

on the same page



mississippi library commission

spring 2020

The Perfect Day

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

During Mississippi's recent "monsoon season," many in the state thought about a perfect day with perfect weather: a day where it does not rain all day nor does the day bring rising flood waters that results in damage to crops, businesses, homes, or to the public libraries of the state. Alas, presently there are too many public library structures with an indoor water feature created by a leaking roof.

In thinking of a perfect day, some may know that, on the calendar, that day is coming soon. That day will be April 25th -- at least that is the date of the perfect day in the mind of Miss Rhode Island (Cheryl Frasier in the movie *Miss Congeniality*), who, when asked to describe what would be the perfect day, responded by saying, "April 25th, because it's not too hot, not too cold, and all you need is a light jacket."

A leading contender in the category of a day that we hope is a perfect day is May 10. This is the day that the Mississippi Legislature is scheduled to go Sine Die with their adjournment after the passage of a budget that not only supports the mission of the public libraries of the state but a budget that also gives emphasis to the role public libraries play in the educational processes provided across the state. For the past two years Mississippi's state government has been very supportive of the budget request made by the Library Commission, as it is recognized that approximately 80% of all the dollars appropriated are put to work locally in the public libraries of the state.

A word in the Japanese language that defines the pursuit of perfection is "kaizen." By definition, this word expresses a personal mindset whereby individuals continually seek to improve their abilities, and, in this task, the person continues to examine their individual actions so as to perfect one's abilities. Kaizen represents an ongoing search for the more perfect in all of us and it is the personification of the labor of Mississippi's public libraries.

Continued....

In the book *Kaizen*, by Masaaki Imai, a procedure is presented by the author that stresses the concepts of group teamwork, personal discipline in work tasks, contributions made to improved morale, pursuit of beneficial associations with quality workers, and the ability to accept and apply suggestions for improvement. In both time and in action, the person practicing kaizen seeks to eliminate waste in time and action while working to increase value in their actions. The procedure, presented by Imai, speaks to the core values of Mississippi's public libraries.

So, how do we achieve the perfect day -- a day that is the springboard for the remainder of the year? Perhaps we achieve that day via "kaizen." And let us all be prepared to enjoy that "Perfect Day" wherein we can experience the joy of perfect moments.

Information Regarding the Coronavirus

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC POLICY as noted in the Mississippi State Employee Handbook

To help prevent the spread of the flu in the workplace state employees are encouraged to cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of both seasonal and novel strains of influenza in the workplace. The best strategy for reducing the transmission of the flu is frequent hand washing with warm, soapy water, covering mouths with tissues whenever you sneeze, discarding tissues used when sneezing. Agencies are also encouraged to install alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the workplace and in common areas.

Many times, with the best of intentions, employees report to work even though they feel ill. State employees are provided with paid medical leave to compensate employees who are unable to work due to illness. During flu season and/or an influenza pandemic, it is critical that employees do not report to work while they are ill and/or experiencing the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. Employees who report to work ill should be sent home in accordance with these health guidelines. Employees who are sent home under this policy will be required to utilize leave in accordance with Section 3.2 Leave.

An influenza pandemic could result in a significant level of absenteeism. State employees may be unable to work if they become ill due to the virus while others may need to remain home to care for ill family members or simply to provide care for children during school closings. During this time, unless otherwise notified, attendance and leave policies will remain in place. Individuals who believe they may face challenges reporting to work during a severe influenza pandemic should take steps to develop any necessary contingency plans.

The preceding information is provided by Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer
Resources included on following page.

A call center at the Mississippi State Department of Health is now available for the general public at 1-877-978-6453 to answer questions about COVID-19. Below are links to aid Mississippi's libraries as they deal with the virus: how it is spread and how a local outbreak may be handled.

