

# Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

## New Fandom Convention: LibCon Mobile

by Jill Stewart, Librarian

**I**N the past few years, fan conventions have become one of the hottest tickets in town. Comic cons, anime cons and other science fiction/fantasy conventions across the country have had record breaking attendance, and the demand for fan events doesn't seem to be slowing down. This year, the Mobile Public Library is getting in on the act.

The first LibCon Mobile will take place at the Ben May Main Library on Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're taking over the entire building with a variety of sci-fi, fantasy, and anime fan events and activities.

Fandom Convention at  
Mobile Public Library

# LIBCON MOBILE

ISSUE 05  
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We're planning a full day of events with something for everyone, from toddlers to those who started their fandom journey on Usenet. Join us for live music, panels, a

costume contest, an escape room, superhero training, a trivia contest, a sing-along movie, fandom vendors, virtual scavenger hunts, all-day tabletop games, arts and crafts for all ages, and more.

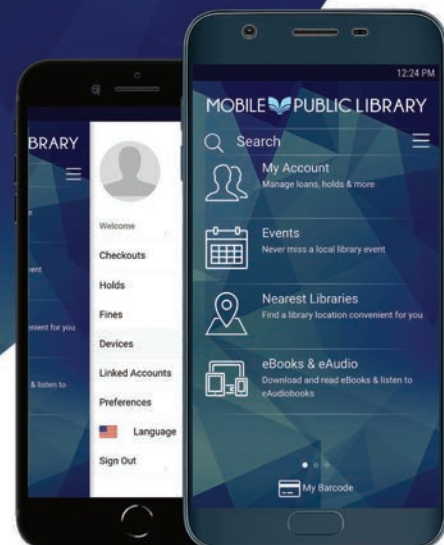
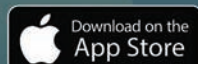
We'd like to invite everyone, from casual fans to dedicated cosplayers, to come, browse the vendor tables, participate in some activities and celebrate nerd culture with us!

## The Mobile Public Library To Go App is Ready to Download

**U**SE our new app, Mobile Public Library To Go, and get access to our online services including searching for and checking out downloadable books and audiobooks. Search our online catalog, manage your account, renew and reserve books and materials, download books and audiobooks, and learn what services are available at Mobile Public Library locations.

### Get the New Mobile Public Library To Go App

Available for Apple and Android  
Search for 'Mobile Public Library' in



# Mass Imprisonment in America

by Nancy Anlage, Events Coordinator

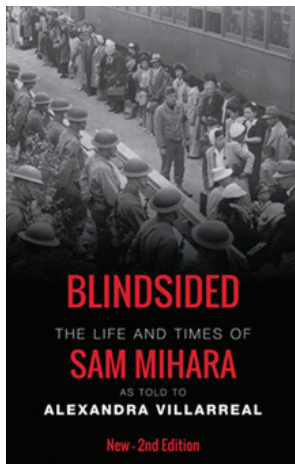
ON Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m., join us at the West Regional Library for a presentation and book signing with author/historian Sam Mihara.

During World War II, Mihara, a second-generation Japanese American born and raised in San Francisco, was imprisoned with his family at Heart Mountain, Wyo. He was just 9 years old and was one of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry forced into prison camps by the United States government. Mihara and his family lived in one 20-by-20-square-foot room in a barrack for three years.

After the war ended, Mihara returned home to San Francisco. He attended Lick-Wilmerding High School and earned engineering degrees at University of California, Berkeley and UCLA graduate school. He worked as a rocket scientist for Boeing Company and later became an executive in charge of space programs.

Mihara is a national speaker on mass imprisonment and a lecturer on the topic at UCLA, U.C. Berkeley and Harvard. For his work, the National Council for History Education honored Mihara in 2018 with the prestigious Paul A. Gagnon Prize, the first for a Japanese American.

