



Spring 2010

# Baxter Library

## Los Angeles Harbor College

**IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2010,  
THE BAXTER LIBRARY PRESENTS:**

### **The Eastsiders**

A documentary celebration of the African American community known as the Eastsiders in Los Angeles from 1920 to 1965.

This 90 minute documentary consists of oral history interviews describing what it was like to live on the Eastside of L.A. in the 20's, 30's and 40's. As one witness comments, this was the "golden age of struggle and success."

**Thursday, February 25th, 11:00am to 12:30pm & Friday,  
February 26th, 11:00am to 12:30pm in the Library**



### **LIBRARY HOURS**

**Monday 8 am to 8:30 pm**

**Tuesday 8 am to 8:30 pm**

**Wednesday 8 am to 8:30 pm**

**Thursday 8 am to 8:30 pm**

**Friday 8 am to 2:00 pm**

**Saturday 9 am to 1:00 pm**

**Sunday Closed**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Reference (310) 233-4478**

**Circulation (310) 233-4482**

**Periodicals (310) 233-4477**

**Library Division Chair**

**Jonathon Lee (310) 233-4475**

**Email [library@lahc.edu](mailto:library@lahc.edu)**



### **Photos**

Top left: A chorus line of the club Alabam on an evening in 1945, featuring Juliette Ball in the center.

Right: Walter L. Gordon, Jr., (far left), and Dr. Charles Drew, discoverer of plasma and developer of the blood transfusion (far right), receive a community appreciation award from Lionel Hampton (center) at Sebastian's Cotton Club.



## **Google Voice @ Your Library!**

Google is constantly creating new interactive tools aimed at making your daily tasks more efficient. Its latest is known as Google Voice, a tool that sends the voicemail from your phone and transcribes it into written format. By transcribing your voicemail this way, you can access your verbal message through email or text, like a chat transcript, receive notifications via email or SMS text, as well as share these messages by forward, embed URL or by simply downloading it to your computer. Google Voice is available via invitation and allows the option of using an existing phone number or creating a new number through Google. So how does Google Voice relate to the Baxter Library and LAHC community?

Your very own Baxter Library has taken on this new technology to use as its latest reference services tool! With a "mission to be as available as possible" (Jonathon Lee, Library Division Chair), the library has signed up for Google Voice to better meet the LAHC community's reference needs. Faculty and students can text the chosen Google phone number, (424) 210-5542, and connect with a reference librarian. This number is also linked on the Library's homepage at [www.lahc.edu/library/ask.html](http://www.lahc.edu/library/ask.html). Promotion of this new tool can be found on the Library's Twitter page ([twitter.com/baxterlibrary](https://twitter.com/baxterlibrary)), Facebook and newsletter. Jonathon Lee will additionally make this new feature available during library instruction sessions and workshops. "I'm hoping students will see it as another convenient way to communicate with the librarians."

If you cannot physically make it to the library, have no fear! Through Google Voice, the Baxter Librarians are available to assist you with your reference needs and questions!

## VTEA FUNDING FOR 2009/2010

For this academic year 2009/2010, the VTEA committee approved a generous fund to support the library in purchasing books for the vocational areas. The nursing collection was outdated and needed to be replaced with more up-to-date resources. The books purchased will provide our students with additional reading materials which they need to complete their assignments, projects and research but cannot find in their textbooks.

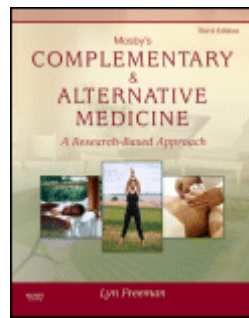
Thanks to Lynn and Tricia, nursing faculty, for their support in examining the library's health and nursing collection and identifying the outdated material to be weeded out. The nursing department also donated nursing textbooks to be placed on library reserve. Thanks also to Jonathon and the library staff for their tremendous effort in weeding out the outdated nursing collection. We hope that the strengthening and updating of the collection will ensure that the new library resources meet the accreditation standards of the Board of Registered Nursing.

Please inform your students of the library's acquisition of the new books in the areas of health, medicine and nursing. Ibtesam Dessouky

