have always involved service through libraries.

To be appointed to this board will provide two opportunities for me: to bring my expertise from working with the citizens of our community helping them meet their needs and to be a spokesperson for libraries and its integral role in society. This is a great honor for me and for Louisiana's public libraries."

People & Places

Rachel Stewart has joined the staff of the State Library as an Administrative Coordinator 4 in the Library Development section. Rachel served for more than two years in Administration as a student worker. She earned her B.A. in History from Southern University Baton Rouge Campus last spring.

Kitty Courts is the newest member of the Iberia Parish Library Board of Control. Kitty replaces **Shereen Minvielle**, who moved from the parish and was no longer able to serve on the board.



The East Baton Rouge Parish Library announced the appointment of **Sarah Crawford**, formerly features writer for Monroe's daily newspaper, The News-Star, to the position of Head of Public Relations for the East Baton Rouge Parish Library. A native of Luling, Louisiana and a journalism graduate of Louisiana Tech University, Crawford replaced **Claire Delaune**.



Gary Hightower joined the Calcasieu Parish Public Library as Head of Human Resources. The Lake Charles native graduated from LSU with a BS in Personnel Administration and an MBA. Gary has more than 34 years of human resource experience

and is a lifetime certified Senior Professional in Human Resources, a Notary Public and has taught management classes for the College of Business Administration at McNeese State University.



Helen Waddell retired from the Washington Parish Library after more than 21 years of service. Library Director Joseph Sbisa said, "Mrs.

Helen has been a constant presence here in the Franklinton headquarters for so long that it's going to take a while to get used to not seeing her at her desk in the mornings. She will be very sorely missed."

Jeffrey Rippel, former director of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library, is leaving Lake Charles to become director of the University Park Public Library in the Park Cities-SMU area of north Dallas. Jeff was director in Calcasieu from 2002 thru 2008.



Jason Watson has been appointed to the St. Mary Parish Library Board of Control. He graduated with a B.S. in Accounting from LSU and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. Jason will complete the unexpired term of

Roger Busbice.

Remembrances

Sheritha White passed away on October 4, at the age of 48. She was a Reader Advisor in Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the State Library for many years. Sheritha was employed at the State Library for nearly 28 years. Sheritha leaves two sons, Chaz, age 13, and Sean, age 20, and a large extended family. She had many friends and she was admired by all for her positive attitude in the face of extended illness.

Terri Cottonham Barnes, long-time trustee for the Jackson Parish Library, passed away in September. She served as a library trustee for the Jackson Parish Library from 1988 to 2009. A dedicated and faithful board member, Terri was an avid supporter of the library throughout the parish.

James E. Abadie Sr., a founding member of the Ascension Parish Library, passed away in August. He served as chairman of the Library Board of Control from 1976 to 1985. He was recognized statewide in 1979 as the recipient of the Louisiana Library Association's Modisette Award for Library Trustees, given in recognition of outstanding service as a library trustee.

Wridley Fontenot passed away in September. He was a retired assistant director for the Allen Parish Library. He had a passion for genealogy.

Martha Ann Scott Henry passed away in September. She was assistant director of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. She was instrumental in creating the Genealogy Library at the North 18th branch, where she collected genealogy resources for research and assisted patrons.

Library Director Mary Cosper LeBoeuf wins James J. Buquet Jr. Award of Distinction

Terrebonne Parish Library Director Mary Cosper LeBoeuf was presented the James J. Buquet, Jr. Award of Distinction at the 10th Annual Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence Teacher Awards Gala on August 20. This award is presented to a graduate of the Terrebonne Parish School District who has vision and excellence in a chosen field or other areas of personal endeavors and has served unselfishly in the community, state or on the national level.

"This is a complete surprise and a complete honor," Cosper-LeBoeuf said. She noted that she is a strong believer in the work of the Terrebonne Foundation of Academic Excellence and believes that education and public libraries can work hand-in-hand to better the lives of children by working with teachers and educators.



Union Parish Honors First Residents

During National Archaeology Month and Native American Heritage Month, the Union Parish Library is stepping back in time to honor Union Parish's first residents.

It is believed that thousands of years ago, Native Americans lived and made homes and villages in what is now Union Parish. Evidence of these early settlers is found in several mounds located throughout the parish and through his-

torical studies of the migration patterns of Native Americans through the South and Louisiana.

An exhibit about the prehistoric Poverty Point Indian culture is now on display at the Union Parish Library. Poverty Point, one of Louisiana's most spectacular and interesting prehistoric Indian cultures, flourished between 2000 and 700 B.C. The governmental and trading center was at the Poverty Point site, located in West Carroll Parish. The exhibit explains this prehistoric way of life through artifacts, photographs, maps and illustrations.

