

# COMMUNIQUE

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## *Volunteers key to success of Louisiana Voices audiobook production program*

**T**hanks to an innovative, volunteer-driven program at the State Library, books and magazines for Louisiana audiences are now available on special-format audiotapes for adults and children who are unable to read or use standard print due to temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations.

Over the past three years, the Louisiana Voices audiobook production program has recorded nearly 100 titles: books by Louisiana authors as well as books and magazines about the state and its history. In contrast to audiobooks produced nationally, these specialized materials of local, regional and statewide interest are otherwise available only in print.

The list of completed recordings encompasses biographies (including prominent figures such as Huey Long, Earl K. Long and Jimmie Davis), mysteries, romances and children's literature. Another 20 projects are currently in the works, including titles on the 2004 Young Readers' Choice Award ballot and re-recordings of the entire Clovis Crawfish series.

The Louisiana Voices program is one component of the State Library's Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which provides free library services for over 7,000 residents who are blind, physically handicapped, visually impaired or who have a reading disability.

Louisiana Voices is recognized nationally for compliance with Library of Congress recording

standards and also "for having accomplished so much in such a short time," according to Christopher Mundy, quality assurance specialist with the National Library Service.

"They've taken an underused basement room and converted it to a fully functional—



*The Louisiana Voices recording studio in the basement of the State Library is both well-equipped and inviting.*

and inviting—recording studio, recruited a sizeable pool of talented volunteers, familiarized themselves with NLS production standards and, in the process, churned out dozens of talking books—all within their first three years of existence," says Mundy. "That's pretty remarkable."

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# Viewpoint

Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. Or, better stated, the end and the beginning. As Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco winds down her eight years in office, I reflect on the initiatives and accomplishments here at the State Library and in libraries statewide. The reinstatement of State Aid to Public Libraries, Lanter delivery, the State Library building renovation, the Louisiana Library Connection databases, interlibrary loan through Loan SHARK, and the Louisiana Book Festival all came about during her watch. She would be the last person to suggest that she is directly responsible for each of these, but it is certainly true that her support for libraries, and specifically the State Library, created a context in which these things could happen. So it is with sincere gratitude that I extend thanks for her leadership, her cooperation, and her trust.

The year 2004 will be a new beginning for her that will bring exceptional challenges and, I hope, extraordinary opportunity. There is so much to be done, especially in areas of interest to librarians and library supporters: early childhood literacy, improving technology and computer networks, recruitment of librarians, digitization, electronic document dissemination and preservation, and so much more. Our task as librarians, trustees and library supporters is to provide the administration a rational, thoughtful and systematic approach to the issues facing libraries. Working together, we can accomplish that task. Gov. Blanco will begin her term with an understanding of the value of libraries and reading, and a confidence in the people who manage them on behalf of Louisiana citizens. With her help, and the inspired new leadership of Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, the next four years will be exciting, productive and rewarding.



**Thomas F. Jaques**  
**State Librarian**

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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.*

# People & Places

**Kizzy Bynum** was hired as the new director of the **Madison Parish Library**.

**Clara Maynard** was named as manager of the new **Southside Branch** of the **Lafayette Public Library** in September. She previously worked in several positions in reference and adult services at the library.



**Vicki Nesting**, librarian at the **East Regional Branch** of the **St. Charles Parish Library**, is one of 10 young professionals selected by the Library Administration & Management Association

to participate in the national Leaders of the Pack mentor project. The three-year program gives each leader the chance to interact with a mentor, serve on a LAMA committee and attend ALA's mid-winter and annual conferences. It fosters development of people who demonstrate the potential to assume leadership roles in the library profession.



**Shreve Memorial Library** director **Jim Pelton** talks with past board president **T. Haller Jackson** during the library's 80th anniversary celebration Dec. 7 at the **Main Library** in downtown **Shreveport**. Parties were also held at the **Broadmoor Branch** and the **Hamilton/South Caddo Branch**.

