Sara Bongiorni, author of *A Year Without “Made in China:” One Family's True Life Adventures in the Global Economy*, will be at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch, on Saturday, January 19, at 2:00 p.m. A book signing and light reception will follow Bongiorni’s talk about her book and her work as a business journalist.

*A Year Without “Made in China”* follows Bongiorni’s own experience as her family decides to forgo anything made in China for an entire year. What starts out as a test to see if it is possible to avoid all products manufactured in or exported from China evolves into something more. The mother of three denies that she was trying to make a political statement. Instead, she states, “It was a way to try to understand in a very real and personal way my own family’s connections to this big fuzzy concept of the global economy, and specifically to China,” said Bongiorni.

This experiment started soon after Christmas 2004 as she sorted through gifts and wrapping paper. Looking around the heap of goods, she realized almost all of it came from China. “I thought, you know, it would be fun just to see if we could go a whole year ... without China,” recalls Bongiorni. “It certainly took over our whole life. It became an all-consuming project.”

Bongiorni is an award-winning journalist who resides locally with her family.

For more information, call (225) 274-4440.

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Get the Business Connection!

Want to start your own "life adventure in the global economy?" Why not start small and work your way up! Supporting local merchants and businesses is a crucial step in building the local economy. Don't know where to start? No problem—the Library has you covered! From product inquiries to business information, the library is dedicated to providing the most current, up-to-date information needed by patrons. Get connected with the Library's Business & Career Connection. In this online site you will find a selection of business and career resources—databases, websites, e-books and print titles—all designed to assist you in making the best decisions for your business or career.

A special feature of the website is the Business Person of the Month. Each month a new, local entrepreneur is presented. Not only will you learn more about the specialized service their business can offer, but you can also glean a glimpse of the person behind the business—thus building stronger connections and learning more about your community.

Whether you’re trying to research a particular company through *Reference USA* or *Standard & Poor’s Net Advantage*, or trying to find some contact information through *EBSCO’s Business Source Complete*, the Library’s Business & Career Connection is your one-stop shop for “all things business.”

Visit the library website, [www.ebr.lib.la.us](http://www.ebr.lib.la.us) or contact Library Information Service at (225) 231-3750 for additional information.
Find Ancestors on the Web

Who's your daddy? Find out with Ancestry.com. Learn how to use Ancestry.com at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch, on Wednesday, January 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Ancestry.com is available for FREE at the Library. It is a super genealogy resource that is connected to thousands of databases which are updated daily. The information offered by the site can be overwhelming. Genealogy librarian, Cassie Fedrick, will help you map it out by demonstrating shortcuts and search techniques. She will also offer quick tips to hone your research for productive results.

To register and for more information, call (225) 763-2283.

Social Security Online Awareness Seminars

Don’t wait in line at the Social Security office again! Find out how to navigate their new online services at the Main Library, on Wednesday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. The new website offers several helpful tools including access to retirement and disability applications benefit calculators, and Medicare card replacements. Social Security representatives will be on hand to answer questions and help participants use the website.

For more information, call (225) 231-3746.

The Distant Empire

Henry Howell, author of The Distant Empire: A Story of Early Louisiana, will be at the Zachary Branch Library, on Sunday, February 3, at 3:00 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

The Distant Empire follows the story of a young man making his way in 18th century Louisiana. Howell’s extensive research on Louisiana history is clearly evident in this work.

Howell is a retired history teacher and lifelong resident of Louisiana. He currently serves on the East Feliciana School Board.

For more information, call (225) 658-1840.

Library Receives Endowment

Sara Weill Kantrow always had a love of reading. When her eye sight began to fail due to macular degeneration, Kantrow turned to audio books. “She would have someone drive her to the Main Library and she would check out as many audio books as she was allowed,” says Kantrow’s son Byron Kantrow, Jr. Once home, she would listen to them for hours. “She always had them playing,” remembers son Lee Kantrow. “She consumed them.”

Library staff would often assist Mrs. Kantrow and kept track of authors she liked. “We kept a list of the audio books she had checked out and would find new ones for her each week,” recalls library technician, Kitty Brothers. “She probably listened to the majority of our fiction collection.”

After she passed away in March 2006, the Kantrow sons and their wives decided the most fitting tribute to their mother would be to set up an endowment in her honor for the Library’s audio book collection. “The audio books were the best thing for her,” says Byron Kantrow, Jr. “They always kept her occupied and she truly enjoyed them.”

In recognition of the endowment, a plaque has been hung in the Main Library’s audio book collection. “Audio books open up a world of literature and information to people that do not have the time to read or can not read,” says Library Director, Lydia M. Acosta. “This endowment guarantees the continued purchase of audio books for the Library.”

Crocheted Mardi Gras Boa

Forget the beads, dress it up this Fat Tuesday with a unique boa! Learn how to crochet a Mardi Gras boa at the River Center Branch, on Saturday, January 26, at 10:30 a.m.

To register and for a list of supplies, call (225) 389-4967.

