

COMMUNIQUE

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September / October 2003

Second annual La. Book Festival slated for Nov. 8 at State Capitol, State Library

On Saturday, Nov. 8, readers of all ages will return to downtown Baton Rouge for another day of family fun at the second annual Louisiana Book Festival. The free public event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the State Capitol and the nearby State Library of Louisiana. The festival is sponsored by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library and the Louisiana Library Foundation, and made possible in part with a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

"Last year's first-ever Louisiana Book Festival drew over 10,000 people and showcased nearly 90 acclaimed authors," said Lt. Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, honorary chair for the 2003 festival. "It was an exciting step toward establishing an annual, world-class celebration of reading, writers and books for residents and visitors alike."

"Strong support for the Louisiana Book Festival reflects a growing public awareness of the continued importance of literature, literacy and libraries, even in the midst of today's Computer Age," noted State Librarian Thomas F. Jaques. "History is a key theme for this year's event because 2003 marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase."

Participating authors include Carl Brasseaux, Douglas Brinkley, Poppy Z. Brite, Shirley Ann Grau, Haynes Johnson, Jon Kukla, Michael Lewis, Tom

Piazza, Julie Smith, Michael Tidwell and Juan Williams. As in 2002, almost all of the writers appearing at the 2003 festival have Louisiana roots. Their collective works for adults and children cover many genres, both fiction and non-fiction.

The 2003 Louisiana Book Festival will again feature readings and discussions by authors and poets at the State Capitol and the State Library. Tents on neighboring streets will brim with book-related demonstrations and exhibits, complemented by musicians and food vendors.

Young festival goers will be treated to performances and readings by children's authors, storytellers and musicians, including Betsy Byars, Sharon Arms Doucet, Betsy Duffey, Kimberly Willis Holt, Laurie

Myers, Richard Peck and Rose Anne St. Romain. Storybook characters will stroll the festival grounds. Children can also enjoy book-related crafts and activities.

Books by every festival author will be available for purchase in the festival market tent, along with festival T-shirts, mugs and posters. Authors will be available to sign their books for children and adults immediately following scheduled presentations. Book lovers can also browse exhibits by booksellers, publishers and other book-related businesses and literary organizations.

Complete information about the festival is available online (www.louisianabookfestival.org) or by phone (225/219-9503 or toll-free 888/487-2700).



Viewpoint

This issue of *Communiqué* focuses on the Louisiana Book Festival coming Nov. 8. A stellar lineup of authors – mostly Louisiana natives, but not exclusively – has been assembled to excite festival goers about books and reading. The topics written about and to be discussed include everything from early Louisiana history to current political campaigning, children's stories to cooking, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, car races to civil rights. Papermaking, storytelling, book repair and book appraisals, book buying and meeting authors, food and music – all are offered to any who will come. Ten thousand came last year and even more are expected Nov. 8.

For many, the one day of author discussions, panel presentations, exhibits and more will be their total experience and I know it will be a good one. But for literally hundreds of staff members and volunteers, the festival is the culmination of many hours of planning, fretting and shaping a program that will both educate and entertain. It is an exciting, exhilarating time, and it is a joy to watch it unfold. The festival represents commitment and teamwork at its best. It is difficult to imagine and impossible to measure all that is done to achieve this one goal; the fact that it is done with great care and a pervasive spirit of cooperation is truly admirable. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to all of you who have helped in any way.

There are all kinds of festivals in Louisiana, but not many that promote reading, honor native authors and seek recognition for Louisiana's own literary heritage. Come join us Nov. 8, and we'll do our best to make you glad you came!



Thomas F. Jaques
State Librarian

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across the state.