The new **Vacherie Library**, a branch of the **St. James Parish Library**, was dedicated at a ceremony Oct. 22. Speakers and visitors alike noted the "light, airy feeling" of the new 8,400-square-foot building, constructed at a cost of \$1.7 million.

The **South St. Landry Community Library** in **Sunset** reopened in October. The facility underwent extensive repair work after it was hit by a tornado in December 2002 that flooded the library's collection.



## In Memoriam

**Frances Vivian Flanders**, a pioneer in Louisiana public library service, died in November. She was director of the Ouachita Parish Public Library from 1946 until she retired in 1973. One of the state's first certified librarians, she served as LLA president in 1950-51 and received the Essae M. Culver Distinguished Service Award in 1973.

**Robert Burdine Looper**, 81, died in November. He was a member of the Lafourche Parish Library Board and chair of the board's building committee. A prominent genealogist and family historian, he was editor of the quarterly journal *Les Memoirs de Bayou Lafourche*.

**Bessie C. Elliot**, retired Sabine Parish Library director, died in November.

**Minnie Lee Thompson Melancon**, 97, died in October. She had replaced her husband as a member of the Evangeline Parish Library Board and served on the board for a number of years.

**Alonzo Hodge**, Shreve Memorial Library board member, died recently.

**Bennie Hillman**, 76, longtime member of the Beauregard Parish Library Board, died in July.

**Leslye Ann Ward Quinn**, 66, a retired librarian who previously worked at the Calcasieu Parish Public Library and McNeese State University, died in July.

**Clarice Lambert Hoffman**, 90, died in December. She was a retired employee of the extension department of the State Library.





# JOB OPENINGS

## **Librarian**

### ***St. Tammany Parish Library***

Full-time, entry-level position. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; valid LA driver's license; management skills; strong computer skills; professional demeanor. May work at any branch, as branch manager, supervisor in absence of others. Train staff; answer reference questions; perform all library branch activities. Some weekend, evening work. Salary \$30,142 - \$39,328. Send resume to Janice Butler, Director, St. Tammany Parish Library, 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433.

## **Library Director**

### ***West Feliciana Public Library – St. Francisville***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS or current enrollment. Serve as director of single branch; provide strong leadership, management; develop and administer annual budget; work and communicate effectively with all stakeholders. Grant-writing knowledge, expertise a plus. Competitive salary, benefits. Send resume to Nancy Vinci, Interim Board Chairman, P.O. Box 3120, St. Francisville, LA 70775 (225/635-3707).

## **Reference Librarian**

### ***Lafayette Public Library***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS. Serve in reference area, focusing on reference info, tools; staff reference desk; assist patrons using library collection, online resources; participate in collection development. Salary \$28,454. Send resumes to Lafayette Consolidated Government, Civil Service, P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502; ([cboswell@lafayettegov.com](mailto:cboswell@lafayettegov.com); fax 337/291-8349).

## **Reference Librarian**

### ***Pointe Coupee Parish Library***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; familiarity with current reference practices and techniques, Internet searching; knowledge of print, electronic resources. Staff reference desk; assist patrons using library resources; participate in collection development; work on HTML, website materials. Salary \$30,000 plus benefits. Send resume, 3 reference letters to Melissa Hymel, Director, Pointe Coupee Parish Library, 201 Claiborne St., New Roads, LA 70760.

## **Librarian - Genealogy**

### ***Shreve Memorial Library – Broadmoor Branch***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; knowledge of professional library practices; ability to handle routine operations, long-range planning use application software; effective oral, written communication to groups, individuals. Knowledge of digital resource equipment a plus. Serve as working supervi-

sor of branch Genealogy Department; supervise support staff; assist patrons; plan, organize, teach genealogy computer classes; talk to genealogy groups. Salary \$2,374/month plus benefits. Send resume, 3 professional references to Jennie Paxton, Human Resources Coordinator, Shreve Memorial Library, P.O. Box 21523, Shreveport, LA 71120-1523; ([jpaxton@shreve-lib.org](mailto:jpaxton@shreve-lib.org); fax 318/226-4780).

