

Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

The Summer Reading Celebration is Coming

ISSUE 03
Spring 2019

by Lori Boyer

PLANS are underway to make this year's Summer Reading Celebration the best yet! Join us as we explore *A Universe of Stories* with programs all summer long. The primary goal of our summer reading initiative is to keep children, and the whole community, reading during summer vacation.

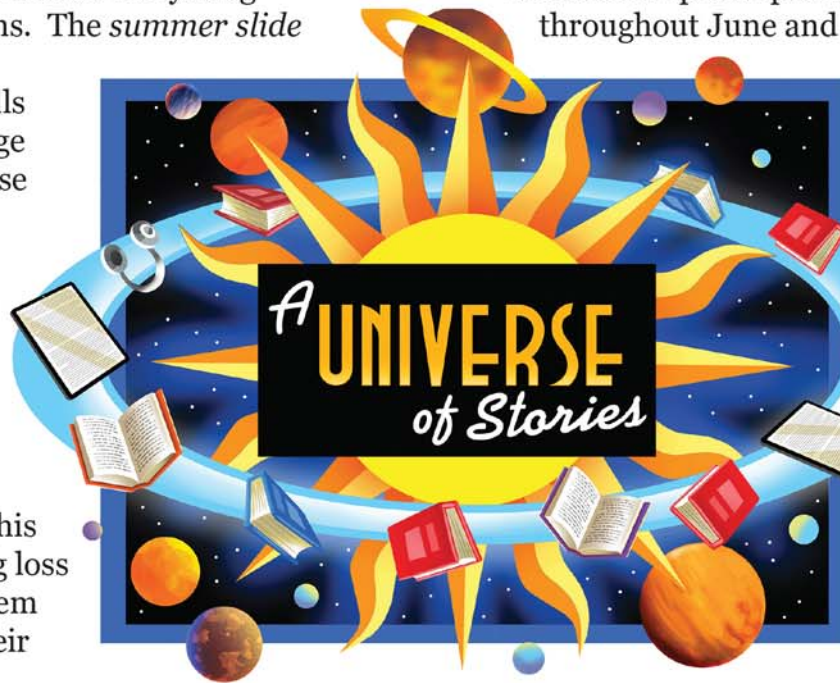
We hope to minimize the effects the *summer slide* has on our young library patrons. The *summer slide* is the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the course of the break. It's most important to tackle the effects of the slide in primary school aged children, as this early learning loss can follow them the rest of their

academic life.

This summer we're challenging children and teens to read a specific number of books or pages and giving out prizes when they reach a milestone. We will also be awarding entries into a grand prize drawing every time they reach our reading goal. The more children read the more they win!

The Summer Reading Celebration has a different special performer each week throughout June and July. We'll feature

puppeteer David Stephens, Bubble Lady Kit Killingsworth, illustrator Michael White, juggler Ron Anglin, storyteller Wanda Johnson, magician Dr. Gee and a science show from the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center.



This Summer for Adults

WE haven't forgotten our grown-up patrons this summer. Adult library users can enter drawings at their favorite library to win special summer prizes, too. We'll also be challenging them to expand their reading preferences by reading at least one book from each of eight different genres.

New York Times best selling author, Mary Alice Monroe, is visiting the West Regional Library on June 15 to discuss her latest novel, *The Summer Guest*. In addition, we're showing movies, teaching classes and talking about favorite novels in our book clubs. Libraries are increasingly being seen



as community hubs, and we think this summer will be a great time to join the community and try new things at the library.

African American Read-In

by Gertrude Laffette

THE *National African American Read-In* is the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. It was established in 1990 by the *Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English* to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month and has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

On February 4 - 7, our *African American Read-In* event took place at the Virginia Dillard Smith/Toulminville Branch Library. Our goal in hosting this event is to highlight literature by and about African Americans as well as encourage others to explore African American culture and history.

This year several local artists and entrepreneurs of all ages volunteered their time to share literature, poetry, songs, music, dance and wisdom concerning the



history and culture of African Americans.

The Mt. Hebron Ministries Praise Team kicked off the four day event by performing contemporary and traditional music. Many local authors shared their work, including Chris Napier, Councilman Fred Richardson, Eleanor Reynolds, 7th grader Jade Roberts and 4th grader Douglas Chestang.

Our event was filled with music and poetry. Local spoken word artists, Huggy Bear da Poet, and Delores "Barefooted Poet" Gibson performed. Makinde Gbolahan shared *Aesop's Fables* and African music on African instruments.

We were educated on African American history by children from local day cares and schools who performed historical skits, sang and danced. Robbie Pritchett shared a dramatic rendition of the life of Harriet Tubman, and Carolyn Francis entertained children with stories and encouraged them to research their family trees.

