

## Scams follow gift card popularity

Since their debut in the mid-90s, gift cards have exploded into a multibillion-dollar industry. They offer convenience and ease for gift givers and receivers alike. No more questioning if a gift is the right size or worrying if returning an unwanted gift is offensive.

However, as always, where consumer trends go, scams will follow.

A recent, in-depth Better Business Bureau study finds reports of scams involving gift cards have increased dramatically in the last few years, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. In 2020, Texans alone reported nearly 100 gift card-related scams, which cost them more than \$126,000.

So, how do scammers use gift cards? They could be a part of any type of fraud where payment is requested. The scammer will typically instruct their target to purchase gift cards and send them photos of the number on the back. If you question why they are requesting this specific form of payment, they give you a convincing answer. For example, they might tell you

that the company or organization has recently entered a contract with the gift card company.

Gift cards are an appealing form of payment to scammers. They do not offer the same kinds of protections as a credit card, and they cannot be easily traced. If a suspicious caller is asking you to pay them via gift card, remember these tips from your Better Business Bureau to avoid getting scammed:

- Know the red flags. Remember, a government agency will never call and demand payment or ask you to send money through gift cards. You should also be wary of anyone who tries to convince you gift cards are a safe form of payment. Like cash, they are unrecoverable once sent.

- Keep your receipt. Keep proof of your purchase, including the receipt and the card itself. If problems arise, this can help you prove the card was paid for.

- Report it. If you've been scammed, submit a report to BBB Scam Tracker or the Federal Trade Commission.

To read the full report, visit us at BBB.org.



## Richard A. Mick

Richard A. Mick joined his Heavenly Father on March 8, 2021, after suffering a stroke. Mick was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, on December 19, 1937, and grew up in Madison, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 19. After completing basic training in San Antonio, he spent the next four years at Perrin Air Force Base, Sherman, Texas before his honorable discharge.

Mick leaves behind his loving wife and best friend of 37 years, Jane Rutledge Gallaway. They were married in Richardson, Texas on April 23, 1963. Their mutual love for sailing inspired them to restore three sailboats. Mick received the JN (Junior Navigator) certificate from the Power Squadron. He retired from 3M after 33 years where he was a Utility Sales Rep. He and Jane lived aboard and while making repairs in Fort Meyers, Mick passed his General Ham license. With a sense of adventure, they explored Florida and the Bahama Islands. Captain Mick's calm manner got them through nasty storms.

They moved back to Texas and relished their Sun City Texas lifestyle since 1998. Mick rekindled his love of playing golf. He was an active member in Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church and served as a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree.

He helped at garage sales for the Annunciation Maternity Home, participated in numerous teams for the ACTS Missions Retreats, and served



as an Acolyte for ten years. Known as a "man of his word," you could always count on him. Mick was a gentle soul. He believed in putting God first. He loved children. A crying baby in Walmart didn't stand a chance when he smiled at them. His radiant smile made you feel loved. While Mick enjoyed exploring America's natural beauty, he preferred the quiet beaches of Port Aransas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Anita Kuntz and Ruel Russell Mick, sister, Maxine Hameister, brother, William Kenneth Mick, and Barbara Gail Johnson Mick. Mick is survived by his six children and their families: Rick, Pam, Suzie, Missy, Randy and Ronnie — as well as a brother, Ruel Bud Mick. Mr. Wonderful will be missed by Jane's family: Anne and Jeff Stuart, Mike and Sarah Stuart and children; Kim and Brent Martinelli and children.

We are especially thankful to Georgetown Living, Seton Hospital, Round Rock, and to Hospice Austin for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you honor Richard A. Mick's memory with a donation to Hospice Austin, 4107 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78759, (512) 342-4700.