## **Library Associate (Technical Services)**

### ***Bossier Parish Library***

Requires bachelor's degree; computer skills; familiarity with libraries, library use. Select, catalog materials. Handle periodical records, donations, weeding assessment, mending, processing, deletions, ordering, claims. Salary \$27,898. Send application to Lee Adams, Bossier Parish Library, 2206 Beckett St., Bossier City, LA 71111.

## **Librarian I & II (2 positions)**

### ***New Orleans Public Library***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS (I); plus 1 year subsequent full-time professional library experience (II); New Orleans residency upon hiring; substance abuse screening. Perform professional work in 1 of 13 library locations. Salary \$26,807 (I) or \$37,027 (II). Excellent benefits, paid annual, sick leave. Mail resume to Personnel, New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112. Call 504/596-2605 or email [cwells@gno.lib.la.us](mailto:cwells@gno.lib.la.us) for application.

## **Library Branch Manager I**

### ***New Orleans Public Library***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS (I); plus 2 years subsequent full-time professional library experience, including 1 year supervisory at urban public library; New Orleans residency after hiring; substance abuse screening. Perform professional work in major branch. Salary \$35,232. Excellent benefits with paid annual, sick leave. Mail resume to Personnel, New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112. Call 504/596-2605 or email [cwells@gno.lib.la.us](mailto:cwells@gno.lib.la.us) for application.

## **Librarian – General Reference**

### ***University of Louisiana – Monroe***

Requires ALA-accredited MLS or equivalent; good oral, written communication skills. Prefer professional reference experience in automated academic library; research and instructional skills; basic computer skills including e-mail, word processing and web page design. Provide reference service to students, faculty, others; assist with traditional and electronic resources; collection development; promoting library use skills to all groups at university. Salary \$28,000 -

\$32,000 plus benefits. Submit letter, 3 professional references to Donald R. Smith, Dean, University Library, ULM, 700 University Ave., Monroe, LA 71209-0720; (318/342-1050; fax 318/342-1075).

## **Children's Librarian I**

### ***St. Tammany Parish Library***

Full-time, entry-level position. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; 2 years experience working with children, preferably in library; knowledge of library materials suitable for children; understanding of children's literature needs at all developmental stages; ability to plan, conduct programs for children of all ages; strong interpersonal skills, oral and written communication skills; management skills; ability to identify children's library needs; knowledge of library rules, practices; strong computer skills; professional demeanor; valid LA driver's license; ability to lift 25 lbs., stand for long periods, bend, shelf books. Plan, conduct programs for children ages 0-12; work with other children's services staff to develop programs, book lists; serve as specialist in children's literature, reference. May work at any branch, perform all library branch activities, other duties as assigned. May work nights, weekends. Salary \$30,142 - \$39,328. Send resume to Janice Butler, Director, St. Tammany Parish Library, 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433.

## **Library Technician**

### ***Shreve Memorial Library – South Caddo Branch***

Requires HS diploma or equivalent; 30 hours of college course work or 3 years paid, full-time related experience; knowledge of standard library practices and electronic, print resources. Varied duties in operation of area library system: provide advisory assistance; assist patrons; general library duties. Some weekend, evening work. Salary \$1,460/month plus benefits. Send applications to Jennie Paxton, Human Resources Coordinator, Shreve Memorial Library, P.O. Box 21523, Shreveport, LA 71120-1523.

## ***Seeking a La. library job? Have a job opening?***

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lalibjobs> to learn more and subscribe to the only electronic mailing list focusing on Louisiana job openings. Post librarian and paraprofessional vacancies free by email ([vnestin@bellsouth.net](mailto:vnestin@bellsouth.net)).