In addition to the Poverty Point exhibit, local residents have provided items on loan from private collections, many of which were found in Union Parish.

Stephanie Herrmann, library director, comments, "We are pleased to host this exhibit because it tells a story about the lives of the Native Americans and specifically how it relates to our parish. Union Parish was and is rich in the flora and fauna that would have been an abundant resource for Native Americans."



Calcasieu Parish Public Library Sees Budget Increase, Increases Efficiency

At a time when libraries across the country are cutting back purchasing, reducing hours and laying off staff due to budget cuts caused by the recession, the Calcasieu Parish Public Library received news from the Parish Assessor that the library will see a 6% increase for the 2010 fiscal year. The boost is due to a rise in new construction and several large companies coming onto the tax payroll at the expiration of their ten year tax exempt status as "new" companies. The 2010 fiscal year CPPL annual budget is now \$7.6 million.

Libraries hours have also been standardized throughout the parish. The previous hours had seven different openings and closings for 14 branches and were confusing to the library users. Now there are two different opening and three different closing times. The established hours for the branches were determined by the size of each branch. In doing this, the library system added the number of weekly hours it is opened. Prior to the change, the library system was open 569.5 hours weekly. With the new hours, the library system will be opened 590 hours weekly, an increase of 20.5 hours per week.

Finally, effective January 1, 2010, two part-time branches, Hayes Library and Bell City Library, have been merged into one full-time branch. Both libraries were established within six days of each other in 1944 and are two miles apart. Currently, they provide service to 2,763 residents in the eight mile service area and it was felt the time was right to merge the two branches to provide high quality service to the library users in the area and end the duplicating of services. Hayes Library will be the full time branch.

James O. Modisette Award to Public Library Trustee - Call for Nominations

The James O. Modisette Award for Public Library Trustees Committee invites nominations for the award to be presented, if merited, at the 2010 LLA Conference. Consideration is given to public library trustees who have demonstrated distinguished service to a public library/system in some of (but not limited to) these ways:

- a. Exercising the normal duties of a board member in so exemplary a manner as to serve as a paragon of library trusteeship
- b. Acting courageously to preserve a library system from would-be censors, unjust critics or other hostile forces
- c. Establishing library support organizations
- d. Spearheading a successful building campaign resulting in beautiful new facilities
- e. Spearheading the consolidation of a small, under funded local library system into a larger, more prosperous parish wide system to the advantage of both
- f. Spearheading a major public relations campaign to successfully promote the library or its services
- g. Maintaining an extraordinarily positive high profile or presence in the community which benefits the library system in some specific way
- h. Giving significant financial, property or real estate contributions to a library system
- i. Establishing an endowment for scholarship funds for the education of library personnel

Nominations shall be made in the form of a letter or portfolio of letters to the awards committee, including an outline of the nominee's contributions to a public library/system and a list or résumé of all special accomplishments credited to the nominee. The nomination should be submitted to the chair of the committee. The deadline for nominations is 1 December 2009.

Please send nominations to Committee Chair Lee Verret: (email transmittal preferred)

Email: lee@leeverret.com

Mail: PO Box 760, Carencro LA 70520

Fax: 337.456.6290

Modisette Award for Public Libraries

The Louisiana Library Association Modisette Award for Public Libraries is given biennially, if merited, in even numbered years. Considerations will be given to improvements in either the first two or second two years of the three-year period preceding the awarding year. [\[application form link\]](#)

- » Deadline is December 18, 2009 of the year prior to the award.
- » Purpose: is to reward and encourage the improvement of public library service.
- » Pre-requisites: Must be an operating Louisiana public library; the public library director must be a current member of LLA and either the library must be a current institutional member of LLA or the trustees must be current members of LLA; applications for the award may originate with librarians, trustees, or interested citizens; must submit the application in its entirety in four complete packets to the chairperson; only one scrapbook is required.
- » Evaluation criteria: statement of improvement wherein the applicant states the areas of improvement to justify the award. Statement not to exceed two pages, 8 ½" by 11", typed, one side only; completion of the application questionnaire and the appropriate documentation; clear documentation of the level of effort in striving for the Standards for Public Libraries of Louisiana.

Mail package to committee chair at:

Mary Cospier LeBoeuf
Terrebonne Parish Library
151 Library Drive
Houma, LA 70360

2009 Fall Administrative Librarians Conference *(continued)*

Tully, Administrative Director for the Parochial Retirement System, will give both an overview and recent updates. Monica Ford, an investigator for the Attorney General's office, will present information on "Cyber Safety and Trends." Library Directors Randy DeSoto and Mary LeBouef will give an update on the new public library standards. Finally, Dr. Robert Ward, LSU SLIS, will present an update on the IMLS funded grant Project Recovery.

