

Happy Holidays!

The

Packet

2014

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Newsletter of the Mississippi Library Commission

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NABZDYK, ALA'S EMERGING LEADER CHOICE

The American Library Association (ALA) has selected 50 people to participate in its 2015 class of Emerging Leaders (EL). Out of the 200 who applied and the 50 chosen, Jennifer Nabzdyk, Digital Services Consultant for the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), was selected as the Emerging Leader from Mississippi. Nabzdyk is the third participant chosen from Mississippi since the program's inception in 2007.



Nabzdyk

"I'm honored and thrilled. I didn't expect to be chosen after hearing the number of applications they received. I'm so excited to find out what our project will be," Nabzdyk said when asked how she felt about being chosen to participate.

She will attend the Chicago ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2015 where she will receive her group assignment and project. Nabzdyk believes one of the reasons she was chosen is her multi-layered library background. "They really seemed to be looking for diverse individuals. I've had experience working in public libraries, academic libraries, and our state library in such varied roles as cataloging, reference, circulation, and consulting," she said. All of this will come into play when Nabzdyk and her group leave Chicago and head back to their individual libraries. Over the ensuing six months, they will continue to work together "in an online working and networking environment" (ALA). In June, she will travel to San Francisco to attend the ALA Annual Conference. The program culminates with a poster session presentation to display the results of the project planning work of each group at the ALA Annual Conference.

The Emerging Leaders program is designed to enable library staff and information workers to

participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.

Prior to being chosen as an ALA Emerging Leader, Nabzdyk was the recipient of the 2015 Mississippi Library Association's (MLA) Past President Award.

"I am extremely honored to have received the Past President's Award. I am glad to work for the Library Commission which supports involvement with professional organizations such as MLA, and am grateful for all the support my library colleagues provided throughout the conference. Thank you to the 2014 Immediate Past President, Lynn Shurden, and others for this honor."



Pictured are: (l) Nabzdyk with Immediate Past President Lynn Shurden.

Jennifer Nabzdyk is a native Mississippian. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree and her Master of Library and Information Science degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her professional interests include reference, cataloging and digital library services. She has previous experience working in both academic and public libraries as a shelver, circulation assistant, reference assistant, and cataloger/metadata librarian.

The Past President's Award is given to an outstanding beginning professional librarian who is an active MLA member. Candidates must hold an MLS degree, be employed in Mississippi and have between two and six years professional experience, two of which must be in Mississippi.

A Quarterly Publication

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Notes . . . from the desk of the Executive Director

December 2014

Reflecting on the past year....

As we wind down another calendar year, and I think back on my first year here at MLC, I am amazed how quickly the time has flown by! We made it through the Legislative Session and the budget request cycle, and are already gearing up for the next Legislative Session.

Nearly one-fourth of our public library directors are new to their positions within the last year or two – many are completely new to the position of being a director! Our efforts to provide training and information to these directors have been ongoing. Library Development held a New Directors Orientation in March. Continuing Education focused many workshops on tools that directors need to successfully maneuver through their roles. The roles and responsibilities of the consultants on the Library Development team remained focused on the needs of public library directors and their staffs. Indeed, that responsibility was felt by all who interact with the public library community – and will continue to be so.



Susan S. Cassagne
Executive Director

We've faced some significant changes over the past year, as well. As key employees have retired, resigned, or moved on to other positions and libraries, we have reassigned duties, continued to seek qualified applicants for open positions, and sometimes have found ourselves wearing several hats. But, we have worked together to continue to provide services we know are expected of us.

The coming year will bring changes and challenges, as well, I am certain. I am confident that we will meet those as efficiently as possible. Of course, the biggest change and challenge is the proposed statewide network plan. I sincerely hope library directors have contacted their legislators – and will continue to do so. The Legislative Session will convene at noon on January 6. Conference weekend is the last weekend in March. Getting the State-wide Network Plan message out to each legislator between now and Conference weekend is critical.

I am happy to have the year behind me. I've learned a great deal over the past year, and am quite certain I will continue to learn throughout the coming year. I thank you all for your patience. The Mississippi Library Commission serves a vital role to many people – and will continue to do so.

Susan

Susan S. Cassagne
Executive Director



Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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MLC HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Sounds of laughter along with tempting and tantalizing smells came from the first floor meeting room as the Library Commission's Celebration Committee prepared for the annual holiday luncheon. The room was transformed into a charming holiday scene. The Christmas tree, surrounded by neatly wrapped gifts, was ideally complemented with an online fireplace in the background.