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Setup of the Louisiana Voices recording studio, located in the basement of the State Library, was funded in part by the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation. The program began operating in February 2001 under the direction of Christy Reeves, who is now special projects coordinator at the State Library.

Reeves says volunteer involvement is the cornerstone of the program's achievements.

"Each title is recorded and produced by volunteers, which means the program's success is due to volunteers who generously give their time," explains Reeves. "Louisiana Voices now has 60 volunteers. It's a diverse group of people from all walks of life: authors, legislators, teachers, actors, radio personalities, nurses and State Library staff."

The recording process is long, and a single book can take up to 12 months to record. Some volunteers serve as producers, which involves tasks such as operating the control board and directing the recording session.

Others serve as narrators, preparing and recording books, or as reviewers, checking tape quality.

"Ongoing volunteer recruitment is vital to the continuation of the program," notes Reeves. "Volunteers are required to complete orientation and training sessions on the fundamentals of audiobook production, and narrators must audition."

In return for donating time and energy, volunteers gain valuable experience in a professional recording environment, including training and opportunities that

# Profile

## *Ann Armstrong Peltier*

*Ann Armstrong Peltier of Thibodaux is the current chair of the Board of Commissioners of the State Library of Louisiana. She is a community and civic activist and an advocate for reading and public library service.*



*Peltier served on the State Library board from 1982 to 1987, and was reappointed by Gov. M. J. "Mike" Foster Jr. in 1997. She is the current president of the Louisiana Library Foundation and has been since its inception. Peltier has also served as a member of the Lafourche Parish Library Board of Control for five years.*

*Peltier's community involvement includes being the past president of the Hermanas Civic Club and serving on the St. Joseph Catholic Church Advisory Board. She has also served on the E. D. White Catholic High School Foundation Board and on the founding committee that formed the John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University.*

*Peltier received a bachelor's degree in dietetics from Louisiana State University, followed by an internship at Charity Hospital. She is married to Dr. James Peltier and has lived in Thibodaux most of her married life. She has three grown children and 10 grandchildren.*

are rarely offered by commercial broadcasting or recording facilities.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering is encouraged to contact Reeves by phone at (225) 219-9501 or (800) 543-4702 toll-free or via e-mail ([creeves@state.lib.la.us](mailto:creeves@state.lib.la.us)). A list of Louisiana Voices titles and other audiobooks is available from the State Library's Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped by phone at (225) 342-4944 or via e-mail ([sbph@state.lib.la.us](mailto:sbph@state.lib.la.us)).



# News Briefs

The **Vermilion Parish Library** is one of 15 U.S. public and school (K-12) libraries—and the only Louisiana library—selected as outreach sites to host **Cyberchase math workshops**. Through a partnership of Thirteen/WNET New York (PBS) and the ALA Public Programs Office, these libraries will team up with TV's hit math mystery cartoon *Cyberchase* to turn kids on to math. In a series of workshops for children and their families based on the hit *PBS Kids* daily series, the libraries will introduce children to math *Cyberchase* style. Through fun games and exciting hands-on activities, young people will be challenged to use problem-solving skills and discover the power of math. Participating families will take home activities, suggested reading lists, magazines and more.

**ALA President Carla Hayden**, Ph.D., was honored Dec. 8 as one of ten **2003 Ms. Women of the Year** by the National Press Club. She drew nationwide attention by voicing ALA opposition to sections of the USA PATRIOT Act and has been an outspoken advocate for sustained library funding and equity of access for all library users. In September, Hayden responded forcefully to remarks by Attorney General John Ashcroft calling librarians and other PATRIOT Act opponents "hysterical." As a result, Ashcroft telephoned Hayden and committed to declassify the Justice Department report on Section 215, an action sought by ALA and other groups for over two years. This year, Hayden celebrates 10 years as head of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. Hayden said she was "very pleased to be in the company of such accomplished women. What each has done is empower change – something

librarians do in communities nationwide every day. Libraries are part of the American dream – leveling the playing field in the Information Age. I am proud to accept this honor on behalf of all the library workers who defend Americans' freedom to read freely without government interference." The award began in 1982 as a response to *Time* magazine's Man of the Year, which was changed to Person of the Year in 1999. Honorees are proposed by *Ms.* magazine readers and editorial staff.