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www.state.lib.la.us

*The State Library of Louisiana
is one of our state's
greatest resources for
research information,
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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.*

2003 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

Carl A. Brasseaux to receive 2003 La. Writer Award



This year's Louisiana Book Festival will open with the presentation of the 2003 Louisiana Writer Award to historian Carl A. Brasseaux, Ph. D. The award ceremony is slated for Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. in the House Chamber of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

Brasseaux will be honored for his outstanding contribution to the preservation and understanding of Louisiana

history. A leading expert on Acadian/Cajun and Creole history and culture and French North America, Brasseaux is the author of 33 books and over 100 scholarly articles on those subjects.

Brasseaux's research and teaching focus on Louisiana history and the history of France in the Americas. He is a professor of history and director of the Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and managing editor of *Louisiana History*, the state historical journal. The journal has consistently ranked among the nation's top 10 state historical magazines.

The Louisiana Writer Award was created in 2000 by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library to recognize living Louisiana writers and scholars whose published works represent a distinguished contribution to the state's literary and intellectual heritage. Previous recipients include novelists Ernest Gaines and James Lee Burke and poet William Jay Smith.

Later in the day, the authors of *My Dog, My Hero* will receive the 2003 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award, a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book generously supported by Hibernia National Bank. The book, a collection of short stories about heroic dogs, was written by Betsy Byars and her daughters, Betsy Duffey and Laurie Myers. The winning title was selected earlier this year by Louisiana third, fourth and fifth graders from a ballot of 15 children's books that included fiction, nonfiction, folklore and poetry.

AUTHORS & PRESENTERS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pamela Ahearn | Gary D. Joiner |
| Barry Ancelet | Rodger Kamenetz |
| Robert Asprin | Julie Kane |
| David G. Baker | Al Kennedy |
| Carl L. Bankston | Dana Kress |
| Fredrick Barton | Jon Kukla |
| Brent Benoit | Ronald M. Labbé |
| Jason Berry | Tika Laudun |
| Steve Berry | Jennifer Levasseur |
| Darrell Bourque | Michael Lewis |
| Patricia Brady | John T. Magill |
| Carl A. Brasseaux | Mary Manhein |
| Doug Brinkley | Valerie Martin |
| Poppy Z. Brite | David Middleton |
| Dorothy H. Brown | Betsy Miguez |
| Violet H. Bryan | Laurie Myers |
| Betsy Byars | Nancy Wagner <i>writing</i> <i>as Hailey North</i> |
| Stephen J. Caldas | Dean Paschal |
| Carl M. Cannon | Richard Peck |
| Jay Chevalier | Alison Pelegrin |
| Joshua Clark | Patsy Perritt |
| Barbara Colley | Tom Piazza |
| Nancy A. Collins | Glen Pitre |
| Frank de Caro | Lawrence N. Powell |
| Jocelyn Donlon | June Pulliam |
| Sharon Arms Doucet | Kevin Rabalais |
| Betsy Duffey | Ronda Rich |
| Lynn Emery | C. E. Richard |
| Barbara C. Ewell | Regine Richter-McClain |
| Mark F. Fernandez | Kenneth Robbins |
| Tony Fonseca | Michael Ross |
| Andrew Fox | Laura Joh Rowland |
| Tom Franklin | Sheryl St. Germain |
| Marcia Gaudet | Kerry St. Pé |
| Tim Gautreaux | Rose Anne St. Romain |
| John Gery | Julie Smith |
| Al Godoy | Raymond Strother |
| Shirley Ann Grau | Michael Tidwell |
| John Maxwell Hamilton | Olympia Vernon |
| John Hebert | J. Michael Veron |
| Ernest Hill | Charles Vincent |
| Metsy Hingle | Ken Wells |
| Paul Hoffman | James Wilcox |
| Kimberly Willis Holt | Juan Williams |
| Sam Hyde | Cheryl Wolverton |
| Haynes Johnson | |

JOB OPENINGS

Assistant City Librarian New Orleans Public Library

Second in command; responsible for overseeing city's public library system, including 12 branches and downtown Main Library. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; 7 years experience in public library administration; excellent written and oral communication skills; thorough knowledge of sound financial practices; decision-making abilities; and ability to develop relationships with city officials, administrators and the community. Starting salary \$47,471. Excellent benefits. For application materials, contact Carol Wells (cwells@gno.lib.la.us).