For more information, call Jerome Cummings at 225-342-4931.



Louisiana Book Festival *(continued)*

The rest of the day was packed with more book discussions by authors, editors and publishers filling both Chambers and all of the Hearing Rooms of the Capitol, spilling over into the State Library, State Museum and Capitol Park Welcome Center. Not to be left out, the streets were also crowded with exhibitors' tents, tables and pavilions. Barnes & Noble Booksellers and Barnes & Noble, Jr. did a booming business, where fans could purchase books of their favorite authors and have them autographed. While all this was going on, there was plenty of food, live music and even dancing in the streets.

"Every year, we try to come up with something unique and innovative to make each festival special and memorable," said Jim Davis, Director of the Center and the festival. "This year, in addition to programs celebrating special birthday anniversaries of Eudora Welty, Abraham Lincoln and Edgar Allan Poe, we included an enthusiastically received second line parade to honor the memory and spirit of children's author Coleen Salley, including her signature shopping cart with her effigy designed by William Joyce and book cart 'floats' created by

State Library Staff. And we commissioned a painting depicting the festival by folk artist Lorraine Gendron for this year's artwork, which also was a big hit. The festival numbers and the gratifying outpouring of participant comments since the festival are words we really like to read; they indicate that we had the most successful festival ever. Louisiana loves books and authors, and Louisianans love sharing their joy of reading with each other at an event like this."

The Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra presented an outdoor concert sponsored by the State Library of the Louisiana and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in front of the Louisiana State Capitol. Free and open to the public, "The Sound of Books," a program of music selections from films that originated as books, was a wonderful way to put to bed the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival.

Darrell Bourque, Louisiana Poet Laureate, perhaps said it best. "Each year the festival gets more exciting, reaches more people, and becomes more and more inclusive of the kinds of people and activities that are rich resources in the fields of art and culture in Louisiana," said Bourque.

The Louisiana Book Festival is co-sponsored by the Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu; Louisiana Center for the Book; the State Library of Louisiana; the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; and the Louisiana Library Foundation. It is funded through federal and state grants as well as sponsors such as the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

Information on the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival is available online at www.LouisianaBookFestival.org or (225) 219-9503.



Artwork by Lorraine Gendron

Calcasieu Parish Book Review Contest

Six Students Write Winning Entries

More than 200 teens entered book reviews in Calcasieu Parish Public Library's Book Review Contest. Teens from across the parish were asked to submit reviews of their favorite books, new or old. Held during the annual Teen Read Week, the contest is meant to encourage interest in reading among this age group.

The book reviews were judged in two categories, Middle School and High School, with three entries chosen from each category. High school winners are Ethel Jacko, Keaghan P. Kane and Jaden Sterling. Middle school winners are Drew Chatters, Zach Schwartzenburg and Hannah Pohorelsky.

Successful Renewal Tax Elections!

Congratulations to Catahoula Parish Library on their successful 8.28 mills tax renewal election, with 69.5% of the voters saying "yes".

Congratulations to Cameron Parish Library on their successful 6 mill renewal tax election, with 82.26% voting in favor of the library.

Congratulations also to Pointe Coupee Parish Library on their successful 4.03 mill renewal tax election, with 83% voting in favor of the library.

LSU SLIS Receives Grant for Recruitment and Education of Librarians

The LSU School of Library and Information Science was recently awarded a \$763,901 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to recruit and educate 30 new librarians for employment in southern Louisiana libraries that continue to experience staffing shortages due to damage caused to communities by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The grant is designed to be an active collaboration between the LSU School of Library and Information Science and its partner libraries and organizations. These include the State Library of Louisiana, the New Orleans Public Library, Calcasieu Parish Public Library, Terrebonne Parish Public Library, New Orleans Recovery School District, Algiers Charter School Association, Jefferson Parish School System and Southern University at New Orleans.

Students recruited under this initiative will receive IMLS-funded scholarships to earn master's degrees in librarianship focusing primarily on academic, public and school libraries. As part of their education and early-career development, the students will participate in projects identified by partner libraries affected by the storms and will benefit from mentoring and subsidized memberships in the Louisiana Library Association and national professional organizations.

The program includes a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including internships. The first group of students will begin their course of study in the spring 2010 semester, and the second group will be admitted in the fall 2010 semester. The grant extends from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

To learn more about "Project Recovery," contact Alma Dawson, project director, at 225-5781463 or e-mail projectrecovery@lsu.edu.