In an exclusive interview in the December issue of *American Libraries*, Microsoft Corporation chairman Bill Gates assessed five years of library philanthropy and talked about why the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** has invested nearly \$180 million in library computerization—probably the greatest gift to public libraries since steel magnate Andrew Carnegie built 2,509 libraries

in the early 1900s. When the project began in Alabama in 1998, Gates said, the goal was that by 2003 "anyone who can get to a library can get to the Internet." That goal has been achieved to the 95 percent level, he said, with participation far beyond his expectations. Gates was disappointed the project did not draw more media attention to libraries. "Librarians are often working without much acknowledgement of the important role they play," he said, lauding their commitment to patrons. "It was the librarians who made it work."

**ALA** released an updated version of the popular **Libraries and the Internet Toolkit** in December. The toolkit is the most recent addition to the resources available to assist libraries making decisions about Internet filtering in response to the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). It can be found online at [www.ala.org/oif/iftoolkits/internet](http://www.ala.org/oif/iftoolkits/internet) or from the CIPA home page, [www.ala.org/cipa](http://www.ala.org/cipa). The toolkit includes a checklist for creating an Internet-use policy and examples of various library policies; tips for parents; information about what makes a great Web site for children; outreach suggestions; fast facts; and an extensive list of additional helpful resources.

Internet use in libraries is the topic of the **ALA** President's Program at the **Midwinter Meeting** in San Diego, January 9-14. In a panel discussion entitled "Living in a Post-CIPA World," a panel of distinguished speakers from the private and public sectors will discuss the impact of this far-reaching Supreme Court decision on libraries and information and its implications for equity in the Information Age.

## Send us your library's news!

Libraries are invited to submit details and photographs of news, events and innovative programs with potential for use or adaptation by other libraries; successes and milestones; community partnerships; friends group activities; board membership; and staff changes, promotions and job openings. To be considered, information for publication must be submitted in advance (by Feb. 2 for the March/April issue) to Catherine Carlock Simpson, State Library communications director ([csimpson@state.lib.la.us](mailto:csimpson@state.lib.la.us) or 225/342-9713).





# Louisiana Book Review

## The Louisiana Purchase in American History

by Ann Graham Gaines

Series: *In American History*  
Enslow Publishers Inc. - 2000  
ISBN: 0-7660-1301-4

128 pages (ages 10-17; grades 5-12)

This year, during the statewide celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, books about the Louisiana Purchase are especially popular. This is the fifth review in a series of five on Louisiana Purchase books chosen for children and young adults.

Students interested in a detailed account of the events before and after the Louisiana Purchase will find *The Louisiana Purchase in American History* by Ann G. Gaines an excellent choice. This resource covers a vast span of years, beginning in 1493 with Christopher Columbus' return to Spain through Oklahoma's statehood in 1907. Students will enjoy reading about the early French, Spanish and English influences in the New World and how they affected the Louisiana Territory and the Louisiana Purchase. Readers will also learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the mountain men who hunted and explored the Louisiana Purchase territory, the Burr Conspiracy, the land surveys, the creation of the Transcontinental Railroad and more. *The Louisiana Purchase in American History* is one of a series of 32 in the *In American History* series. Other titles in the series include *The Alamo*, *The Great Depression*, *The Panama Canal*, *Slavery and Abolition* and *The Watergate Scandal*.