<https://www.msema.org/news/coronavirus-covid-19-mississippi/>

https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html#community

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

CDC Traveler Health Notice Board: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

CDC Cleaning Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Best Practices for Cleaning Play and Learn Spaces and

Facilities. <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2017/04/best-practices-cleaning-play-learn-spaces/>

The Hand Washing Posters provided by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>

ALA Tool-Kit on Pandemic Preparedness: <http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>

In response to COVID-19, the Mississippi Library Commission will be closed to the public starting on Monday, March 16, 2020. Please watch the agency's social media accounts, or give us a call for updates regarding MLC reopening. Staff will still be working to assist patrons and libraries by phone and email. Thank you for your support and stay well. Contact MLC at 601-432-4111 or mslib@mlc.lib.ms.us

COVID-19 and MLC Continuing Education Offerings

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) the Mississippi Library Commission will be suspending upcoming workshops. This will include the Children's Summer Library Program in Hattiesburg on March 18th, the Youth Services SLP workshop at MLC on March 24th, and our Technology Academy on March 26th. Other scheduled workshops for FY2020 will be assessed as more information is received. We will work to reschedule cancelled events or look at providing our content in webinar format.

We want to thank you for your understanding and for working with us during this time. If you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 and your library, please contact your designated consultant.

A call center at the Mississippi State Department of Health is now available for the general public at 1-877-978-6453 to answer questions about COVID-19.

Jackson–Hinds Regional Library System Receives Prestigious Award

MLC annually awards the Jane Smith Literacy Award, which recognizes an existing literacy project or program that is outside of traditional library service, is innovative in nature, and held in a Mississippi public library.

Jackson/Hinds Library System won the 2020 Jane Smith Literacy Award for their ongoing “Our Reading Family” program, which connects families with books and reading skills. Families with children from 5-9 are invited to attend, and childcare is provided for younger siblings as well. For six Saturdays, families play literacy games, hear storytellers, and are tutored in phonics and literacy activities to do at home. Since the program started in 2017, over 600 families have been through the program. Jackson/Hinds partners with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life and the Junior League of Jackson.



(L to R): Dave Miller, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life; Patty Furr, Jackson/Hinds Library System; Ava Pomerantz and Rachel Glazer, both with Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

The American Library Association has issued an updated Libraries’ Guide to the 2020 Census to help prepare libraries for the decennial count of every person living in the United States.

As public libraries are uniquely positioned to reach groups designated by the Census Bureau as “hard-to-count,” including young children, linguistic minorities and people experiencing homelessness, the guide provides libraries with:

- basic information about the census process;
- highlights of new components in the 2020 Census, such as the online response option;
- an expanded list of frequently asked questions;
- a timeline of key census dates; and
- contact information (with links) to the latest resources from ALA, the Census Bureau and other organizations.

In addition to the Guide, ALA has issued a suite of tip sheets, archived webinars and other resources for library practitioners on specialized topics, from securing funding for outreach to assisting hard-to-count groups in the months leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2020. To download these resources, visit ALA’s 2020 Census web page, ala.org/census

MLC Library Day at the Capitol

March 10, 2020

Library supporters from across Mississippi came to the state capitol on March 10th to advocate for public libraries. They had an opportunity to talk with legislators about the value of public libraries in their communities. It was a grand day of library advocacy!



Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy
where information is free and equally
available to everyone.
-Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

Opportunities For Libraries

MLC WEBINARS AND WEBJUNCTION OPPORTUNITIES

There are a wealth of training opportunities available on MLC's YouTube channel! Broken up into categories, these short sessions can help you in the areas of administration and management, summer reading programs, and collection development.

There is interesting and informative content available on WebJunction that is archived for easy access. *Doing the Work Externally and Internally: Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion* on December 5 looked at how a library responds to a community in deep crisis around race and social justice. Be sure to visit their website to find all the offerings available at <https://learn.webjunction.org/>

2020 EZRA JACK KEATS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline March 31, 2020.

Up to \$500.

It is an opportunity for a public school teacher or librarian to present a special project outside the standard curriculum or an engaging way to help students meet curricular goals.

Up to 70 grants awarded each year.

<https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/section/ezra-jack-keats-mini-grant-program-for-public-libraries-public-schools/>

FREE BOOKS

Contact either of the State of Mississippi's US Senators, Cindy Hyde-Smith or Roger Wicker, with a request to receive new books acquired as publisher's copies by the U.S. Library of Congress. With your request, note a preference of fiction or non-fiction, desired subject matter category, and favored reading level. No deadline.

Continued.....