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To register and for a list of supplies, call (225) 389-4967.
Financial Solutions

How far will your investments take you? Learn the fundamental basics of handling finances at the Carver Branch on Tuesday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m. Participants will learn how to create a budget, invest, and set financial goals.

For additional information, call (225) 389-7450.

Improve Your Credit Score

What does your credit report say about you? Not only can a poor credit rating jeopardize your ability to secure loans, but it also affects your employment opportunities.

Find out how to avoid a poor credit rating at the Main Library, on Tuesday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m. Learn what your credit score means, where it comes from, how it affects your life, and how to improve it.

For additional information, call (225) 231-3745.

Healthy Home

Dr. Sally Soileau and Diane Scimeca, both with the LSU AgCenter, will present information about irritants found in homes, schools, and work sites and how these irritants might be making you sick. They will answer questions and offer solutions on how to deal with allergies, dust mites, humidity levels, mold, and mildew. Find out how you can live in a healthier environment at the Main Library, on Tuesday, January 22, at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, call (225) 231-3705.

Healthy Living

Start the New Year off right by learning tips and strategies for fitting fitness into a busy life as well as eating smart for a healthy weight. Dr. Sally Soileau, of the LSU AgCenter, will teach participants how to calculate their BMI (Body Mass Index), the importance of food journaling, grocery shopping strategies, recipe modifications, and fast food tips. Learn how to kick the yo-yo syndrome of dieting once and for all at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch, on Thursday, January 17, at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, call (225) 274-4440.

Small Steps, Big Rewards: Prevent Type 2 Diabetes

Small Steps, Big Rewards: Prevent Type 2 Diabetes is a national campaign to inform the public about diabetes prevention. Find out what steps you can take to prevent diabetes at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch, on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m. or on Wednesday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. A registered dietician and a registered nurse from Pennington Biomedical Research Center’s TAKE 5 for Diabetes and Prevention Program will present information about type 2 diabetes and its risk factors. Listen to findings from the Diabetes Prevention Program Research Study and ask questions to be informed.

For more information, call (225) 763-2250.

Living Well with Diabetes

Learn how people with diabetes can live a healthy lifestyle at the Pride-Chaneyville Branch, on Wednesday, January 16, at 1:30 p.m. A registered nurse and a registered dietician from the Pennington Biomedical Center’s TAKE 5 for Diabetes Education will share tips on how taking an active role in managing diabetes can put patients on the road to better health.

To register and for more information, call (225) 658-1580.

The Library will be closed in observance of New Year’s Day on Tuesday, January 1, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 21.
The Big Read Facilitator Training

Let the training begin! Organizations, churches, and volunteers who would like to serve as discussion leaders for The Big Read: One Book/One Community series co-sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, may attend a short orientation on Tuesday, January 15, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

Techniques learned will be useful in any setting, whether leading discussion of Fahrenheit 451 in any of nine parishes during the spring series, or participating in meetings in a business, community organization, educational, or recreational setting.

Save the Date! The Big Read Gala Kick-off will be held at the BREC Independence Park Theatre and Cultural Center on Saturday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. For more information on participating, call (225) 231-3710 or visit The Big Read: One Book/One Community website at www.ReadOneBook.org.

Remembering Civil Rights and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at three libraries.

Dr. Charles Vincent, professor of history at Southern University, president of The Mwalimu Institute, and representative of District One on the Baker City Council, will present a program focusing on African-American heroes at the Baker Branch on Saturday, January 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

To commemorate Dr. King’s legacy, Vincent will provide dialogue and commentary on Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and will also discuss Justice Sunday, a day which allows the opportunity to acknowledge the memory and unselfish deeds of Dr. King, and encourages others to see service as he did. The first 20 participants will receive free back-to-school supplies, Black history magazines, and other amenities.

The Scotlandville Branch will present “At the River I Stand” on Saturday, January 12, at 2:00 p.m. This 58-minute documentary details the 1968 sanitation workers’ strike in Memphis, TN and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King’s contributions to society, children, ages 5 to 11, are invited to the Eden Park Branch, on Thursday, January 17, at 3:30 p.m. to learn about Dr. King and his dream. Children will create their own booklet about Dr. King and listen to the story “Thank you, Dr. King!”

For additional information, call any participating library.

Just for TEENS

It’s Good For You!

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION #3,152

I will improve my study “skillz”...but how? Visit any Teen Services Division and ask for our latest resources! Inquiring minds find fast answers to life’s most difficult questions, like:

“How can I find three sources on William Shakespeare?”
Teen Book Club Meeting
The Baker Teen Book Club will meet to discuss their January selection, *Gingerbread* by Rachel Cohn, at the Baker Branch, on Thursday, January 17, at 4:00 p.m. All interested teens are invited to attend.

For more information, call (225) 778-5960.

Funky Teen Jewelry
Teens will make accessories such as earrings, bracelets, and key chains using a little bit of imagination and jewelry supplies at the Carver Branch, on Wednesday, January 23, 3:30 p.m.

To register and for additional information, call (225) 389-7450.