In addition to traveling the country to speak about mass imprisonment, Mihara also gives his time as a board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the nonprofit



organization that oversees the National Historic Landmark site. He helped with the preservation of the prison site, which includes an award-winning museum and original camp structures.

Copies of Mihara's autobiography, "The Life and Times of Sam Mihara," will be available for sale. For more information, please call 251-494-2298.

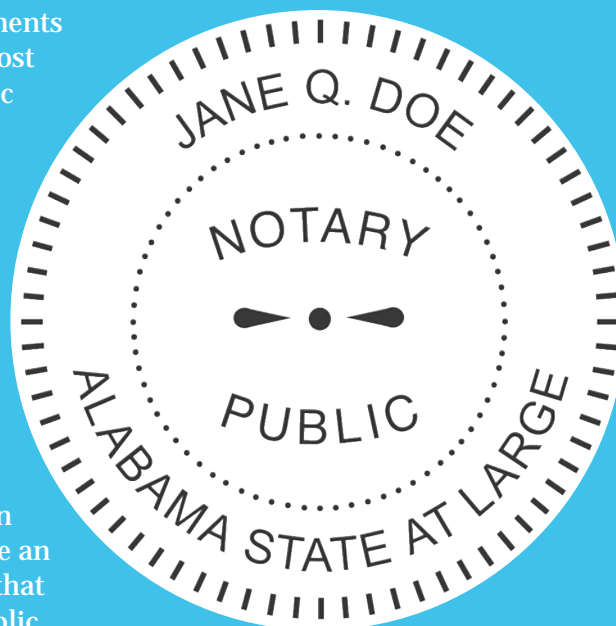
This program is sponsored by the Friends of

the Mobile Public Library and is in partnership with Common Read/Common World, USA's Common Read Experience. Please go to [www.southalabama.edu/departments/commonread](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/commonread) for more information.



## Notary Services Are Now Available

GET your documents notarized at most of the Mobile Public Library locations. Our new notary service is now available by appointment. To see where the service is available check out our locations' pages on our website. Please contact your chosen location to schedule an appointment with that library's notary public.



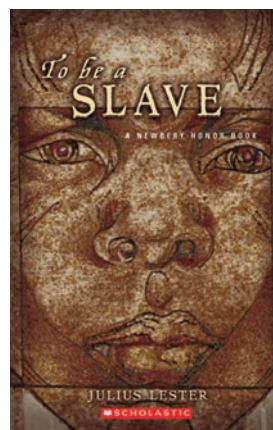
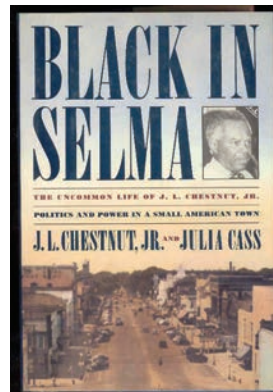
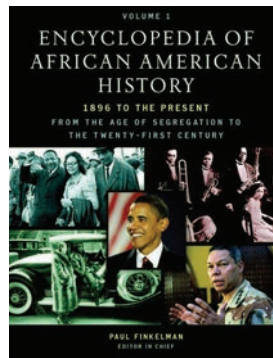
# The African American Heritage Collection

by Betty Kidd, Virginia Dillard Smith Branch Manager

**C**OME and experience our African American Heritage Collection at the Virginia Dillard Smith Branch Library. The collection showcases materials from African American history and culture and primarily comprises two collections: noncirculating print reference titles including multivolume sets, and circulating print titles. The titles, mostly written by African American authors, are on topics of particular importance in African American history.

Multivolume noncirculating sets in the reference collection include: “Black Women In America”; “Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience”; “Encyclopedia of African History and Culture”; “Ebony Pictorial History: Black America”; “Afro-American Writing”; “Encyclopedia of African American History 1896 to the Present”; “Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895”; and “The Negro in American History 1567–1971.”