*The Louisiana Purchase in American History* is interesting and well written. Unlike the other books reviewed, this one begins with an overview of the Louisiana Purchase, then looks in detail at the events occurring before and after this historical event. Chapters concentrate on the Lewis and Clark Expedition; the many people who organized, explored and surveyed the Louisiana Purchase; the American vision of the West and further settlement; and the legacy of the Louisiana Purchase. In

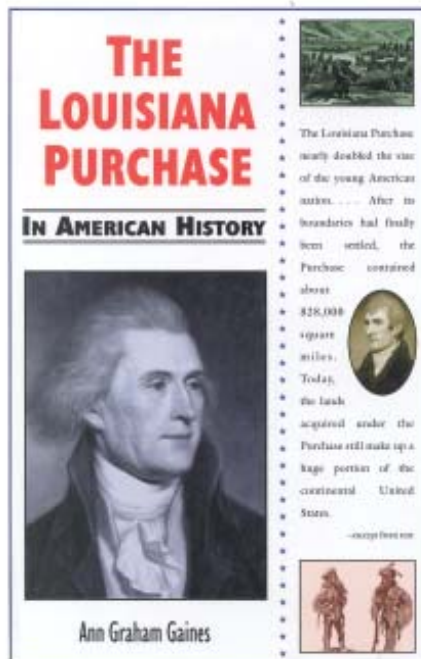
addition to the key players of the Louisiana Purchase, such as Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon Bonaparte, Robert Livingston and James Monroe, there are interesting narratives on explorers Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, John Coulter, Wilson Price Hunt, Robert Stuart, William Ashley, Jedediah Smith, Zebulon Pike and

others. These men all helped create the way for westward expansion. Throughout the book are Source Documents, which abstract pertinent information from treaties, speeches and legislation to aid young readers in better understanding the time and situations in which these figures lived.

The book includes small, black-and-white images of maps, illustrations and photographs. Some are dark, but legible. A map of the United States in 1804 clearly outlines the Louisiana Purchase territory and the country claimed by other nations. Another map outlines the future states of the Louisiana Purchase and the dates these states were admitted to the Union. There are portraits of the

important figures of the Louisiana Purchase and those who explored the newly acquired territory. Photographs represent the Powell Expedition, the Hayden Expedition and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Timeline covers the period from 1541 to 1907. For those interested in more information on the Louisiana Purchase and later events, the Further Reading section offers books and Internet sites that many will find useful. By offering a glimpse of events before and after the Louisiana Purchase, *The Louisiana Purchase in American History* will complement a library's Louisiana Purchase collection.

*Charlene Bonnette is a reference librarian in the Louisiana Section at the State Library of Louisiana.*





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## NEWS BRIEFS

The application deadline is Jan. 15 for the federal **Institute of Museum and Library Services Librarians for the 21st Century** grant program. IMLS has issued new guidelines, posted on the IMLS web site (<http://www.imls.gov/grants/appl/index.htm#21cent>). The grants are aimed at helping recruit and educate librarians and strengthen graduate schools of library and information science. The program was initiated in 2003 with an appropriation of \$10 million. President George Bush has requested \$20 million for the program for FY 2004. Priorities for funding in the 2004

program include (not in order) master's level programs, doctoral programs, pre-professional programs, programs to build institutional capacity and research. Award amounts, ranging from \$50,000 to \$1 million, will be announced in mid-July. One-to-one cost sharing for requests other than student support and research projects is required.

Feb. 15 is the deadline to submit nominations for the **2004 National Awards for Museum and Library Service**. The IMLS awards are the nation's highest honors for the extraordinary public service provided by museums and libraries and

the only national recognition for museums and libraries that have a positive impact on community life. Recipients demonstrate long-term, ongoing commitment to public service through innovative programs and community partnerships. Any individual may submit an application, and museums and libraries of all sizes are encouraged to apply. The IMLS web site has information about the awards, including qualifications, criteria and online application forms, including details about the National Award for Library Service ([http://www.imls.gov/grants/library/lib\\_nals.htm](http://www.imls.gov/grants/library/lib_nals.htm)).