

April 24, 2015

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

## Calendar

AL Legislative Day 4/28/15

APLS Board Meeting 5/21/15

Administrators' Meeting 7/15/15

APLS Board Meeting 7/16/15

## Birmingham Poetry Slam

WORD UP!, the poetry slam for high school students in Jefferson County, celebrated its eighth anniversary this year. The event was held on April 11th at Birmingham Public Library (BPL). BPL and Real Life Poets (RLP), a non-profit creative writing organization based in Birmingham, sponsored the slam. Students in grades 9 through 12 wrote and performed an original work of poetry inspired by a theme selected by the WORD UP! Planning Committee. The theme this year was 'Survive'.

The contestants were judged on content and performance by a panel of three judges: Will Gillette, first place winner of WORD UP! 2010; Tomika Glenn, performance poet who has been the top winner at the BPL's Bards and Brews slams; and Sharrif Simmons, local performance artist, songwriter, and activist who

has appeared on HBO's Def Poetry Jam.

Young people have important things to say, but they often feel they aren't being taken seriously. Forums such as WORD UP! and Brave New Voices give them the chance to tell the world what's on their minds and in their hearts. WORD UP! 2015 was made possible in part by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The top three winners pose for a photo.

## Lego League



Building block buddies attending the Lego League on March 17th had a special St. Patrick's Day treat at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Professional storyteller Miss Jennie Bunton visited, sharing stories of leprechauns and pots of gold with families.

# Montgomery Celebrates!

Montgomery City-County Public Library (MCCPL) hosted several programs in March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. On March 19th, the library held a press conference to unveil the newly installed mural depicting the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March, painted by Carver High School students. Many special guests were in attendance including Mayor Todd Strange, County Commissioner Chairman Elton Dean, Library Board of Trustees President Julia Henig, former board member Janice Laneaux, Friends of the Library President March McLemore, Carver High School teacher Muriel Robinson Peck and her son Michael, who helped paint the panels, several other library board members, and local artist Bill Ford who was instrumental in getting the mural erected.



Attendees pose in front of the mural.

The Rufus A. Lewis Regional Library Branch hosted the Five Days to Freedom Festival on March 21st. The festival featured school and church choirs, dance groups, poet Dr. Jaqueline Trimble, local singer/songwriter Michael McDonald, the Carver High School band, National Storyteller Minnie Stringer, arts & crafts, face-painting, food vendors, and so much more! Historical figures such as Rufus A. Lewis and Bertha Pleasant Williams, among others were displayed as well as the newly unveiled mural. An estimated 1,500 came out to celebrate this occasion.

On March 24th, the Rufus A. Lewis Branch served as a stopping point for the student marchers from Selma to Montgomery, along with the National

Park Service and chaperones. The library provided 200 sack lunches and water to the marchers thanks to the generous donations from three local churches. Library Director Jaunita Owes gave a brief history of how the library got its name. After lunch, the marchers posed for pictures in front of the newly installed mural depicting the original march of 1965 before they continued on to St. Jude where they would spend the night before heading to the Capitol steps on March 25th for the culmination of the march.



Kids had a fabulous time at the festival!



The Secretary of State office offered free photo id cards.



Marchers rested and enjoyed lunch at the Rufus A. Lewis Branch.

# Bay Minette Donation

Bay Minette Public Library received a huge donation of rare and out-of-print titles from the family of the late James H. "Jimmy" Faulkner Jr. The donation of more than 450 books includes subjects like the Civil War, American and European history, as well as works by John Wesley.

The donation from the Faulkner family (pictured below) has been combined with more than 160 titles and vertical files donated by local historian Mike Shipler. The Faulkner/Shipler Collection will be for in-house use only, and patrons will sign in for viewing and use. A special reception was recently held to unveil the collection to the public.

"It is an extraordinary donation and a wonderful contribution to the library and the community," said Library Director Joanna Bailey. "It was so nice to have Mr. Faulkner's family attend the ceremony. I think they were touched by his generosity and by the fact that his love of books, history, and knowledge will go on."