NNLM READING CLUB GRANT

Deadline: Ongoing

Participating NNLM regions are offering the Reading Club Book Kits, a program-in-a-box format which includes 8 copies of each of the following items: the selected book, discussion guides, bookmarks, NIH MedlinePlus Magazine, NIH All of Us Research Program brochure and additional material to support the kit, inside a sturdy library book bag.

<https://nnlm.gov/all-of-us/nnlm-reading-club>

<http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/2018/11/nnlm-reading-club-grants.html>

SHELL OIL

Shell considers charitable contributions to eligible nonprofit organizations with priority given to organizations serving in or near US communities where Shell has a major presence. They seek to fund community, education, and/or environment-focused projects and organizations. They have a focus on civic and human needs in the community, promoting healthy lifestyles, and projects that promote access to underserved students and communities. They also focus on energy awareness, increasing interest in technical careers among students (STEM), and professional development in science and math among educators. They support K-12 programs that boost math and science skills, as well as university programs that aid engineering and geoscience students and departments. See: <https://www.shell.us/sustainability/request-for-a-grant-from-shell.html>

SPOTTY RAIN MINI GRANT

Deadline: Ongoing

This grant is seeking staff from rural and small libraries to design and host volunteer information meetings. They also encourage you to collaborate with partners (community members, educators, and stakeholders) interested in water and drought management.

Participants who watch all 4 webinars will receive a \$250 mini-grant + rain gauges to host a program in their library. You must watch the webinars and complete a short survey after each.

[http://www.spottyrain.org/mini-grant.html?](http://www.spottyrain.org/mini-grant.html?fbclid=IwAR1EXgzh03mS68ZdEwQIVLcYaGIm9C3ZShRP9RL9IdeHbBvEHmo16r1MjRc)

[fbclid=IwAR1EXgzh03mS68ZdEwQIVLcYaGIm9C3ZShRP9RL9IdeHbBvEHmo16r1MjRc](http://www.spottyrain.org/mini-grant.html?fbclid=IwAR1EXgzh03mS68ZdEwQIVLcYaGIm9C3ZShRP9RL9IdeHbBvEHmo16r1MjRc)



Mississippi's Star Libraries

Recently the Mississippi Library Commission named 12 library systems as Mississippi Library Stars for FY 2018.

Up to \$300,000 Expenditure Category

Sharkey-Issaquena County Library System
Marks-Quitman*
Union County Library System

\$300,001-\$600,001

Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale and Coahoma County*
East Mississippi Regional Library
Judge George Armstrong Library

\$600,001-\$1,000,000

Sunflower County Library System*
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System
Northeast Regional Library System

\$1,000,000+

The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County*
Jackson-George Regional Library System
Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library System

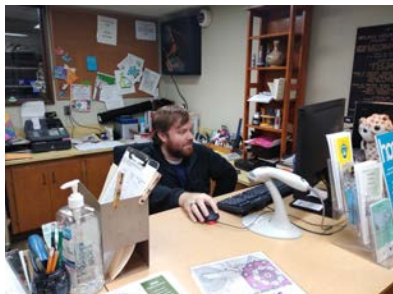


**Not pictured:
Marks Quitman County Library
Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale
and Coahoma County
Sunflower County Library System
The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County*

Inside the Commission

News from Technology Services

Technology Team Visits Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System



Technology Services employees Neil Machowski and Joseph Tew were assisting Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System the week of February 24-28 wrapping up an Office 365 migration project that started April 29, 2016.

Overall, 45 library systems including 667 users were migrated over to Microsoft Office 365. This software will allow the libraries to be connected to their work wherever they are, and it provides higher security and reliability. They will now have Microsoft Teams to enable them to direct messages to staff and other libraries. Microsoft provides free upgrades on a yearly basis that will save the libraries on the costs of maintaining their software.

During this process, the Technology Services staff were able to work towards supporting the libraries with computer repair, consultation, and recommendations for additional technology.



News from Library Development

The Library Development department is putting the last touches on the upcoming FY21 continuing education catalog. During the recent Public Library Directors' meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to share their professional development needs. MLC staff asked them to consider one topic they would like to see covered to build their staff's knowledge. One topic suggested was diversity and inclusion workshops focusing on collection representation and sensitivity training. Directors would like to get assistance in building initiative and independence among their staff.