Who Dun It?—Murder Mystery
Gather evidence and examine pretend crime scenes during this live action mystery at the Baker Branch, on Thursday, January 31, at 4:00 p.m. Once all of the evidence is collected, teens will determine “who dun it?”

To register and for more information, call (225) 778-5960.

Madden Madness!
Teens will compete to see who has the most skills in Madden on PlayStation 2. Kick off is at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, at the Delmont Gardens Branch.

To register and for more information, call (225) 354-7070.

Chill Out: Smoothie Night
Learn how smoothies can have positive effects on your health and then practice making these yummy drinks! Smoothie Night starts at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 14, at the Central Branch.

To register and for more information, call (225) 262-2660.

Anime Afternoon
Teens will play Anime Jeopardy and then view episodes of popular Japanese animation at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch, on Saturday, January 19, at 2:00 p.m.

For more information, call (225) 274-4470.

Herpetology Club Meeting
If you have an interest in reptiles and/or amphibians, this club is for you! Members of the Zachary Branch Herpetology Club has monthly meetings where members can learn about these fascinating creatures and even share some of their own knowledge. This month’s meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call (225) 658-1870.

Welcome to the Real World
“You think you know—but you have no idea.” Beverly Bailey, an extension agent for the LSU AgCenter, will lead an entertaining simulation of the “real world” for teens. In an active, hands-on program, teens will take on the role of a 25-year-old single. Leaders will guide them through situations where they make decisions about careers, housing, groceries, clothing, insurance, and other necessities and luxuries of life. Start living in the “Real World” at the Zachary Branch, on Thursday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m.

To register and for more information, call (225) 658-1870.
Community volunteer readers will share their favorite African-American literature during the African-American Read-In at libraries in February. Family and friends are invited to share a reading from a work authored by an African-American. Readers must register in advance by calling their participating library.

The goal of the African-American Read-In, a national celebration which began 19 years ago, is to make literature an important part of Black History month.

**Main Library**
Saturday, February 2, 2:30 p.m.
Children and their families are invited to participate by reading from the works of an African-American writer. To participate, readings must be approved by January 29.
To register and for more information, call (225) 231-3760.

**Carver Branch**
Saturday, February 2, 12:00 p.m.
Community participants will read and perform poetry and literature selections. The program may also include dance and vocal presentations.
To register and for more information, call (225) 389-7460.

**Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch**
Monday, February 4, 4:00 p.m.
All ages are invited to participate in this celebration of reading. Readings should be a 1-2 minutes of verse from a favorite poem or book included in the Library’s collection.
To register and for more information, call (225) 274-4460.

**Scotlandville Branch**
Monday, February 4, 4:00 p.m.
Teens and children ages 6 and up are invited to share their favorite prose selection or poem from the Library’s collection. All participants must register in the Children’s Room by January 28.
To register and for more information, call (225) 354-7560.

**Baker Branch**
Saturday, February 9, 1:00 p.m.
Kids are invited to read their favorite works. Readings can be 2-3 minutes in length.
To register and for more information, call (225) 778-5960.

**Delmont Gardens Branch**
Saturday, February 16, 11:00 a.m.
All ages are invited to read their favorite literary selection.
To register and for more information, call (225) 354-7060.

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To register and for more information, call (225) 354-7060.
Storytime gives children an excellent introduction to books and the library, increases their attention spans, and develops their social skills by involving them in stories, poetry, and songs. The Children’s Services staff hopes Storytime will be an enjoyable experience for each child, leading to a lifelong love of books and reading.

You are always welcome to attend Storytime with your child. We offer five different Storytime formats. Since children develop at different rates, you may talk with one of our library staff members to place your child in a younger or older group. Call your local library for more information.

### Storytime at the Library

Lapsit – for babies through crawling

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<tr>
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<tbody>
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Toddler Time – for walking children through two years old

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Preschool Storytime – for children three to five years old

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<tr>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>Tuesdays, January 22, 29 &amp; February 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Center</td>
<td>Thursdays, January 17, 24, 31 &amp; February 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotlandville</td>
<td>Thursdays, January 24, 31 &amp; February 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary</td>
<td>Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 &amp; February 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spanish Storytime – for ages 3 and up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluebonnet</td>
<td>Thursdays, January 24, 31 &amp; February 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Night Storytime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluebonnet</td>
<td>Tuesdays, January 22, 29 &amp; February 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delmont Gardens</td>
<td>Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 &amp; February 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwell Springs</td>
<td>Thursdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones Creek</td>
<td>Wednesdays, January 23, 30 &amp; February 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On View at the Library

Bluebonnet Regional Branch
Do the Zoo!
BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo exhibit features all the many reasons to “Do the Zoo.”

El Nuevo Constante
See this traveling exhibit containing authentic and replicated artifacts of the only Spanish shipwreck in Louisiana.

Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library
Beaded Masks and Jewels
View the hand-crafted beaded masks, purses, and jewelry of The Bead Society.

Five Decades of Art
Experience the realistic and abstract paintings of award-winning, self-taught, artist Don Rast.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Due to the holiday season, Recycled Reads will be closed in January. The book sale store will continue with its regular schedule on the last Saturday of February 2008.