

# Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

## Summer Library Celebration Registration Begins

May 15

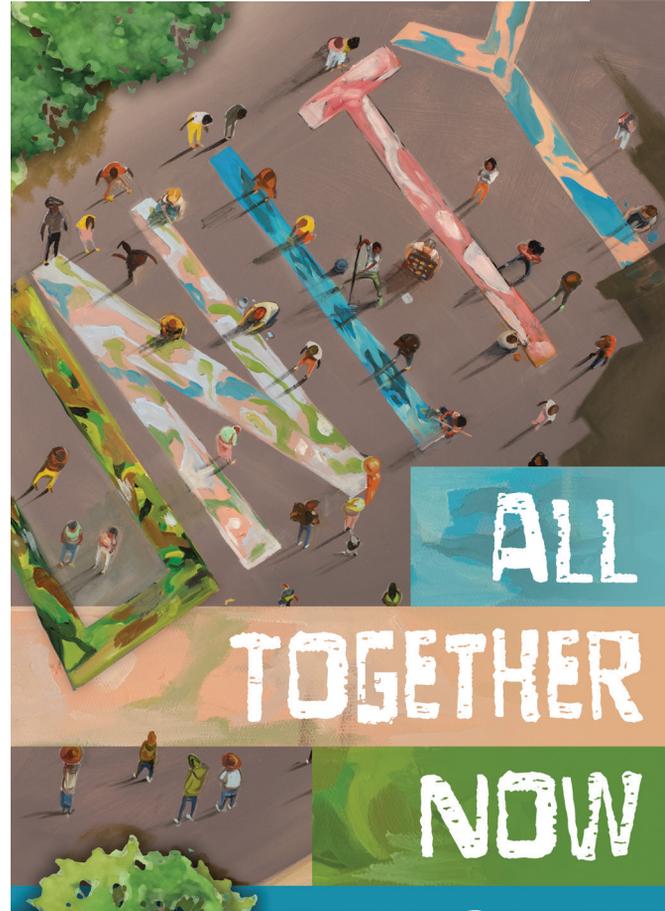
ISSUE 13  
SUMMER 2023

**R**EGISTRATION for the Mobile Public Library's (MPL) Summer Library Celebration opens Monday, May 15! Register at any MPL location or online at [slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org). All in-person registrants will receive a Summer Activity Booklet highlighting the performers, events and programs taking place in June and July.

The 2023 theme for the Summer Reading Celebration is All Together Now. The library invites the public to participate in a wide variety of activities for all ages including special performances, reading challenges, exhibits, crafts, games and more! The celebration lasts all of June and July with the following special performances:

- June 5-8: Deborah Ferguson, The Dancing Story Lady.
- June 12-15: Excelsior Band.
- June 26-29: Wayne Curtis and the Mobile Alabama Africatown Drummers.
- July 10-13: Mobile Environmental Studies Center's Wildlife of Mobile Road Show.
- July 17-20: Puppets N' Banjos with David Stephens.
- July 24-27: Juggler Ron Anglin - "One of a Kindness."

Tackle the "Summer slide" by bringing the whole family to enjoy the Summer Library Celebration. Visit your favorite library location to register. For more information or to register online, please visit [slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org) or call 251-340-1535. Make the most of your summer with Mobile Public Library!



## Up for the Challenge?

**T**HIS summer's reading challenge is simple and is for all ages: Read for 400 minutes and be entered in the grand prize drawings to win a bicycle! Track your reading through the free Beanstack app or pick up a reading log at any library. Each person to complete the reading challenge will be entered in the grand prize drawing to win a bicycle. At the end of the Summer Library Celebration, one lucky child, teen and adult will be



selected to win a bike sponsored by Adventure Earth. If any winners have a disability that prevents them from riding a bike, a prize of comparable value will be provided.

When you've completed the reading challenge, visit your nearest library to receive a unique prize and be entered into the grand prize drawing. The children and teens that read 400 minutes will receive

an animal plush keychain, and adults will receive an MPL metal bookmark. May the odds be ever in your favor; happy reading!

# Plan to Engage at the Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit & Special Events

by Meredith Johnston, Ben May  
Main Library Adult Services

“AMERICANS and the Holocaust,” a traveling exhibition that examines Americans’ responses to Nazism and the persecution of Jews in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s, will be on display from May 15 until June 23 at the Ben May Main Library. The exhibit asks, “What did Americans know,



survivor interview with Susan Warsinger, conducted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, Holocaust/Jewish studies scholars will participate in a panel discussion on the topic of American reaction to events in 1930s and 1940s Europe. Both of these programs are presented in cooperation with the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

Another program for youth/children -- Book Wizards Book Club: Special on the Holocaust -- will feature an audiobook program along with an art program led by an instructor from the Alabama Contemporary Art Center on Tuesday, June 13, at 4 p.m.

There will be a Teen Graphic Novel Book Discussion on "They Called Us Enemy" by George Takei on Tuesday, June 20, at 3 p.m. We invite teens to pick up a free copy of the book a month ahead of the discussion.

Concluding the programming is a film showing on Tuesday, June 20, at 6 p.m. of "From Swastika to Jim Crow." A guest speaker will further discuss the film and take questions. The program is presented in cooperation with the Mobile Area Jewish Federation.

All programs take place at the Ben May Main Library, in downtown Mobile. This exhibition is an educational initiative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association.



and what more could have been done?”