Festivities wrapped up on Thursday evening with Dr. Joseph P. Laffette II, pastor of the Bethlehem Missionary

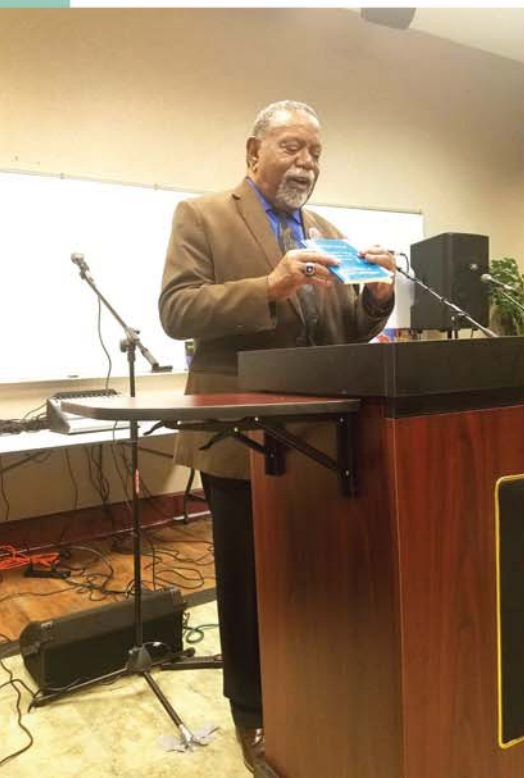
Baptist Church, giving wisdom and encouragement on being the best that you can be and the importance of education.

Maker Labs Awarded Grant

OUR Maker Labs recently received new and updated equipment thanks to a grant awarded by a local foundation.

The Ben May Main and West Regional Libraries both received AmScope B120 Binocular Microscopes, Telmu F40070M Astronomical Telescopes, Canon EOS Rebel T6 Digital Cameras and studio equipment including a tripod, reflector, green screen, and more.

We are excited to plan STEAM programs and events for children and teens using our new equipment and creation tools. Let us know what you want to see magnified on our new microscope, what videos you could make in our upcoming digital studio and check out our Thingiverse account at thingiverse.com/mobilepubliclibrary to get inspiration for your next 3D print request.



Wild Success with Sendak Exhibit

by Carly Akers & Sara McGough



THE *Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons* exhibit closed on March 25 at the Ben May Main Library. We were proud to host this one of a kind exhibit for six weeks this winter.

An author and illustrator of more than 50 children's books, Maurice Sendak is best known for 1963's, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The children's classic is frequently voted the number one picture book by a number of publications, including *School Library Journal*. The picture book was also awarded the 1964 *Caldecott Medal Award*.

The exhibit was comprised of 50 original works by Maurice Sendak from his earliest

pencil drawings done while in high school through a bronze sculpture the author was presented when accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Illustrators. While the exhibit stayed at the Ben May Main Library, all of our locations participated in helping us celebrate with scavenger hunts,



painting challenges, special storytimes and an illustrator workshop.

We hope you had a chance to visit *Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons*. Thank you to the Friends of the Mobile Public Library for sponsoring the exhibit. All wild things left the building peacefully.



Great Stories Club for Teens

GreatStories Club

THE Mobile Public Library is a proud recipient of the American Library Association's Great Stories Club program grant for 2019. The theme "Finding Your Voice: Speaking Truth to Power" is a library-led book discussion that gives underserved youth the opportunity to read, reflect, and share ideas on issues that resonate with them.

Our teen services staff will work with multiple organizations including a public high school and community center group to bring this opportunity to a wide range of youth in our communities.

We are one of 70 libraries to receive the grant. The Library will receive copies of titles chosen for the book discussions, featuring young people taking a stand against racism and other injustices in order to make the world a better place, and receive a \$1,000 stipend for extra expenses which will include journals and extra copies of the titles as needed.

Our teen services staff are excited to be part of this national effort to encourage underserved youth to find their voice and further develop critical thinking skills on topics relevant to their experiences.

finding
your **VOICE**
SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Did You Know?

MOBILE Public Library users can use remote passes to view *The New York Times* website (*NYTimes.com*) or app from home or a device. Passes give you unlimited access for a 24 hour period and you can use them as many times as you like!

Find information on how to connect from home or from a library location on our website. A list of our research databases can be found under the eResources menu.

The New York Times has won a total of 125 Pulitzer Prizes and in 2008 *NYTimes.com* won a Peabody award for imaginatively bringing new technology to bear on classic journalistic technique.

**The
New York
Times**

What We're Making in the Maker Lab

WE'RE always making something in the MPL Maker Labs! Right now we're getting ready for our *May the Fourth Escape Room* by printing lightsaber parts on Ben May Main Library's 3D printers and on Moorer/Spring Hill Branch's we're printing Sorting Hats for our annual *Harry Potter Birthday Party* this summer.

Did you get a chance to stop by the Maurice Sendak exhibit at Ben May Main Library? The sensory path in the lobby was created on Main's Cricut vinyl cutting machine, as were the Wild Thing silhouettes throughout the library. Did you spot one? Our staff members also sported adorable Wild Thing pins made on our button maker!