Reverend Larry Stehling, Pastor, Santa Rosa Church, Andice, will offer a Memorial Mass for Richard Mick on at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021. Burial services will be held in April at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

## Myrna Louise Jackson Newlan

Myrna Louise Jackson Newlan, age 74, passed away Monday, March 15, 2021 at her home in Georgetown, Texas. She was born on January 13, 1947 in Odessa, Texas to parents Don and Doris (Murray) Jackson. She graduated from Liberal High School in Liberal, Kansas in 1965, then graduated from Emporia State University in 1969 with a Bachelors in Elementary Education. She later earned two Masters Degrees: one in Reading and one in Administration. While teaching in the Oklahoma City area, she met and married Ronald Roberts. They moved to Amarillo, Texas where their only daughter, Karen Michelle (Roberts) Morgan was born in 1976. In 2004, Myrna was remarried to Bruce Newlan of Tucson, Arizona at First Baptist Church in Grandfield, Oklahoma. They later moved to Georgetown, Texas to be near their two grandchildren, Mary and Benjamin Morgan.

Myrna was an avid weaver and reader. Her love of reading was passed down to her grandkids as she supplied almost all of the books in their library. She was predeceased by her brother, Karl Jackson of Inter-



lachen, Florida in 2021.

She is survived by her husband, Bruce Newlan; daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, Karen (Roberts), David, Mary and Benjamin Morgan of Leander, Texas; brother, Bruce Jackson, of Blue Eye, Missouri; and her nieces, Claire Jackson of Liberal, Kansas and Emily Jackson of Kansas City, Missouri.

A time of visitation will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021 in the Chapel of Ramsey Funeral Home with the funeral service to follow. Pastor Whit Anderson will be officiating.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 19, 2021 at the City of Grandfield Cemetery, in Grandfield, Oklahoma with the Very Reverend Father Aidan Wilcoxson.

You may share a message or memory in the online memorial guestbook at [www.Ramsey-Funeral.com](http://www.Ramsey-Funeral.com).



Obituaries may be e-mailed to [obit@wilcosun.com](mailto:obit@wilcosun.com) Monday at 5 p.m. for the Wednesday paper, Thursday at 5 p.m. for the Sunday paper.

Call 512-930-4824 for more details.

## Q&A with new library director Sally Miculek

The staff of the Georgetown Public Library learned March 10 that, after a nationwide search,

Sally Miculek (pronounced MICH-u-lek) was selected to serve as the new director of the Georgetown Public Library.

Ms. Miculek has been the assistant library director for seven years, but as she moves into the directorship, it seemed like a good idea to make sure the *Sun's* readers have the opportunity to get to know her better. To that end, I asked Ms. Miculek some questions.

**Q: What will you focus on in your first year?**

A: Immediately, I'm focused on the reopening process as the Covid-19 spread continues to decline in the community and more and more folks are vaccinated. As we bring back the services that have been suspended, I'm looking forward to working with the staff to revive our slate of engaging

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Dana Hendrix

in-person programs, bringing a new café into the library and continuing to improve the services we offer for the community.

**Q: The library's mission statement is, "The Georgetown Public Library engages, enlightens, and empowers the community." When you think about our three "e" words — engage, enlighten, empower — how do they align with your vision of a library's role in the community?**

A: I think the "three e's" are a great way to encapsulate what a library can do for its community. By engaging our patrons and inviting them both to the building and to the services the library offers, we open the door to personal enlightenment as patrons take advantage of the opportunity for lifelong education and participate in the cultural conversation of this community and communities beyond Georgetown. Finally, that participation leads to empowered citizenship and a strengthened community.

**Q: What would success in this role look like for you?**

A: I think success for me is fully bound up in success for the library. I'm looking forward to working with the community, including our community partners and our very supportive Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Board, as well as library and city staff to determine what a successful future looks like. Some of the things I'm most ready to see are more art throughout the building, a busy lobby, a full program calendar, an empty "New Books" shelf and, of course, a full parking lot.

**Q: What do you most look forward to doing as the director?**

A: I'm looking forward to a continued focus on innovative and community-minded service, and making my mark on the programs and resources we provide.

**Q: I know that former director Eric Lashley has served as a mentor for you, and when you got the job, he sent you a bouquet of flowers. What is it like to follow him as director?**

A: Daunting. So, so daunting. Eric remains a leader in this community, and so much of what makes this library great is drawn from his leadership. That said, I feel awfully well-supported — by the community, by city leadership



Sally Miculek is the new director of the Georgetown Public Library.

