

# APLSeeds

*Growing public libraries across Alabama*

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

May 20, 2016

## Calendar

Administrators' Meeting 7/13/16

New Directors Orientation 8/17/16 - 8/18/16

Fairhope Public Library has an awesome program every Thursday for anyone aged 12 to 17! The *Teen Maker Pop-Up* invites teens to invent and make things. For Teen Tech Week in March, the library bought several gadgets including a 3-D Doodler pen and a Makey Makey invention kit. Teens made bug robots out of paperclips, played the banana piano using the Makey Makey, built remote controlled cars using LittleBits electronic building blocks, and doodled with the 3-D pen.

Each Thursday during the month of April had a different theme. On the 7th, participants celebrated National Poetry Month by making poetry using old books. On the 14th, they made art out of recycled books and other items found in the recycle bin for an Earth Day art challenge. On the 21st, attendees took apart broken electronics to discover how the parts can be used.

## Fairhope Teen Makers Pop-Up



# Homewood News

Participants at Homewood Public Library's new iTween program, geared towards 4th through 7th graders, had a great time with *Cupcake Wars*! Each tween decorated a cupcake to represent his or her favorite book and a cupcake to best represent him or herself.



Additionally, over 75 *Downton Abbey* enthusiasts said goodbye to the popular TV series at Homewood Public Library's tea and trivia program.



## Alabama Mosaic: A Blast From the Past

AlabamaMosaic, an online repository of digital materials about Alabama's history, culture, places, and people, holds thousands of photographs, letters, manuscripts, postcards, books, maps, slides, and audio recordings. It's a fascinating resource for anyone who loves Alabama history.

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) contributed the photo shown below of a librarian at the Huntsville Public Library when it was in the Carnegie building.

See more of HMCPL's contributions, and browse other wonderful photos and documents at [www.alabamamosaic.org](http://www.alabamamosaic.org).



Courtesy of Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

# APLS News

## Administrators' Meeting

Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) hosted the most recent Administrators' Meeting on May 11th. Director Nancy Pack gave a legislative update, stating that the state increased state aid by approximately ten cents per capita with level funding for APLS operations and Alabama Virtual Library. She also highlighted important topics from National Library Legislative Day held in Washington, D.C. One significant topic of discussion was the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), a law purposed to help students do well in school. It's important for libraries to become a stakeholder in this initiative, especially since we already do so much for students by providing educational resources and materials. Libraries can partner with local schools and departments of education to help them with the ESSA and further show our worth to our communities.

Rhonda Napier, the new APLS Library Development Manager, gave an update about projects going on in the consulting department, notably the *New Directors Orientation* taking place in August that will cover a variety of topics including planning, advocacy, and programming. Consultant Jim Smith who is spearheading this project also provided details for interested participants. Consultant Alisa McLeod gave a brief update on the CSLP conference that focuses on libraries' Summer Reading Programs and reminded all libraries to please submit packing receipts from 2016 SRP materials received.

Lastly, Jay Lamar, Executive Director for the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, spoke about how libraries can get involved in Alabama 200, the state's three-year-long celebration commemorating 200 years of government. Alabama 200 is also a celebration of the state's natural beauty and diverse and distinct people. Each year will have a different theme: 2017 is Discovering Our Places, 2018 is Honoring Our People, and 2019 is Sharing Our Stories. Programs, exhibits, events, and celebrations will be taking place in communities all over the state during this time. Because libraries are the hearts of their communities, they are a natural fit for being a part of Alabama 200. For more information about the Bicentennial or to start or join an existing committee in your community, learn more on the Alabama 200 website: [www.alabama200.org](http://www.alabama200.org).



APLS Consultant Alisa McLeod (left) and Jay Lamar (right)

## OCLC Training

On May 19th, Rosanna O'Neil from OCLC held a review session for their services. OCLC helps libraries in the state enhance their visibility as well as their ability to borrow and lend. O'Neil reminded the group that it's important to keep library records updated so staff and patrons can take full advantage of OCLC services. She covered topics like how to export records, how to update holdings, and how to use FirstSearch.