The circulating titles include biographies, speeches, poetry and



materials focusing on segregation. Highlights are: “The Civil Rights Era”; “To Be a Slave”; “History of the Alabama State Teachers Association”; “Black In Selma: The Uncommon Life of J. L. Chestnut Jr.”; “The Right to Fight: A History of African Americans in the Military”; “Tuskegee’s Heroes”; “Equal!: The Case of Integration vs. Jim Crow”; “Blacks in Classical Music”; “The Cotton Club” and “The Autobiographies” by Frederick Douglass.

Unique topics covering whole historical eras are represented in the collection with these titles: “Black Americans in Congress – 1871–2007”; “Mobile Alabama’s People of Color: A Tricentennial History 1702–2002”; “A Right to Read: Segregation and Civil Rights in Alabama’s Public Libraries 1900–1965”; “African American Artists 1881–1987”; and “A Biographical History of Blacks in America Since 1528.”

For more information on the African American Heritage Collection, contact the Virginia Dillard Smith Branch at 251-494-4982.

## Give Your Business a Boost with ReferenceUSA

**O**UR newest online reference and research tool, ReferenceUSA, provides entrepreneurs with instant, real-time access to accurate, in-depth information on U.S. businesses and U.S. residents.

This small-business development tool makes it faster and easier to find new business opportunities, research executives and companies, find news articles, conduct job searches, write research papers, locate addresses and phone numbers, conduct market research and much more.

Come by the Connection Center at the Ben May Main Library to learn how ReferenceUSA can help new and established businesses grow using consumer demographics, competitor data and market research.



# Mother Goose on the Loose Training

by Sara Hyder McGough, Ben May Main Library Manager

**Y**OUTH Services staff from all over the system were privileged to participate in a nationally recognized early literacy and storytime training, “Mother Goose on the Loose,” on Dec. 4.

Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen, founder of the program, worked with 24 of the library’s staff on learning and understanding proven research methods to stimulate early childhood development through play-based activity. Play-based activity encourages parents to engage their child through singing, talking, reading and playing.

The library, in particular the Youth Services staff, would like to thank the Friends of the Mobile Public Library for generously offering to fund the workshop. The Friends of the Library did not hesitate to see the value in bringing this nationally recognized professional development opportunity to our Youth Services staff in order to serve our

communities at a higher level.

The entire endeavor is also noteworthy because a second day of training called “Goslings,” held on Dec. 5, allowed a select group of our Youth Services staff to explore early learning techniques for parents of babies, with an extra emphasis on premature babies.

The Mobile Public Library was the first library system outside the state of Maryland to host the Goslings workshop - again thanks to the Friends of the Library’s generous support.

Youth Services staff look forward to

parents and children from around the Mobile area seeing the positive results from the Mother Goose on the Loose professional development opportunity.

Please stay tuned for more information about our “Early Learning with Your Baby” classes.



## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

**O**N Oct. 23, our Youth Services Specialist Gertrude Laffette, New Life Development Center Director Queen Stokes, City Councilman Fred Richardson and MPL Director Scott Kinney recognized preschool students who completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Certificates and medals were presented to 14 of the 42 children from the development center

# Use the Library on Your Digital Device

by Sheryl Somathilake, Saraland Public Library Manager

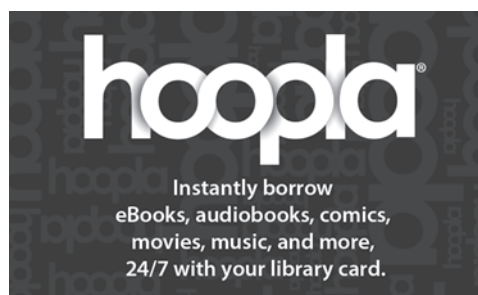
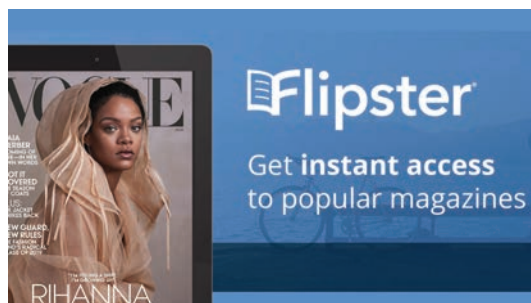
**W**ILL you be receiving a new electronic device this holiday season? Make sure to stop by the Mobile Public Library and talk to our staff about taking advantage of our free apps and electronic resources. All you need is a device and a library card! Check out what we have to offer:

CloudLibrary offers books and audio books for adults, teens and children. Patrons may check out 10 items at a time and keep them for 21 days.