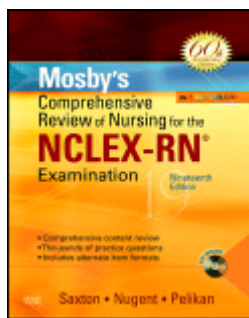
### SOME NEW VTEA FUNDED ADDITIONS



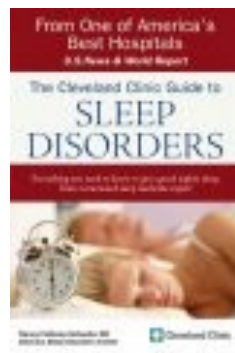
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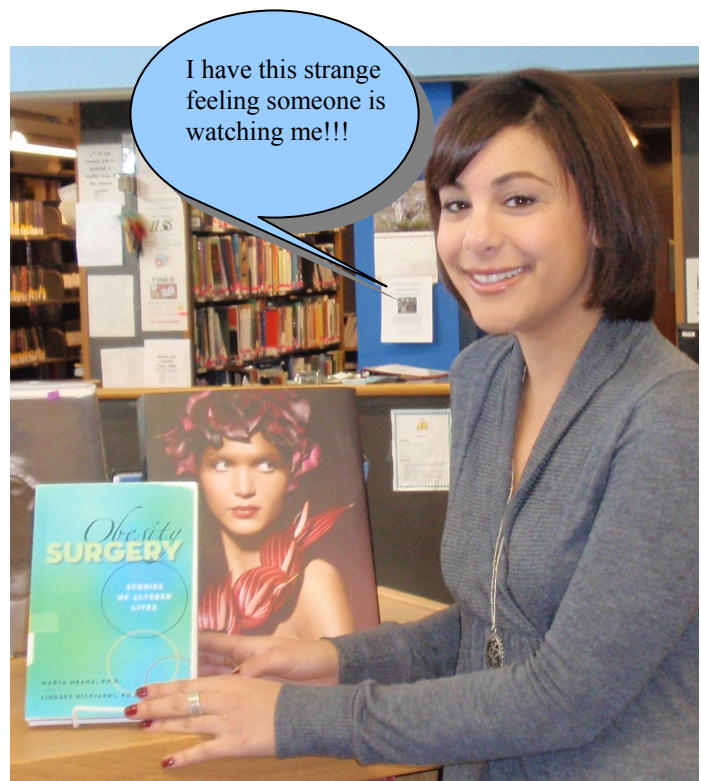
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Call No: R733 .F743

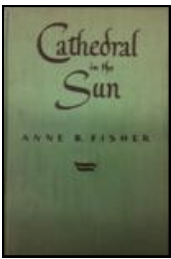


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Library intern Sherry Youseff with one of the new nursing books. For a profile of Sherry please see page 4.

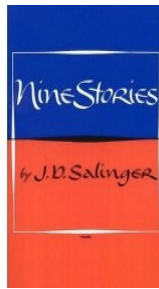
# WHAT WE'RE READING IN THE BAXTER LIBRARY



I enjoy reading books on California history especially about the mission and hacienda periods. Cathedral in the Sun by Anne B. Fisher is about the lives of Juan and his daughter Loreta who were mission Indians at Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmel beginning with the padres 1770 (Father Junipero Serra) and ending when the Americans restored the mission in the 1870's. It is quite an exciting fictional tale based on

historical facts told from the Indian point of view. The first part of the book is Juan's story and the second half is Loreta's story. Interwoven in the lives of Juan and Loreta are descriptions of grizzly bear encounters, pirates, whalers, wars, disease, gold strikes, famous outlaws, drought, fandangos, vaqueros and political upheavals. One of the most delightful tales in the book is about a fiddle and "Father Amore chants." This is an easy and fun book to read and as it was published in 1951 was probably written to make California history come alive for students in the 1950's. **Pat Brough-Cervantes, Library Technician**

J.D. Salinger, an esteemed author of our time, is one of my favorite novelists. His collection of short stories, Nine Stories, provides the reader with a glimpse into the world of the Glass Family and other of Salinger's peculiar characters. Each story captivates the reader through Salinger's witty and descriptive prose. His use of language is profound as the reader delves into each character's tragic flaw. Nine Stories is definitely a hidden gem that readers should discover and cherish. I believe it is a great example for those aspiring short story novelists.



**Sherry Youssef, Spring Intern**

## NEED HELP CITING?

We now have copies of the latest editions of the:

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

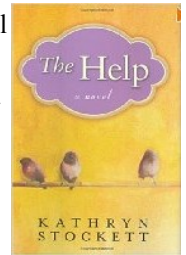


Modern Language Association. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>ed</sup>. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print.

You will find those 2 sources on the bookshelf next to the reference desk.

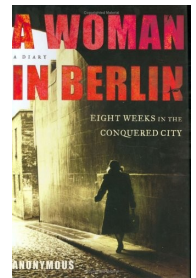
**Ask the reference librarian and he or she will be glad to help.**

The 1960's were not that long ago, and Jackson Mississippi is not that far away, but reading The Help by first time novelist, Kathryn Stockett, makes both this time and this place seem remote and godforsaken. This novel will bring to life, for the current generation, the corrupt condition that was the segregated south. The protagonist, one Skeeter Phelan, is hoping to move to New York to become a writer. Her peers, on the other hand, are building separate bathrooms in their homes for 'the help.' The help, it seems, are good enough to raise one's child with but not good enough to share one's bathroom with. Skeeter becomes the ghost writer behind a series of personal stories imparted to her by several of her friends' African American maids and nannies. Through these stories, and because Stockett is superb at character development, the reader is able to know what it was like to be Aibileen or to be Minny at this time in this place. One reviewer on Amazon compares this novel to those of Carson McCullers. I disagree. McCullers had more heart, poignancy and presence. The Help, however, has humor, perspective and readability, and an ending more hopeful than any capable of McCullers.

