

APLSeeds

Growing public libraries across Alabama

July 15, 2016

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Calendar

Snapshot Day 8/16/16

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

Pell City Grand Opening

Pell City Public Library held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 13th to reveal their beautiful new facility in the Pell City Municipal Complex. 300 people were in attendance. An aggressive campaign by the Pell City Library Guild raised \$500,000 to go towards the new library. The inviting space boasts a whimsical children's department, a dedicated teen area with a 3-D printer, and several multipurpose meeting rooms.



Ribbon cutting: Library Director Danny Stewart, far left; Mayor of Pell City Joe Funderburg, center; Pell City Manager Brian Muenger, far right.



Assistant Director Susan Mann in front of the tree in the Children's Department



Homewood Programs

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Homewood Public Library hosted a teen poetry contest for the month of April. The contest received over 100 entries!



The first place prize went to Ahlam, a 9th grader at Homewood High School, for her poem titled “When Falling in Love...”.

Below is an excerpt from her winning poem:

There should be a warning sign when falling in love.
Warning! you're falling in love with an artist.
She will fall in love with your scars
And trace your back like the spine of her books.
Warning! Do not fall in love with an artist, she
will draw flowers in your lungs and although
they are beautiful, it is so hard to breathe.
Warning! This artist is going to have nights where
she will collapse in on her herself and it won't be
beautiful. she will stuff your ribcage with flowers.

Over 70 die hard *Golden Girls* fans tested their knowledge of the 1980's classic TV show at the Homewood Public Library's recent *Golden Girls Trivia Event*. Twenty teams battled it out to see who knew more about Blanche, Rose, Dorothy, and Sophia!

OCLC asked Teen Librarian Judith Wright to write an article for other libraries to replicate the program. To read her fantastic guide visit WebJunction: <http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/golden-girls-trivia-program.html>



Birmingham Drive

The Birmingham Public Library (BPL)'s downtown location hosted a book drive on July 2nd to help replenish the Little Free Libraries located in community parks across the city. Community members donated new and gently used books for kids ages 3 to 16. The book drive was offered in partnership by GPS Educational Services, which distributes the Little Free Libraries, along with BPL and the City of Birmingham.

“The book drive is designed to help GPS Educational Services achieve its goal of improving literacy by providing new books for youth,” said Carnelle Howell, Director of Community Partnerships for GPS Educational Services. It took place in the middle of GPS Educational Services’ 100-day campaign to distribute books across Birmingham and as BPL hosted over 500 activities as part of its 2016 Summer Reading Programs.

GPS Education Services has books in the Little Free Library locations in Maclin Park in Collegeville, Crestwood Park, Central Park and Cooper Green Park. “We go in communities and schools throughout Birmingham teaching kids the importance of reading,” Howell stated.

Oxford Knitters

Each week, Oxford Public Library hosts a knitting group dedicated to improving the lives of breast cancer survivors. Women who have undergone mastectomies may not always have the option of immediate reconstructive surgery. The prosthetics available, often made of plastic or silicone, can be uncomfortable, hot, and expensive. The Oxford group helps these women by knitting them soft, customized bra inserts. These knitted prosthetics help to provide comfort and a sense of normalcy after a body-altering surgery.

The patterns come from a nonprofit based in Washington called the Knitted Knockers Support Foundation. The Foundation inspires and equips volunteers all over the world to make these knitted prosthetics. Pat Yates started the Oxford group who partners with Steel Magnolias Inc., a breast cancer support group. The group lovingly creates the prosthetics, and Steel Magnolias Inc., helps get them to the women who need them. The library is thrilled to host the group that is doing such a generous and wonderful thing for women in the community.



Satsuma Signing

The *Satsuma Prime Time Library Club* hosted a book-signing event for Mary Palmer's latest release on June 7th at Satsuma Public Library. Palmer talked about her new book, *George Wallace: An Enigma*, being a 30-year long project filled with interviews with interesting people, and twists and turns to the very end.

Palmer has 11 published books and has written numerous short stories, poems, and plays. She currently teaches at Faulkner University, Faulkner State Community College, and Huntingdon College. To contact Mary S. Palmer or schedule a book signing email her at mlsp0121@gmail.com or visit her website maryspalmer.com or georgewallacebook.com.



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Coloring at Pinson



Pinson Public Library has been doing a monthly *Coffee & Coloring* program for adults during the day and decided to offer an evening version called *Cocktails & Coloring*. The library can't serve real alcohol so instead they have fun mixing up mocktails!



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.

Gadsden Public Library contributed the photo shown below of Troop 626 at the library in 1964.

See more of Gadsden Public Library's contributions, and browse other wonderful photos and documents at www.alabamamosaic.org.



Courtesy of Gadsden Public Library

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**



Bringing STEM Programs to Your Library, by Stephanie Taylor, APLS Library Consultant

Supporting STEM education has been part of the Obama Administration's initiatives since 2009. There are many ways libraries can get involved.

First of all, what is STEM? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. You may also have also heard the term STEAM, which throws arts into the mix. Not enough students have access to a high quality STEM education. Additionally, not enough students are interested in STEM careers, which is causing the U.S. to lag behind other countries as an industrialized nation. Therefore, it is a national initiative to improve young people's access to STEM education. How can libraries support STEM? Many libraries are already supporting STEM by having maker spaces and offering programs that grow children's interest in science and technology. As institutions of lifelong learning, libraries have a great opportunity to introduce STEM programs to young people.

Cost is always a hindrance when considering implementing new programs; however, there are many low budget options. YALSA's Stem Programming Toolkit (<http://ow.ly/ibixf>) suggests implementing weekly challenges for tweens, instructing libraries to "Set up a display with books on bridges and a tub of building bricks like Legos™. Ask them to build a bridge that will hold a certain amount of weight using only the materials provided. Don't have building bricks? Paper can be folded to create building units too! The idea is to get your tweens and teens engaged, having fun, and using STEM skills - sometimes without even knowing it!"¹

There are plenty of resources available, in addition to the YALSA Toolkit, to get other low cost programming ideas and learn more about bringing STEM to your library.

The Show Me Librarian has an All Things Steam tab on her website for STEAM programming ideas. The webpage offers several program instructions for science programs for different aged attendees, STEAM programs, and STEAM story time crafts: <http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html>

Simply S.T.E.M. is a Wiki for people to share STEM programming guides for libraries. They feature many program ideas for all ages/family, preschool aged children, and school aged kids: <https://simplystem.wikispaces.com/Welcome+to+Simply+S.T.E.M.>

Tinker connects librarians working with children and teens with STEAM programs. They have tons of blog entries spanning four years of programming ideas and tips for working with STEAM tools and equipment: <https://tinkergroup.wordpress.com/>

YALSA has an extensive list on their STEM Resources Wiki that includes a list of materials for building STEM collections, programming resources, and other related links: http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/STEM_Resources

Does your library host any STEM programs? Send information to staylor@apls.state.al.us so we can feature you in APLSeeds!

¹STEM Resources Task Force. "STEM Programming Toolkit." STEM Resources. YALSA, 20 Feb. 2013. <http://ow.ly/ibixf>. 20 May 2016.