Business Reference Librarian University of Mississippi Library

12-month, tenure track, assistant professor position to work as part of team providing traditional and virtual reference services. Duties include general reference desk service, collection development for School of Business Administration, library instruction, creation of web-based instructional materials and development of effective methods to meet community information needs. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; experience; related coursework or demonstrated interest in learning business reference; excellent oral and written communication skills; strong commitment to user-focused service and instruction; knowledge of print and electronic reference sources and computer applications. Salary \$34,500 (negotiable based on qualifications and experience). Send letter of application, resume and 3 references to Office of the Dean University Libraries, Attn: Susan Caldwell, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS 38677-1848.

Coordinator of Special Collections University of Texas at Arlington

Requires ALA-accredited MLS or MA in history or related discipline with local or national archival certification; 5 years professional experience including some supervisory experience; knowledge of current library trends; knowledge of antiquarian book trade, Texas historiography, and/or cartographic history; ability to locate and acquire collections; reading knowledge of Spanish; fundraising, development and grant-writing experience; knowledge and experience with planning, implementing and assessing projects. Minimum salary \$50,000. Send application letter, resume, application form (obtain online (<http://forms.uta.edu/employ/application.pdf> or <http://forms.uta.edu/employ/application.xls>) and 3 references to

Office of Human Resources, University of Texas at Arlington, 1225 W. Mitchell St., Ste. 112, Box 19176, Arlington, TX 76019 (phone 817-272-3461; fax 817-272-5810; employment@uta.edu).

Reference Librarian 1 St. Tammany Parish Library

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; valid LA driver's license; high-level computer skills, including Internet, online databases, office application software and library automation systems; knowledge of library rules, regulations and practices; professional demeanor; ability to stand for long periods. Full-time position; salary range \$30,142 - \$39,328. Send resume to Janice Butler, Director, St. Tammany Parish Library, 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433.

Library Assistant - Preservation Howard Tilton Memorial Library Tulane University - New Orleans

Requires HS diploma or equivalent (some college or technical school training preferred); 30 WPM typing; computer experience in Windows; strong interpersonal skills; attention to detail and accuracy; ability to lift boxes and heavy books. Duties include preparation of materials for shipment to commercial bindery and conservation of deteriorating collection items. Minimum salary \$16,393. See website for application info (<http://www2.tulane.edu/joblist/>).

Library Assistant - Access Services Howard Tilton Memorial Library Tulane University - New Orleans

Requires HS diploma or equivalent (some college coursework and supervisory experience preferred); ability to work with diverse staff and public; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to lift, bend, stretch and stand for long periods of time; excellent organizational skills; knowledge of spreadsheet and word processing software. Responsible for opening library on Sundays and supervision of students and library. Minimum salary \$16,393. See website for application info (<http://www2.tulane.edu/joblist/>).

Library Assistant - Access Services Howard Tilton Memorial Library Tulane University - New Orleans

Requires HS diploma or equivalent (some college coursework and supervisory experience preferred); ability to work with demanding public, ever-changing environment and diverse staff; knowledge of Windows 2000 software; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to work

independently. Serve as backup for evening supervisor plus some daytime duties; supervise student assistants on Friday and Saturday evenings; open and close building on Saturdays during summer. Minimum salary \$16,393. See website for application info (<http://www2.tulane.edu/joblist/>).

Library General Technician Newcomb College Center for Research on Women

Tulane University - New Orleans
Requires HS diploma or equivalent (BA/BS preferred); library experience; interest in women's studies; some webpage design skills; ability to work cooperatively and effectively with diverse personalities and educational and cultural backgrounds. Minimum salary \$17,963. See website for application info (<http://www2.tulane.edu/joblist/>).