If you want to try drawing something with 3D pens or flying drones, join us for one of our STEM programs. Or contact the Maker Lab staff at Ben May Main Library, Moorer/Spring Hill Branch or West Regional Library Locations to schedule a visit.

Call (251) 340 - 1458, email makerlab@mplonline.org, or visit mobilepubliclibrary.org/makerlab, for more information.



The Digital Archives Provides a Window into Local Mobile History

VISIT the archive and feast your eyes on the wealth of information available for download from home. We are always adding more from our unique collections. Digital archives include but are not remotely limited to:

DIGITAL.MOBILEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG



- The Mobile Postcard Album
- Mardi Gras Invitations from the 19th century
- Reverend Sullivan's Funeral Cards
- Interview clips from the Mobile Tricentennial Video Oral History Project
- The Clotilda Collection
- Growing Up In Mobile: Depression & Wartime, 1929-1949
- Clinton King Slide Collection from the 1960s and 1970s
- The Digital Yearbook Collection

African American Genealogy Series

by Elizabeth Theris, LH&G Manager

THE past several months have been busy for us here at the Local History & Genealogy Library! We have partnered with the newly established African American Genealogical & Historical Society of Mobile, and Mary Jones-Fitts, President of the Marengo County History & Archives Museum, to provide African American genealogy workshops.

The series began with an introductory workshop, *Researching Your African American Ancestors*. Attendees learned invaluable information about how to get started in genealogical research and the different resources available, online as well as on paper.

Mrs. Jones-Fitts has since returned for two more instructional sessions. Earlier this year, she presented *Researching Your African American Ancestors Using Vital Records*, in which we learned about the various challenges in locating African American vital records such as birth, death, and marriage records, and how to overcome them. In March, she came back with what was arguably her best session yet, *Slave Ancestral Research: Finding the Slaveholder*. Ms. Mary kept her audience entertained and engaged and all



participants left feeling much more confident in their ability to tackle this intense and difficult research barrier.

If you were unable to attend the first three workshops, never fear, Mrs. Jones-Fitts will be coming back for another round on Saturday, June 15. The details for this conference are forthcoming.

Keep an eye out for the library's events calendar for more information on future collaborations with Mrs. Jones-Fitts and other interesting genealogical programs or classes. Always feel free to contact the Local History & Genealogy division for more information.

Local History & Genealogy: ADDRESS:

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Mobile, AL 36602

PHONE:

(251) 494 - 2190

EMAIL:

mainlhg@mplonline.org

HOURS:

Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Restoring & Preserving Abandoned Cemeteries

WE want to thank the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, for co-sponsoring our *Restoring & Preserving Abandoned Cemeteries* program.

Our local speakers, Eddie Irby, Tracy Neely, and Lorenzo Martin, gave phenomenal presentations on gravesite documentation, Alabama cemetery laws, and the history of the efforts to cleanup Oaklawn Cemetery. The local cemetery was recently placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

Emily Ford, owner of New Orleans' Oak & Laurel Cemetery Preservation, LLC, not only presented masterfully on cemetery restoration guidelines and ethics, but led us all in a hands-on workshop at Oaklawn Cemetery. We cleaned and reset tombstones, and even dug up and repositioned a veteran's headstone which had sunk halfway underground.



Did You Know?

You can send documents to the Library's printers using your personal device and *PrinterOn*.

DON'T have a printer at home? Running errands and need to get something printed right away?

Using your home computer, cell phone, tablet or laptop, you can send your documents to one of the Mobile Public Library's printers.

Send an email to a library printer, use the *PrinterOn* app, or go to your preferred library location's *PrinterOn* website to get your print job added to the queue.

Print jobs will be

available for 24 hours. Black & white printers are 10¢ per page and color printers are 50¢ per page. Check our website or contact us for more information.



mobilepubliclibrary.org/services

Friends of the Mobile Public Library

THE Friends of the Mobile Public Library is a non-profit, volunteer organization, formed in 1983, dedicated to supporting the Mobile Public Library system.

For the benefit of the library and the community, the Friends provides funding for the Summer Reading Program, reference databases, special purchases of materials and more. The Friends even matched the grant funding needed to purchase the new Bookmobile.

Each spring, they sponsor a used book sale, featuring thousands of volumes and audio-visual materials that are donated by individuals



and discarded from the library collections.

Memberships start at \$30 for an individual. Since the Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, memberships are tax deductible. As a contributor, you will be recognized as a member and receive the following benefits:

- Subscription to the FOL newsletter
- Admission to our Annual Meeting, where a Southern author speaks to members, signs books, and visits during an informal reception
- Opportunity to preview our annual used book sale, including pre-sale privileges
- Advance notices of other special FOL events
- Opportunities to explore special interests, meet authors and plan programs.

For more information on becoming a Friend, call (251) 545-3366

Mobile Public Library
700 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Our Mission is to Support Literacy and Connect Our Community

INFORM

ENTERTAIN

INSPIRE