As staff filed in to fill their plates, they were handed numbers for door prizes. About midway through the meal, the numbers were drawn and prizes awarded. This led to the highlight of the luncheon, the Dirty Santa game!

For those who are new to Dirty Santa, the rules can be found on the Internet. The game began with the rules being read, followed by the drawing of numbers. This sets in motion the order in which people choose gifts. The first gift chosen was a roll of toilet tissue with a card made from red paper attached to it that read, "Money is scarce and times are hard. I have no money to buy a card. Sometimes cheap gifts are hard to find. So I got you something to wipe your behind." This gift also came with a \$10 gift card. It didn't take long for things to "heat up" and the stealing began. The tissue and the gift card was the first gift to be stolen!



MLC's veteran Dirty Santa thief couldn't find a gift to steal so she had to choose a gift from the table only to have it stolen from her! Two of MLC's newest staff members had the most gifts stolen. There is something about Dirty Santa that brings out the hidden side of people. Finally, the resident Dirty Santa thief did steal her gift back and she actually got to keep it!

Dirty Santa ended with a low profile steal and the choosing of the last gift on the table, a book about cats!

*Happy
Holidays!*



VISUAL ARTIST, WOOD CRAFTSMAN CLOSE OUT COMMISSION'S 2014 EXHIBITS

The Mississippi Library Commission closes its 2014 exhibitions with a two-month exhibit featuring visual artist Chung-Fan Chang and wood craftsman Clayton Connelly Plunkett. The exhibit opened November 3 and continues through December 29, 2014. The exhibit is free and open to the general public and can be viewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Artist Chung-Fan Chang obtained her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Taipei National University in Taiwan and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. She describes herself as a visual artist who explores and investigates in painting, works on paper and wall installation to communicate her vision of beauty that reflect issues within the society and daily life experience.

Chang's art has exhibited in galleries and museums nationally and internationally. Her work has been published in such publications as Creative Loafing Atlanta, Art Radar Journal, BOOM magazine in Jackson and other publications. In 2011, she was a finalist in the Forward Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award in Atlanta, Georgia and was selected as a Visual Arts Fellow at the Mississippi Arts Commission in 2013.



Wood craftsman Clayton Connelly Plunkett shares the Library Commission's venue with Chang. Plunkett, born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, has worked in the construction industry for over 42 years. His knowledge of woodcraft is self-taught through books and online research and much of his artwork is created from his own designs using the color and grain of the wood.



Plunkett

During 2013, using some of the self-taught experience from boat and bow building, he built his first bowl as a valentine's gift for his wife. Plunkett has also built several pieces of furniture using contrasting woods to add accents and details. He recently participated in the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival where his row boat, built in 2014, won several awards including "Best on Land" and "First in Rowboat Division."

GARRETSON INDUCTED IN BETA PHI MU



Garretson

Mississippi Library Commission Continuing Education Training Coordinator and State Data Coordinator Joy Garretson was invited to join Beta Phi Mu. The induction ceremony took place during the annual Mississippi Library Association annual conference.

Membership in Beta Phi Mu is extended by invitation to candidates at any college or university where the American Library Association or other recognized accrediting agency approved by the Beta Phi Mu Executive Board has accredited or recognized a professional degree program, other programs offered under the direction of the same faculty, and who fulfill the following requirements:

- Completion of ALL requirements leading to a master's degree with a scholastic average of no lower than 3.75 where A equals 4.0, or
- Completion of planned programs of advanced study beyond the master's degree which require full time study for one or more academic years with a scholastic average of 3.75 where A equals 4.0.

Invitations to membership are based upon academic eligibility and a faculty assessment of candidates' professional leadership potential.

Garretson worked in education and ceramics before becoming a librarian, both of which she believes prepared her for librarianship in unexpected ways. She has a Master's degree in English from Mississippi State University and a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Her library career began at the Pearl Public Library as the Reference Supervisor. In July 2013, she accepted the position of Continuing Education Training Coordinator and State Data Coordinator at the Library Commission where she continues to serve in that capacity.



DUNNING RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

Mississippi Library Commission Purchasing Specialist Veronica Dunning recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Mississippi Purchasing Agent (CMPA) through the office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management.



Dunning

Dunning, along with 23 other state employees, attended the instruction and certification process that lasted a total of three days. Instruction took two-and-one-half days of which a half-day was to review, prior to taking the exam.

The Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management promotes economy and efficiency in procurement functions for governmental entities within the State of Mississippi and to provide a consistent, efficient, and cost effective fleet management program for all vehicles owned by the State of Mississippi.

Dunning is currently enrolled in classes for national certification.



MLC REFERENCE BLOG

The MLC Reference Blog (mlcref.blogspot.com) has always had a knack for posting intriguing nuggets of information, old newspaper articles and images, and neat things found while researching requests for their patrons. Reference Services has made some recent changes to their blog that deserve highlighting:

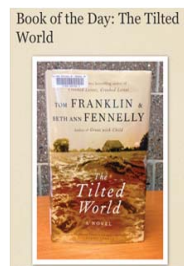
- **MLC Reads** – Are you curious about what books the staff of MLC is currently reading? The top left corner of the blog is updated regularly with a new set of books being read by MLC staff. These titles are also featured on MLC's Goodreads and Pinterest pages for individuals that would like to follow, like, or add titles to their own reading lists.



- **Chat** – Do you have a quick question and you're too stressed for time to find the correct answer? This is perfect for finding quick facts, links, and other information. The Reference Services' chat feature is open to receive your requests during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.



- **Book of the Day** – The MLC Reference Blog posts on a variety of topics, but this new column highlights both fascinating new and great old books that grace the shelves at MLC. These items are available for check out with your MLC library card.



- **Follow us By Email** – Afraid you'll miss great new content? This feature was added to the MLC Reference Blog in order to allow visitors to subscribe and receive an alert when new content is posted.



Make sure to follow us on: Goodreads: MLC Reference and Pinterest: pinterest.com/MSLibraryComm/.

MHC SPONSORS "THE TELLING PROJECT"

The Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is sponsoring "Standing Together," a veterans initiative. They are bringing "The Telling Project" to the Jackson/Meridian area as a way for military veterans and family members to tell their stories to their communities.

The Telling Project staff will visit a community and conduct oral histories with recent military veterans and their families. After the oral histories are transcribed and turned into scripts, the Telling Project staff will help shape the veterans' stories and transition them into performances. Afterwards, the veterans are able to perform their own first-hand stories for public audiences.

"Telling: Central Mississippi" will take place in August 2015 with performances at New Stage Theatre in Jackson and the Little Theatre in Meridian.

The Telling Project staff will be in Jackson and Meridian January 14-17 to conduct interviews. Help spread the word to veterans and military family members who might be interested in telling their story. You can learn more about the Telling Project on their website, <http://thetellingproject.org/> or contact them at <http://info@thetellingproject.org/>.

In addition to the Jackson and Meridian production, there will be a second production of the Telling Project that will take place in the Hattiesburg/Coast area. Interviews for that production will take place during the spring, and the performances will take place in the fall. Visit the website for more details!



MLC NEWS

The Mississippi Library Commission welcomes new staff members:



Nia Bass
Receptionist



Lynn Burriss
Fiscal Services Director



Matthew Henley
Facilities Maintenance



Drew Malone
In-house Attorney

Best Wishes . . .

The Library Commission extends best wishes to the following staff members who recently left the agency: Ramona Jones, Michelle Townsend, Jennifer Wann and Greg Sellers.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2014

ARTISTS – CHUNG-FAN CHANG & CLAYTON PLUNKETT

- 1 WORKSHOP – *TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY* – MLC
- 12 WORKSHOP – *Planning for the E-rate Filing Process* – MLC
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**

JANUARY 2015

ARTISTS – JACK CATLETTE, JASON SMITH

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**
- 2 NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**
- 5 WORKSHOP – *Technology Academy* – MLC
- 14-16 WORKSHOP – *LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE RETREAT #4* - RIDGELAND
- 19 KING/LEE BIRTHDAY – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**
- 21-22 WORKSHOP – *E-RATE FILING PROCESS* – MLC
- 27 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING – MLC

FEBRUARY 2015

ARTISTS – JACK CATLETTE, JASON SMITH

- 2 WORKSHOP – *TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY* – MLC
- 10 WORKSHOP – *LSTA GRANT WRITING & ADMINISTRATION* – MLC
- 12 WORKSHOP – *SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR TEENS* – MLC
- 16 PRESIDENTS DAY – **STATE HOLIDAY – AGENCY CLOSED**
- 18 WORKSHOP – *DESIGN IN LIBRARY PROMOTIONS* – MLC
- 26 MLA PIE DAY - STATE CAPITOL
- 26-27 PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS MEETING - MLC



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