Medical Outreach Librarian Southwest LA AHEC Learning Resource Center - Lafayette

Part time position (20 hours per week) provides services to unaffiliated health professionals in 13 parishes. Duties include reference services, PubMed training and supervision of Professional Center. MLS or major/minor in Library Science. Medical library experience preferred. Salary based on experience. Aug./Sept. start date. Contact Kathy Duplechien (kduple@lsuhsc.edu or 337/261-6127).

Looking for a library job in La.?

*If so, you may want to try **lalibjobs**, the only electronic mailing list concentrating on job openings in Louisiana libraries. According to moderator Vicki Nesting, over 970 job announcements have been posted to the site in the two years since its inception. In addition to listing jobs in Louisiana and surrounding states, the site offers access to current job postings that visitors may have missed, links to other job search web sites, URLs for individual library job pages and more.*

Job seekers can visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lalibjobs> to learn more and subscribe. Employers with can post openings for librarians or paraprofessional positions free via email (vnestin@bellsouth.net).

People & Places

John Richard retired in August as director of the **East Baton Rouge Parish Library**. During his 26-year tenure, Richard expanded the library's collections and services and garnered voter approval and subsequent renewal of a dedicated property tax. He oversaw the construction of nine new branches, with another nearing completion and three more on the drawing board.



Lydia Acosta was selected to succeed Richard as the fourth director in the **East Baton Rouge Parish Library's** 64-year history. She holds an undergraduate degree in secondary education and an MLS from the University of South Florida. Acosta began her career at the University of Tampa as a reference librarian and later as director of the university library. She was Dean of Library and Learning Resources at Chicago State University from 1994-97. In 1997, Acosta became director of the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, Illinois, where she served on a statewide advisory board on Illinois public library issues.



Kathleen C. Prados of Verdunville was named as director of the **St. Mary Parish Library** system. She fills the vacancy created by the appointment of Rebecca Hamilton as Associate State Librarian at the State Library of Louisiana. Prados will oversee operations of a library system that includes six branches. She holds a master's degree in education from Nicholls State University and worked as the Franklin Senior High librarian and facilitator for comprehensive school reform. Prados was an adjunct professor for Nicholls State University and South Louisiana Community College. Prados and her husband, Gerald, have three daughters and two grandchildren.



Kim Fryer was named manager of the **Delhi Branch** of the **Richland Parish Library**. She previously served as the school librarian at Delhi Elementary, where she set up the school library, the accelerated reader program and a literacy library for parents and teachers.



Marie Ardoin was appointed to fill the unexpired term of **Jody Nunnery** on the **Tangipahoa Parish Library Board**. Nunnery, now in nursing school, resigned.

The **Caldwell Parish Library** in downtown **Columbia** held an open house July 18 to celebrate 50 years of operation. The library opened in 1953.

Voters approved a tax rededication proposal July 19 that will enable the **Ouachita Parish Public Library** to build new branches in the Swartz and Sterlington areas and renovate existing facilities. The 7.75-mill property tax was previously split into separate accounts for construction and maintenance.



In Memoriam

Eumaia Cormier Guidry, 85, died Aug. 5 in Kaplan. She was a former librarian at the Mermentau Branch of the Acadia Parish Library.

Louise M. Brooks, 84, died Aug. 13 in Ruston. She served as a librarian at Jonesboro-Hodge High School and as bookmobile librarian and reference librarian at the Jackson Parish Library.

Robert McCloskey, 88, died June 31 in Deer Isle, Maine. He was the noted author and illustrator of eight children's picture books, including *Make Way for Ducklings*.



News Briefs

The **State Board of Library Examiners** will meet in September to test applicants for executive certification. The test, administered annually, measures librarians' knowledge of library law, library administration, standards for library service, library operation, budgeting and related topics. Candidates must hold an ALA-accredited MLS and have at least three years of executive library experience. New and recently appointed directors who pass the exam without the required experience gain provisional certification, which converts into executive certification upon completion of three years of relevant experience. Under Louisiana law (R. S. 25:222), the certification is subject to renewal every five years. Applications and information are available from Associate State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton (rhamilto@state.lib.la.us or 225/342-4931).