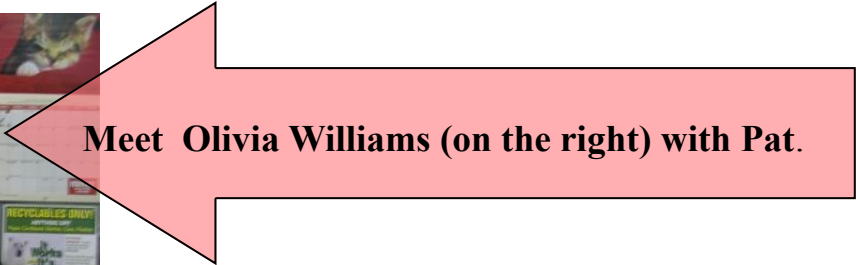


**Marian Locascio, Librarian**

First published in 1953, A Woman in Berlin Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: A Diary has become an "international phenomenon a half century after it was written." The author died in 2001 and it then was republished in its entirety. An anonymous professional writer in her 30's describes life in her Berlin apartment complex between late April and mid-June 1945. Germany was defeated and Berlin occupied by the Red Army. According to the forward, this diary "served primarily to help her maintain a remnant of sanity in a world of havoc and moral breakdown." The writer suffers severe hunger, forced labor and multiple rapes at the hands of the victorious Russians. Survival forces the writer to develop an agreement with an officer. We learn nothing of the writer's life before or after these eight weeks, which somehow makes this diary even more devastating. The diarist describes how she instinctively finds the best means of self-preservation while also describing grave psychological damage suffered by other victims. As the introduction to this unforgettable work points out, in the late 1940s women were forbidden to mention the subject of rape "as if it somehow dishonored their men, who were supposed to have defended them. It remained taboo until the late 1980's when a younger generation of women encouraged their mothers to speak about their experiences."



**Marian Locascio, Librarian**



Meet Olivia Williams (on the right) with Pat.

Olivia has been a student at LAHC since the spring semester of 2008 and has worked in the library since the fall of 2009. Pat Brough-Cervantes, her supervisor, put Olivia through some grueling library skills tests and she passed with flying colors. Olivia shelves books, helps student and oversees the computer lab from 4:30pm to 8:30pm Monday through Thursday. Olivia is majoring in Business and soon plans to transfer to El Camino to study cosmetology. She hopes to run her own beauty salon one day soon. When not studying Olivia enjoys relaxing in front of the TV, cooking and styling hair. Olivia is an L.A. native. Come to the library and say hello.

### MEET LIBRARY INTERN SHERRY YOUSSEF!

Sherry Youssef is LAHC Baxter Library's new intern for the Spring Semester! She is currently working towards her Master's in Library and Information Science through San Jose State University. She is in her final semester and hopes to continue her education through the pursuit of a Master's in Fine Art emphasis in Creative Writing. Sherry earned her B.A. in Comparative Literature from UC Irvine in 2007. During her internship, Sherry will assist students with research questions, work on various projects throughout the library, and assist with library workshops.

She is looking forward to a great semester at LAHC!

### Is Twitter Making them Fail? IMHO Yes!

EXCERPTED FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS ARTICLE. FIND THE COMPLETE STORY AT:

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2010/01/31/12686831-cp.html>

Little or no grammar teaching, cell phone texting, social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, all are being blamed for an increasingly unacceptable number of post-secondary students who can't write properly. For years there's been a flood of anecdotal complaints from professors about what they say is the wretched state of English grammar coming from some of their students. Now there seems to be some solid evidence. Ontario's Waterloo University is one of the few post-secondary institutions in Canada to require the students they accept to pass an exam testing their English language skills. Almost a third of those students are failing. Barrett says the failure rate has jumped five percentage points in the past few years, up to 30 per cent from 25 per cent.

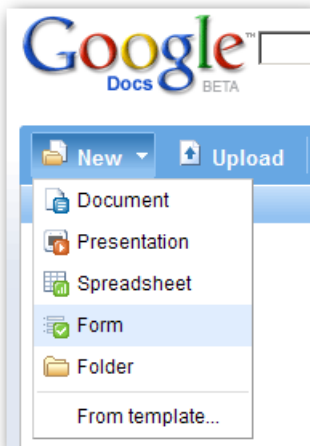
"What has happened in high school that they cannot pass our simple test of written English, at a minimum?" she asks.

Even those with good marks out of Grade 12, so-called elite students, "still can't pass our simple test," she says.

Emoticons, happy faces, sad faces, cuz, are just some of the writing horrors being handed in, say professors and administrators at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

"Little happy faces ... or a sad face ... little abbreviations," show up even in letters of academic appeal, says Khan Hemani.

"Instead of 'because', it's 'cuz'. That's one I see fairly frequently," she says, and these are new in the past five years.



Thanks to the great training we received earlier this semester, the library is now using Google Docs Forms to administer our library orientation assessment quizzes. No more paper and pencils, no more fee-based survey software. This tool is very intuitive to learn and to use, but if you need help ask at the library.