They are also searching for tools to encourage staff to grow their reader's advisory and customer service skills. Other areas of interest included learning about innovative collections, and alternate ways to provide library service. Libraries are interested in building seed libraries, developing stand-alone collections in their communities, and also ways to bring back the bookmobile. These are only a few of the ideas that were provided to the Library Development department for consideration during the FY2021 training year.

Be sure to contact MLC's Library Development staff with any additional suggestions! Whether it's dealing with stress management or innovations in the world of gaming, MLC is committed to assisting the public library workforce to improve library service for all Mississippians.

News from Talking Book Services

Talking Book Services Celebrates Milestone



The Mississippi Talking Book Services will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on July 13, 2020. We hope to celebrate all that the program has done for our patrons over the years, as well as to look to what we hope to see in the future. Talking Book Services has been able to serve our patrons starting with records, then moving to cassettes, to now being able to send books on digital cartridge as well as letting patrons download books to their own devices. We have always provided the players and the talking books free of charge to our patrons. The MS Talking Book Services has provided patrons with personal support over the phone, in person, and through mail and e-mail.

Talking Book Services Welcomes New Staff Member



Kristen Hillman recently joined the TBS staff as Patron Services Librarian. She will be assisting patrons with searching for books as well as providing support with digital book players, assisting with circulation and attending and coordinating some TBS outreach events. Kristin enjoys meeting and talking with patrons and helping them find just the right book. As a child, her mom would take her to their public library each week to select books and movies. She believes this instilled in her a great love for books and reading. She believes libraries are essential in the early development of children, not to mention they offer fun programs for all ages!

Talking Books Showcases Services

Kristen Hillman recently represented TBS at the Mississippi Dyslexia Centers' 2020 Symposium to talk about the program's services. TBS is available not only to those who have temporary or permanent visual impairments, physical disabilities, or blindness, but also those with organic-based reading disabilities like dyslexia. Give them a call at 1-800-446-0892 for more information!



News from Administrative Services

MLC Welcomes Brian McGee to the Facilities Maintenance Staff



Brian started working at MLC in February, and says he really enjoys the fact that he is learning new skills. He also likes the great relationships he has already established here at MLC.

Brian finds libraries very helpful for researching. He says, "Libraries give people opportunities to do things like find jobs and explore the world of reading." When Brian isn't at work, he enjoys being around family and friends.

Holiday of a Lifetime

To herald in the holiday season last year, the Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi Film Office partnered to offer free screenings of *Christmas in Mississippi* in three Mississippi communities. This feel-good Lifetime movie, produced by Daniel Lewis, stars Jana Kramer, Faith Ford, and Barry Bostwick and provides holiday fun for the entire family. After the screening, guests were invited to participate in some lively discussion about what makes their community special during the holidays.

The screenings were held in early December in the communities of Laurel, Canton, and Columbia. A special thanks goes out to all the local partners who made these events a success!



Be sure to tune in to MLC's podcast - Stacks and Stories! Pod Squad members interview authors, talk with librarians, discuss books, and lots of other fun topics. Find it on iTunes, Google Podcasts and at stacksandstories.libsyn.com



MLC Calendar

March

24 MLC Board of Commissioners-MLC

All CE activities for March have been cancelled.

April

14 Adult Programming - MLC
27 State Holiday - Agency Closed
30 Quickbooks Training - MLC

May

7 PR & Marketing Panel - MLC
12 Mental Health First Aid-Adults - MLC
15 Summer Reading Kickoff - MLC
22 MLC Board of Commissioners - MLC
25 State Holiday - Agency Closed
28-29 Public Library Director's Meeting-MLC

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
601.432.4111
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Hulen E. Bivins
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Lori Barnes, Pascagoula
Stephen Cunetto, Starkville
Jolee Hussey, Oxford
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Becky Wright, Bruce

Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Susan Liles

Editor - *On the Same Page*



The Mississippi Library Commission was established in 1926 to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to achieve their greatest potential, participate in a global society, and enrich their daily lives.

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians.

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