As part of the 2003 statewide celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, the **Evangeline Parish Library** will present an opportunity to meet and greet Louisiana writers, performers and musicians at the **Bicentennial Book & Culture Festival**. The festival will open at 10 a.m. at the Civic Center in Ville

Platte for a day of book talks, good food, face painting, book sales, autographs and unique local products. It will close at 4 p.m. with the two-stepping Creole music of Ann Vidrine. Admission will be free with tickets that can be picked up at the door. Ticket holders will be eligible for door prizes throughout the day, and everyone who presents a library card will get an additional ticket, doubling the chance to win. The lineup will include Cecilia Casrill Darte, Robert Funderburk, Oneal Isaac, Monsignor Irving DeBlanc, Nicole D. Fontenot, Gene Buller, Lynn Landreneau and Margaret Reed Fontenot. The festival is supported in part by funds from the Louisiana State Arts Council and the Louisiana Division of the Arts through the Acadiana Arts Council. Additional funding was provided by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library, Friends of the Library and other local donors.

The African American Resource Center (AARC) of the **New Orleans Public Library** is calling for entries for the **Langston Hughes Poetry Contest** in conjunction with the AARC's **Tom Dent Literary Festival**. The contest is for adults aged 18 and over. Entries should be original poems no longer

than 30 lines, written in any poetic style, i.e. freestyle, narrative, haiku, etc. The first place winner will receive \$100; the second place winner will receive \$50 and the third place winner will receive \$25. Entrants should attach a cover sheet with name, address, telephone number and a brief statement confirming that their entry is an original poem written by the entrant. The deadline for entries is Oct. 1. Entries should be delivered to NOPL/AARC, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112-2044. The Tom Dent Literary Festival, an annual event created to provide a meeting place for African American writers and readers of African American literature, will be held Nov. 6-8. The poetry contest will be part of the festival's poetry night on Nov. 6. The *New Orleans Tribune* newspaper is contest co-sponsor.

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Check out the State Library's online list of books about library organizations & services...
<http://www.state.lib.la.us/Publications/US/libscibib5.htm>

Share your library's news!

Communiqué is published every other month by the Library Development Division of the State Library to provide information of interest to libraries throughout the state and to people with an interest in Louisiana libraries. Persons with visual impairment who require an audiocassette or large print version of *Communiqué* may contact the Library Development Division at (225) 342-4931. Correspondence about public libraries should be directed to the Library Development Division.

Libraries are invited to submit details or photographs regarding new or innovative events or programs with potential for use or adaptation by other libraries; information about successes and milestones achieved; friends group activities; board membership; staff changes and promotions and job openings.

To be considered for publication, information must be received well in advance, (no later than Oct. 3 for the November/December issue). Information should be submitted to Catherine Carlock Simpson, State Library communications director (csimpson@state.lib.la.us or 225/342-9713).



Louisiana Book Review

What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase

Written by Rhoda Blumberg

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society - 1998

\$18.95 (Retail) ISBN: 0-7922-7013-4

144 pages (ages 10-14; grades 3-4)

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 was one of the most important events in American history, doubling the size of the fledgling United States and opening the way for westward expansion. The coveted city of New Orleans and the mighty Mississippi River came under American control, allowing trade and commerce to flourish. For \$15 million, or about four cents per acre, the U. S. made one of the best real estate deals in history.

This year, during the statewide celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, books about the Louisiana Purchase are especially popular. *The Louisiana Purchase – Let Freedom Ring* was reviewed in the previous issue.

Another interesting title, *What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon and the Louisiana Purchase*, is suitable for children of middle and upper elementary school age and those beginning high school.

What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase takes an in-depth look at the people, issues and consequences that culminated in the Louisiana Purchase and what might have happened had the transaction not occurred. A National Geographic Society publication, the book is well suited for grades 5-9.