The opening reception will take place on Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m. and will feature local guest speaker Ari Morgenstern, a descendant of a Holocaust survivor, and a recorded

## MPL Welcomes Pioneering Alabama Legislator Ann Bedsole

Ann Bedsole is an American politician, businesswoman, community activist and philanthropist. She was the first Republican woman to serve in the Alabama House of Representatives and,

alongside Frances Strong, the first woman to serve in the Alabama Senate. She will be joining us on Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m. at the Ben May Main Library and sharing details from her book “Leave Your Footprint.”

After her talk, there will be a question-and-answer session, followed by a book signing and reception in the Armbrecht Briskman Meeting Room. Book sales will be provided by the Haunted Book Shop.



# Can't-Miss Performance: 'Fly, The Musical Revue'

by Adrienne McSwain, Special Events Coordinator

MPL is honored to bring, “Fly, The Musical Revue,” before it heads to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. In collaboration with the Memphis International Culture House and Shining Talent Education and Recreation, the Nubian Theatre Company is in development with a new imagining of one of their signature pieces, “The People Could Fly,” last produced in 1995 for the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C.

This new multimedia production combines folklore and magic with the historical aspects of slavery in America and its 21st century ramifications for today’s society in a transformative musical that showcases a mashup of various music and dance genres. The production is heavily inspired by authors Virginia Hamilton and Zora Neale Hurston. It is filled with humor and heartbreak

as it attempts to answer the question young people are asking today: What can be done to end the racial divide in America?

The musical revue will be presented on Thursday, May 25, at the Ben May Main Library in Bernheim Hall at 6:00 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public,

and no registration or tickets are required.

“Fly, The Musical Revue,” is produced by Shining Talent and

the Nubian Theatre Company, with lyrics by Deborah Adero Ferguson and music composed by Dr. Jeremy McMillan. The touring musical revue is funded in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Arts License Tag Program and South Arts.

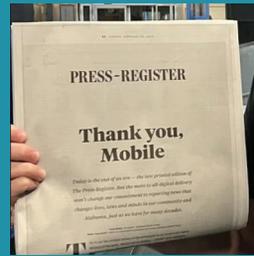
For more information on the performance, contact Special Events Coordinator Adrienne McSwain via phone 251- 494-2288 or email [amcswain@mpl.org](mailto:amcswain@mpl.org).



## Current Mobile Register News Now Available Online

by Elizabeth-Theris Boone, Local History & Genealogy Manager

As we look wistfully back on the times of a physically printed



Mobile Register newspaper, Mobile Public Library is pleased to be able to provide our community with access to current Mobile news coverage through the Newsbank database. Use the *Newsbank: Mobile Register Archive* link to access *The Lede* articles, including color photographs!

Newsbank is accessible on every Mobile Public Library computer, and you can also access it remotely with your Mobile Public Library card number. To access the Mobile Register remotely, visit [mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://mobilepubliclibrary.org), hover over "eResources," then on the drop-down menu select "E-Books and More" and lastly, click on the Newsbank graphic. Access to information is an important value at MPL. Please share with others about the Newsbank database.



# New Glowforge Tool Available at Main's Maker Lab

by Brittanie Edmond, Ben May  
Main Library Adult & Teen Services

THE Mobile Public Library (MPL) is very excited to share their newest Maker Lab tool, the Glowforge. This is a laser cutter capable of engraving, cutting and scoring designs on many materials. From metal to chocolate and more, this tool can bring your designs to life. We are still learning the possibilities of what can be created with the Glowforge, but we're excited to make it available to patrons. Make an appointment to use the Glowforge or other Maker Lab resources at the Ben May Main Library by emailing [maker\\_lab@mplonline.org](mailto:maker_lab@mplonline.org) or calling 251-340-1519.



# Friends of the Mobile Public Library Book Sale Returns After 3-Year Hiatus

by Lauren Williams, FOL First Vice President

After a three-year hiatus, the Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale returned and was met with a great response from the community. The event was held March 24-27 at the Abba Shrine Center. MPL employees, Friends of the Mobile Public Library (FOL), and many volunteers worked to bring back an event that has been missed by the

is a huge accomplishment for all involved with the event and could not have been achieved without the support of our community.

The FOL wants to thank every person who had an impact on the success of this event. Whether you worked the event, volunteered, shopped, shared on social media or became an FOL member, we truly felt the support and are



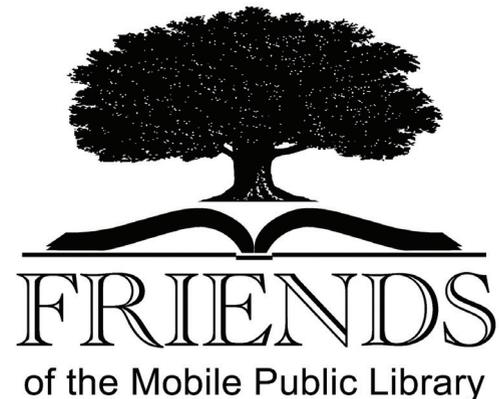
extremely grateful! We already can't wait to do it again next year!

The FOL accepts new members on a continual basis and is recruiting members to join the board. We are in need of active volunteer members to assist with planning and executing programs, events and fundraising. If you would like to become an active volunteer, reach out to

Mobile community since the last one was held in 2019.

During the Friday presale, which is only open to members of the Friends of the Library, we had many old and new Friends show up to beat the rush and take advantage of the early access that is available through membership. The rest of the weekend was also a success. The turnout from Saturday through Monday's box sale meant the majority of the available inventory was sold. This

us on Facebook or send an email to [pcmanager@mplonline.org](mailto:pcmanager@mplonline.org) for more information.



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Our mission is to support literacy and connect our community.

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