# Daphne Programs for Young Adults

Daphne Public Library has tons of innovative programs for young adults thanks to Young Adult Librarian Louise Youngblood. For example, Bricks 4 Kidz, an organization that uses Legos to teach science and math concepts, conducted a Lego Robots program that allowed attendees to work in a lab setting using Lego parts such as wheels, axles, and gears.



On March 10th the library offered a Fiber Optic and Laser workshop for students in grades six through twelve. Professor of Engineering at Bishop State Community College Joel Phillips conducted the workshop.



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## On AVL

The Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) has a plethora of wonderful resources that can benefit you and your community!

For all your patrons doing school projects for history class or for patrons who just love history, History Reference Center is the database for them! With full text from several historical encyclopedias, non-fiction books, periodicals, historical documents, and biographies of historical figures, students and history buffs alike will find plenty of great materials. Historical photos, maps, and video are also available. If you aren't sure what you want to research, you can browse a variety of subjects in both U.S. and World history categories.

What's your favorite AVL database? Email [pr@apls.state.al.us](mailto:pr@apls.state.al.us) to share how you use it in your library. Don't forget to thank your local legislators for their continued support in providing this resource!

## Oxford Book Arts



Oxford Public Library Adult Services Librarian Tina Adams started a crafty book arts program that makes use of discarded books and magazines. Program attendees learn to make a different craft at each session. Using book pages, they've made everything from Christmas ornaments, decorative orbs, and wreaths (shown above). They also learned to make beads from magazines.

## Killen Fire Prevention



Smokey Bear (aka Chris Brewer) and Lauderdale County Forester Steve McEachron from the Alabama Forestry Commission recently paid a visit to the Killen Public Library. They presented a fire prevention program to the preschool story time group. The foresters talked with the children about forest fires and forest fire prevention. After the presentation, the children watched a DVD, "A Day In The Forest with Smokey Bear". They also got to meet Smokey Bear and each child was presented a goodie bag filled with coloring pages, activity sheets and other items dealing with forest fire prevention. The foresters presented the library with a copy of the DVD which is available for check out.

## STAPLE Awarded

Each year the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) presents a librarian or an individual in a related field with the Distinguished Service Award. The award is recognition of leadership in a specific and noteworthy project that has resulted in a significant contribution toward the development of library service within Alabama. This year the STAPLE team received the award during the President's Reception at the ALLA Convention! STAPLE is a management-training program for public librarians, funded with a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and carried out by APLS in partnership with the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies.

# Road to College

Homewood Public Library held its first Road to College program on March 17th. This information workshop was created for high school students and their parents who are overwhelmed by the college application process. University of Alabama at Birmingham Admissions Counselor Chris Pinto presented a timeline for students that would help them stay on track as they prepared for college. Afterwards, patrons were given the opportunity to visit with college admission counselors from local universities and colleges.



# The Book Nook

**Title:** *Timeless*

**Author:** Alexandra Monir

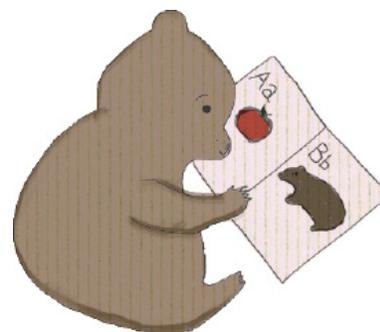
**Reading Level:** Young Adult

**ISBN:** 9780385738385

**Reviewed by:** Hannah Stewart (Capstone Christian Academy)

**Library:** Piedmont Public Library

**Review:** *Timeless* was a great imaginative novel. After Michele's mother died, she had to live with her rich snobby grandparents she soon loves. Michele magically goes back in time when she opens up a diary from her Great Aunt Clara. She soon falls in love with a boy who lives in 1910.



**Title:** *Eon*

**Author:** Alison Goodman

**Reading Level:** Grade 8 Up

**ISBN:** 9780142417119

**Reviewed by:** Dwayne Gasten

**Library:** Pleasant Grove Public Library

**Review:** The storyline grabs your attention, the characters are fairly well-developed, and the setting is nicely described. All in all, this is a well-written fantasy novel.

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