Author Rhoda Blumberg creates a text that is interesting and well written, sweeping the reader from LaSalle's discovery of Louisiana in 1682 to French and Spanish periods of influence in the Louisiana Territory to its sale by France in 1803. Students will learn about the intricacies of the Louisiana Purchase: the good and the bad, the political rivalries, the fears of attack, the hardships Americans suffered under French and Spanish rule,

the spies, the double crosses and the eventual purchase of the whole Louisiana Territory to secure ownership of the vital port of New Orleans and the Mississippi River.

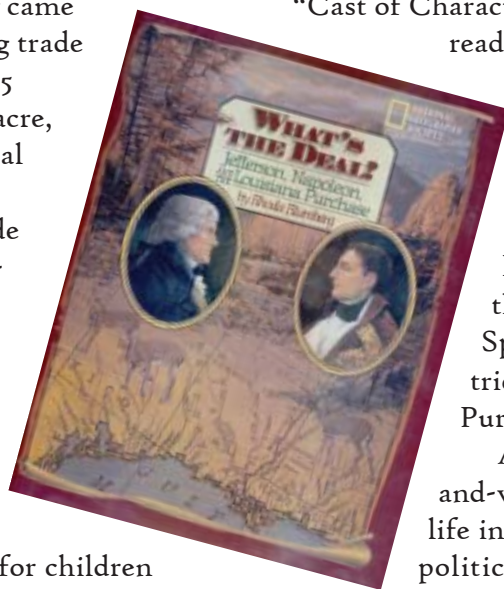
Before beginning the actual text, *What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase* presents a "Cast of Characters," a unique feature that introduces

readers to the people involved in the Louisiana Purchase and enhances the text. The reader will learn about the discoverer of Louisiana (La Salle), the leading players (Bonaparte, Jefferson, Livingston, Monroe, L'Ouverture), the kings, the queen and the spies and other players in France, Spain, England and America who either tried to hinder or assist in the Louisiana Purchase.

Also enhancing the text are the black-and-white illustrations of key players and life in the Louisiana Territory. Numerous political cartoons offer insight into the American and world mindset of the day. It

should be noted that many of the illustrations are dark and may not photocopy well. Another interesting feature is a large map showing the U.S. and the Louisiana Purchase Territory and the states that were carved out of the territory, including the dates they were admitted to the Union. A time line begins with La Salle's discovery of Louisiana in 1682 and runs through the signing of the Louisiana Purchase treaty in 1803. A bibliography of primary and secondary sources can be used for further reading about the Louisiana Purchase and its primary players. *What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase* offers an excellent account of a very important time in U. S. history.

Reviewed by Charlene Bonnette
Reference Librarian
Louisiana Section
State Library of Louisiana





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NEWS BRIEFS

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A free tabletop display is available for public libraries as a quick reference guide to select, easy-to-use **National Center for Education Statistics** web-based databases of interest to librarians, students, parents and educators. The guide is a freestanding tool for reference desks and Internet work stations. Produced by the Library Statistics Program at NCES, the guide is being mailed to 9,134 public libraries included in the NCES Public Libraries Survey universe and all state library agencies. Copies are free. Additional copies can

be obtained by calling 877-4ED-Pubs and providing the publication reference number NCES 2003-406. The display can also be ordered online or downloaded from the NCES e-catalog (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearchsearchpubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003406>).

The **LaSSAL Annual Fall Conference** is slated for Oct. 2-3 at the Sheraton Hotel in Shreveport. Topics include digital photography and

scanning, PC repair basics, searching SIRSI's online catalog, preserving library materials, humor in the workplace, storytelling, conflict resolution, reference and communication skills. Fees range from \$20 to \$75. Details are available from Kathy Tuminello (ktuminello@shreve-lib.org or 318/226-5871) or April Milton (amilton@state.lib.la.us or 225/342-4940).

*Check out the State Library's online calendar
for continuing education courses and other events...*
<http://www3.state.lib.la.us/webcal/>