## APLS Website Updates



The APLS website has had a small update—where State Aid, LSTA, and E-Rate previously had their own tabs across the top of the homepage, these items can now all be found under the tab called Funding. Additionally, there is a new link under Funding dedicated to non-LSTA grants. All of the grant opportunities we post to the listserv can now be found on our website. This way, if you want to plan ahead or read about grants you may have deleted from your inbox, you can see everything in one place. Visit our new funding section here: [http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls\\_web/apls/apls/?q=node/180](http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/?q=node/180)

# Daphne Spring Break

Daphne Public Library recently hosted their *Annual Spring Break Book Bash*. The Children's Department provided free hot dogs, popcorn, face painting, games, prizes, books, and balloon animals to over 450 patrons. Special guests included local author Sheila Booth-Alberstadt, a fire truck, a police car, live animals from Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, and Princess Elsa. The Friends of The Daphne Public Library sponsored the event.



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# Pelham Floral Program

On May 9th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, Pelham Public Library hosted a spring floral arranging program. Longtime Birmingham florists Ricky Whitley and Suzy Reynolds-Smith demonstrated the techniques and tools used to create fantastic flower arrangements. All arrangements made for the demonstration were given away in a drawing at the end of the program.

# Orange Beach Sustainability

Orange Beach Public Library's May *Sustainability Club* meeting featured a presentation by Environmentalist Fred Nation, author of *Where the Wild Illicium Grows; Historic Plants of South Alabama and the Central Gulf Coast*.

Nation is an environmental consultant, free-lance photographer, and writer who lives in Daphne with his wife Maureen. His work includes plant inventories, site assessments and restorations, and the control of invasive exotic plant species. He has developed nature trails and field guides for the Cities of Daphne and Fairhope, Blakeley State Park, Weeks Bay Reserve, Camp Beckwith, and the Baldwin County Parks and Recreation Department.

He teaches regular seminars on habitats and ecosystems for Weeks Bay Reserve. He conducts frequent workshops on invasive exotic plant controls and plant identification for the USDA Forest Service,

The Cooperative Extension System, and Weeks Bay Reserve. He has identified and nominated 25 Alabama State Champion Trees, and is on the Board of Directors of Historic Blakeley State Park.



## 2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

### LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

Find both on the APLS  
Resources and Research Links Page



**Friends of the Library Episode 2: Steering Committees**, by Alex Perry, APLS Reference Librarian

In the December 18th issue of APLSeeds ([http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls\\_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds\\_2015\\_12\\_18.pdf](http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds_2015_12_18.pdf)), we discussed what Friends Groups can do for the library. For this issue, we will cover steering committees.

A steering committee can help handle the foundational work for a new Friends group. Recruit professionals with competencies in areas you will encounter as you start your Friends. An attorney can reduce the time it takes for your Friends of the Library to get 501(c)(3) certification by limiting mistakes and omissions in the process. A person with fundraising experience can help raise funds to offset any initial costs. An accountant can ensure that money raised in the initial is managed properly. The library director can also serve since he or she needs to clearly define the library's needs and participate in any discussion related to how the group will meet those needs.

While professionals can make the work easier, they are not required. The only real requirement is that your steering committee be a hardworking group of individuals willing to commit their time. The steering committee is responsible for a number of important tasks, and a willingness to do the work will go a long way. The steering committee can contract with professionals as needed.

Regardless of composition, the steering committee should be responsible for:

- Drafting the Friends' mission statement. The mission statement should reflect the library's current needs, but also be worded generally to address future needs.
- Drafting an operating agreement. A written agreement formalizes the relationship between the library and the Friends, ensures cooperation and communication for the duration of the partnership, and clarifies the decision making process.
- Drafting bylaws. Written bylaws are needed to receive 501(c)(3) certification. Bylaws govern and guide the group's procedures and activities in perpetuity and provide organizational structure and continuity between successive boards.
- Initial fundraising. The steering committee must raise funds to cover the cost of filing fees with the state and federal governments. The amount depends on whether or not the group's gross receipts are expected to be more or less than \$10,000 over a four year period. If less than \$10,000, the total cost will be around \$600; if more than \$10,000, the cost will be around \$1,000.
- Forming a board of directors. Alabama requires at least three directors. The initial board may be comprised of steering committee members who want an extended role. It, like the steering committee, should be comprised of individuals with competencies beneficial to the board. The library director can serve on the board of directors as an ex officio member.