Louisiana Poet Laureate Dr. Darrell Bourque speaks to a group of about 80 people at West Baton Rouge Parish Library in October. His program was presented as a continuation of the library's "Celebrating Louisiana Writers" series. The Louisiana Center for the Book provided a grant to assist with the presentation.

LYRC Grants

(continued)

evaluated for feasibility, organization and potential effectiveness. The library systems that received the book sets are: Audubon Regional, Avoyelles, Bossier, Calcasieu, Cameron, Catahoula, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Livingston, New Orleans, Ouachita, St. James, Union and Vermillion.

Last year's participation in LYRC included more than 19,000 Louisiana students. The State Library is pleased to have been able to offer this opportunity to Louisiana's public libraries. It is our hope that this project will cultivate valuable relationships between public libraries and their local schools.

For complete details about LYRC, visit the State Library's website at www.state.lib.la.us.

CSLP 2010 Manual in 48 States, DC, DOD and 2 US Territories

The Collaborative Summer Library Program has become global. The CSLP 2010 manual is now being used by libraries in 48 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense and two US territories, including the Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

While the State Library has traditionally included Barksdale Air Force Base and Fork Polk in the Summer Reading Program, many states have not been able to do the same. With the Department of Defense joining CSLP, more American children than ever will be able to participate in the program.

The State Library has sent 2000 CSLP manuals to Louisiana's public libraries. The theme for the children's program is Make a Splash, Read. For the young adult program the theme is Make Waves at Your Library. The theme for the adult program is Water Your Mind, Read.

Supervision and Management Course State Library First of Field Test Sites to Have Course Approved by ALA-APA

Seventeen library staff members from around the state finished the supervision and management course offered by the State Library as part of the national program of certification for library support staff. The State Library was the first of the field test sites to have its course approved by the American Library Association – Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA).

The course included sessions on staffing and human resources topics, policies, planning, budgeting, ethics and interpersonal relationships. Participants met in all-day sessions at the State Library on September 9 and October 14, and also participated in 90 minute-long web-based seminars.

Passing the course meets the supervision and management competency area which is one of the electives of the ALA-APA Library Support Staff Certification Program. To complete the program and receive certification, participants must have a high school diploma, have worked in a public or academic library for at least one year, and demonstrate competency or complete approved course work in three mandatory areas and three elective areas (a total of six areas). The three mandatory areas are: Foundations of Library Services; Communication and Teamwork; and Technology. The elective areas are: Access Services; Cataloging and Classification; Collection Management; Reader's Advisory Services; Reference and Information Services; Supervision and Management; and Youth Services.

For more information, visit <http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp/index.html>.



Front row: Charlene Moore (SLOL), Patrisha Walker (Plaquemines Parish Library), Sandra Gilbert (Iberville Parish Library), Laura Stewart (Iberville Parish Library), Melissa Delihoue (Dillard University)

Next Row: Kitty Wood (Iberville Parish Library), Penny Graham (West Feliciana Parish Library), Carolyn Tauzin (SLOL)

Third row: Celise Reech-Harper (Beauregard Parish Library), Tonya Chelette (Grant Parish Library), Audrey Jo Devillier (Iberville Parish Library), Delia Sanders (Cameron Parish Library), Alice Duhon (Cameron Parish Library)

Back row: Michael Stanaland (Webster Parish Library), Eva Marie Fiffie (St. Charles Parish Library), Joyce LoCoco [partially obscured (St. Charles Parish), Audra Bartholomew (Bossier Parish)

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.



Course Instructors were (L to R) Michael Golrick, Library Consultant and Head of Reference; Diane Brown, Deputy State Librarian and Jerome Cummings, Deputy Associate State Librarian.



Jefferson Parish – Rich Heritage, Promising Future

Author: Paul E. Stahls, Jr.

Publisher: Historical Publishing Network

Publication Date: 2009

ISBN: 1-893619-97-4

Pages: 129

Resources on parish history are a favorite in parish library collections, especially among those patrons with ties to a particular parish. Overtime these books have contributed a treasure trove of information on Louisiana history and culture, a must have for those researching their family history and those wanting to know more about a certain parish. “Jefferson Parish – Rich heritage, Promising Future” is such a book. Commissioned by the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and authored by Paul F. Stahls, Jr., this resource considers Jefferson parish from its earliest times to future endeavors.