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and by this fantastic library staff, and that's very much thanks to Eric's legacy of service and leadership.

**Q: You have made it a point to work at all of our service desks many hours each week, so you've worked at circulation, reference and the children's desk. Describe a patron interaction you've had that illustrates why you love working at the library.**

A: I try to be on the lookout every day for at least one moment that reaffirms my commitment to this work. Sometimes it's helping someone figure out how to download e-books for the first time, and sometimes it's introducing someone to a new author or helping someone find a phone number or print the weather report. One of my favorite moments from the past couple years happened one day when I was working in the Children's Room. A young patron approached the desk and asked me where to find her "favorite book." She didn't question at all whether we might have her favorite book, nor was she even a little bit worried that I might not know what her favorite book was. She had total trust that the library would come through for her. And, I'm glad to say, we did have her favorite book. I was so pleased that I think I sent her home with a sticker, too.

**Q: How did you get here — what led you to become a librarian?**

A: I've always been a reader,

naturally, and I've always enjoyed recommending what I've been reading, watching or listening to anyone who will listen. When I was in school, I always had a great rapport with my school librarians, and then in college, I discovered a fondness for public library work while shelving books at the Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma. My mom pointed out that "librarian" was a career path I could choose, and the rest is history. I went straight to library school [for the required American Library Association-accredited master's degree in library and information science] after I got my BA, and aside from a brief six-month stint as a research analyst, I've been a public libraries librarian for the past 18 years.

**Q: If you had not become a librarian, what would you be instead?**

A: Honestly, I have no idea. I think "librarian" is who I am as much as "mom" and "wife" are who I am at this point. I can't imagine myself without librarianship.

**Q: Just as we do at the end of our regular staff meetings — the best part of the meetings and a great way to get to know people — describe your current reading, listening and/or viewing interests.**

A: I read a lot of literary fiction, lots of titles that make for good book club-style discussions, classics that make for good PBS adaptations. I've also been a sometimes devotee of low-fantasy or magical

realism. My primary comfort genre is cozy mysteries and lady detectives. But the pandemic has turned me into a reader of thrillers, procedural mysteries, and spy books. This week I'm reading "Slough House" by Mick Herron. It's the latest (maybe last) installment in the Slough House series, about a crew of washed-up MI5 agents in London.

My two favorite movies of late have been "The Dig," and "The Sound of Metal." The former is a dramatization of the Sutton Hoo discovery. It's quiet and contemplative and just lovely to sink into for a couple hours. The latter is about a heavy metal drummer who contends with a sudden profound hearing loss. As he learns to cope, he begins to approach the world in new ways and comes to appreciate the gift of silence. Perhaps it resonates a little extra now, as we all learn new ways to encounter the world and cope with the losses wrought by the past 12 months.

Finally, I listen to a lot of podcasts. A recent discovery is "Side Door," which offers deep dives into the Smithsonian Institute's collections and exhibits. Lots of hidden or under-known history there.

Do you have questions for Sally? She would like to hear from you. You can reach her at [sally.miculek@georgetown.org](mailto:sally.miculek@georgetown.org) or 512-930-2513.

Dana Hendrix is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

### Inside the library

- Through April 3. Leslie Kell's "Come Closer" exhibit, first floor Café Gallery

- Through April 3. Sally Gradle's "Follow the Thread" exhibit, second floor Bridge and Hall galleries.

- April 7–May 9. City Staff Art Exhibit, second floor Bridge and Hall galleries.

- April 7–June 13. Rachel Hancock's "Art with Heart" exhibit, first floor Café Gallery.

### Virtual library events

- March 26, 6 p.m. Monarch Watch for adults. Pre-registration required, beginning March 9.

- March 27, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Photographing Your Artworks for Exhibit Submission, Sales and Media with Ted Keller for adults. Pre-registration required, beginning March 9.

- April 6, noon. Tuesday Talks with Britin and Ann.

- Through May 15. Open call for 2022 art exhibit proposals.

For more information about these and other library events, visit [library.georgetown.org](http://library.georgetown.org) or call 512-930-3551.