Kanopy has a large selection of streaming movies. Enjoy critically acclaimed films, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign movies and more. These movies can be watched on your preferred device or cast to a smart TV.

Flipster has a variety of popular magazines available right from your tablet. Download the app and enjoy current magazines such as Rolling Stone, Better Homes and Gardens, Us Weekly, Discover and Essence.



Hoopla has a large array of streaming movies, television series, music, e-books, audio books, and comics. Patrons can check out 10 items per month. Movies/TV series check out for 3 days, music for 7 days and e-books/audiobooks check out for 21 days.

Pronunciator is a fun and free way to learn more than 80 languages. It provides lessons for any skill level and proficiency. The courses can be intensive 8-week sessions or quick “travel phrases” tutorials. Lessons are tailored to young children, teens or adults.



# Make Your Own Flair in Our Maker Lab

**M**AKING at the Mobile Public Library doesn't always require high-tech tools such as 3D printers and vinyl cutting machines. Sometimes we go back to the basics and create with our manual maker tools.

Those wishing to add flair to their bags, outfits or even office space can make an appointment to use our button makers. Patrons are encouraged to design their own artwork from scratch, but our staff has also upcycled damaged books into buttons, giving this artwork new life.

You can choose to come in and make the buttons yourself or request our staff members make them for you. Either way, buttons cost 25¢ each. If you need to use the library printers, there is an additional printing cost. Email [makerlab@mplonline.org](mailto:makerlab@mplonline.org) for more information.



## 2020 Annual FOL Book Sale

**M**EMBERS of the Friends of the Mobile Public Library are gearing up for the annual FOL Book Sale in 2020. This year's sale again will be held at the Abba Temple Shrine, 7701 Hitt Road, at the corner of Schillenger Road.

Sale dates are Friday through Sunday, March 27-29. Friday is the Preview Sale for Friends of the Library members only from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Memberships can be purchased at the door. Saturday hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday hours are 1-6 p.m.

All types of materials will be available for sale including adult books, children's books and audiovisual materials (music, movies and books on CD).

Volunteers are needed on the days leading up to the sale and on sale days. Interested? Go to the Friends page at [mobilepubliclibrary.org/friends](http://mobilepubliclibrary.org/friends) and tell us you're interested.

## Join Us for an Evening With Casey Cep

**A**LL are welcome to join The Friends of the Mobile Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 23, for "An Evening With Casey Cep." The event, which includes a presentation by the bestselling author, is scheduled for 6:30-9 p.m. in Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library.

Casey Cep is a writer from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Republic*, among many other publications. Her first book,

"Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee," was

an instant *New York Times* bestseller, and has already been published in the U.K. and the Netherlands. A proud graduate of the Talbot County Public Schools, she has a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

Following Cep's presentation at 7 p.m., there will be a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a book signing in the Armbrecht/Briskman Meeting Room. Book sales will be provided by The Haunted Bookshop.

Admission is free. For more information on this event please call 251-494-2298. For more information on this speaker please visit [www.prhspeakers.com](http://www.prhspeakers.com). A brief Friends of the Mobile Public Library meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.



Casey Cep  
PHOTO CREDIT: © Kathryn Schultz

Mobile Public Library  
700 Government Street  
Mobile, AL 36602  
Our Mission is to Support Literacy and Connect Our Community

INFORM ENTERTAIN INSPIRE