Jefferson parish was created in 1825 from a portion of Orleans parish and named for Thomas Jefferson. It is Louisiana’s largest and most populous parish. The parish “begins in the shallow waters of Lake Pontchartrain, wades ashore in Kenner and Metairie and stretches sixty miles south, across the Mississippi

River, through a borderland of bayou-laced swampland and then over miles of marsh and coastal bays to two barrier islands for some surf-casting in the Gulf of Mexico.” It is the intent of the author to study the story of the place, which includes the works of its people as well as its gifts of nature. Many hurricanes have reach Jefferson, devastating the people and the land, but as always, she rebuilds and creates herself anew. The parish continues to rebuild from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

While the book is large, glossy and attractive – a perfect coffee table book – there is excellent narrative about the parish, its history, people and industries. Town histories are included, as well as information on exploration and settlement, war-time, coming of age, lawmen, healthcare, education, pastimes, festival, sports, nature, state parks and preserves, museums, literature and

film, and industry and infrastructure of Jefferson parish and its environs. There are color and black and white images throughout, as well as some postal card images of Jefferson parish, which enhance the text and the Jefferson Parish experience. If you wonder where the index is, it is in the middle of the book, separating the main portion of the book from the section entitled “Sharing the Heritage – Historic profiles of businesses, organizations, and families that have contributed to the development and economic base of Jefferson Parish.” The resource, “Jefferson Parish – Rich heritage, Promising Future,” lives up to its name and will make a wonderful edition to any library’s collection of parish histories, or as a gift for a history aficionado.

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



Webster Opens Renovates Stewart Center

The Webster Parish Library announced the opening of the newly renovated Stewart Center. On August 30, the library hosted a public grand opening celebration and encouraged more than 200 visitors to tour the 7,100+ square foot facility. The facility has been updated with a new meeting room, complete with kitchenette area and casual reading areas. Visit www.webster.lib.la.us to see more photos of the facility and the event.

SLOL Staff Spread LA Pride at the National Book Festival

At the National Book Festival, held September 26 in Washington D.C., SLOL staff members Riley Bordelon and Jerome Cummings proudly represented Louisiana. That pride came from the fact that so many people were truly interested in and had great things to say about our state.

According to Jerome, "We had hundreds upon hundreds of people descend at the Louisiana booth under the Pavilion of States Tent where we gave away Mardi Gras beads, maps, brochures and answered so many questions on Louisiana food,

literature and various locales. We heard from many people who said they once lived in Louisiana and couldn't wait to get back."

In fact, after we read Riley's report, we realized that our readers might want to experience the obvious enthusiasm and deep pride in Louisiana that he felt during the national event. With that in mind, we invite you to read what we have entitled...

The Travel Journals of a Louisiana Librarian

The Friday before September 26, Jerome and I boarded a plane bound for our nation's capital. We were about to attend the National Book Festival held on the National Mall.

Organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress with Honorary Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, the NBF boasted the attendance of nearly 80 nationally renowned authors who all gave presentations on their works. Notable authors in attendance included John Irving, John Grisham, David Baldacci, George Pelecanos, Jodi Picoult, Jon Scieszka, Kate DiCamillo, Lois Lowry, Judy Blume, celebrity chef Paula Deen, James Patterson, Nicholas Sparks, Lee Child, Julia Alvarez, Junot Diaz, Annette Gordon-Reed, Ken Burns, Gwen Ifill and U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan.

On Friday evening shortly after our arrival, we attended the reception for the National Book Festival held in the National Botanic Garden. It is a mere stones throw from the Capitol. Following the opening presentation we were invited to roam the grounds of the garden. The garden itself is breathtaking, with rare and exquisite specimens from all over the world; highlights included orchids, bromeliads and several

carnivorous plants. The Jungle exhibit was definitely a favorite. The entire collection is housed in an enormous green house which is quite reminiscent of the Crystal Palace in the UK that burned to the ground in 1936.

Saturday morning we awoke early and walked to the mall and set to preparing our exhibit. The Louisiana table was housed in the Pavilion of the States. The Pavilion highlights reading and literacy promotion projects as well as the literary traditions of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

Shortly after setup we were beset with children clamoring for our state stamp. Each state and territory in the pavilion had a stamp or sticker to be placed on a collectable map that was distributed throughout the tent. This was such an immensely popular activity that we were quite lucky we had an extra Junior League volunteer to assist us in the booth. We were initially worried that we had brought too much in the way of pamphlets, maps and Mardi Gras beads to hand out to visitors at our booth, but the several huge boxes of Mardi Gras beads we brought



were quickly depleted and we ran out of these favors by 10:30 a.m. that morning. The enormous stacks of Louisiana Tourism Guides and State Park Guides were likewise quickly snatched up. At the end of the day we had distributed thousands of pieces of "Louisiana" and by 5:00 p.m. we had absolutely nothing left. It was time to get back on the plane and head back home to Louisiana.

~ Riley Bordelon