

APLSeeds

Growing public libraries across Alabama

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

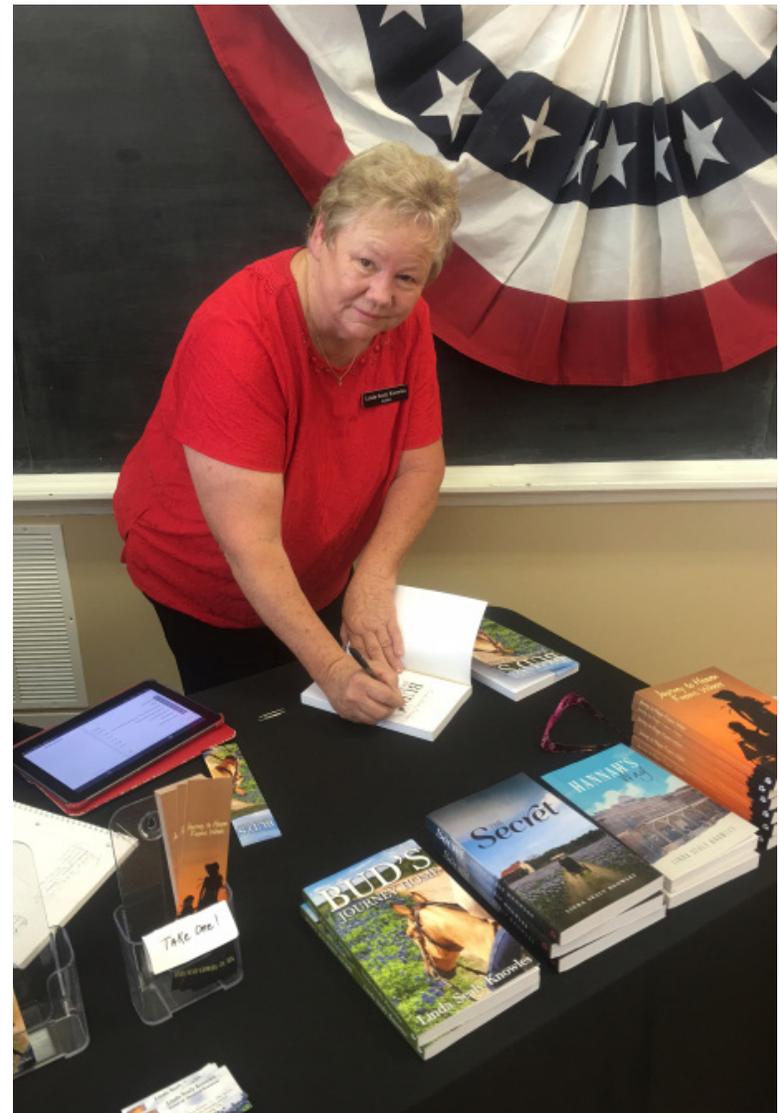
November 4, 2016

Calendar

APLS Board Meeting	11/17/16
LSTA Notice of Intent Due	12/02/16
Public Library Survey Due	12/15/16
Statement of Fiscal Responsibility	01/01/17

Satsuma Library Club

The *Prime Time Library Club* recently welcomed Linda Knowles back to Satsuma Public Library after anxiously awaiting her new release, *Bud's Journey Home*. Linda's readers tend to find themselves feeling every emotion along with the characters and inevitably falling in love with them. Along with a sneak peak of her current project, Linda gave the audience a behind the scenes look at what it's like during the publishing stage of a book.



Ham It Up



Students learned public speaking skills during *Homeschool Happening: Ham It Up* with Charity Battles of the Alabama 4-H Club at Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. In this fun session on September 12th, kids learned to hone their listening abilities, how to work together, and the art of storytelling.

Birmingham News

Birmingham Public Library (BPL)'s *Innovative Cool Awards*, a program set up earlier this year to encourage library staff to come up with unique ideas to serve their communities, had three recipients in the month of September:

1. Five Points West Regional Library's *Bubbles at Story Time* used bubbles to keep kids entertained during story time.
2. Avondale Regional Library's *Art Attack* offered four arts programs during October designed to expose children to different artistic styles including modern color block painting, American folk art, and Aboriginal dot painting. Participants received canvas artwork to take home.
3. The East Ensley Branch used KEVA (Knowledge, Exploration, Visual, Arts) Planks (thick, rectangular blocks that can be used to erect structures such as buildings, bridges, and formations) in a program that allowed patrons an interactive experience for creative exploration and cooperative learning.

Reverend Robert B. Jones, Sr. (below) brought his 20-plus years of experience with music, humor, and storytelling to selected BPL locations throughout the month of September.

Jones' act combined storytelling, vocals, instrumental music, and artwork to explore the earliest known aspects of African American culture to showcase the music and stories that came before the blues. For more information on Jones, visit his website at <http://www.revrobertjones.com/>.



A packed audience, comprised mostly of students from six Birmingham high schools, attended *Know Your Rights*, a panel discussion held on September 29th at BPL's Springville Road Branch.

For 90 minutes, Patrick Bishop of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Birmingham Police Officer Larry D.

Foster, and Jefferson County District Judge Shera Grant shared tips on how to act properly when pulled over by law enforcement and discussed a person's rights at traffic stops. They also answered questions from the audience, many of whom were frustrated about incidents across the country where police officers fatally shot African Americans.

"The panel discussion was designed to spark a community conversation designed to provide answers on how to react and interact with law enforcement," said Lutheria Jackson, Library Assistant III, who coordinated the program. She said Springville Road Regional Library hopes to host more *Know Your Rights* discussions in the near future.

Jackson said she came up with the idea for the program in the wake of the many incidents across the country in which people have been fatally shot after encountering police. She hopes the conversation will help build better relationships between public citizens and law enforcement.



BPL recently provided a special time and place for parents to visit the public library and spend one-on-one time playing with their babies or toddlers. *1-2-3 Play with Me* was a five-week program that offered age-appropriate toys, books, and art activities to help emphasize the role of parents as the first teachers of their children. The program also facilitated teaching strategies for healthy child development and early literacy.

"So often we see children playing in the library, but *Family Place*, and especially *1-2-3 Play with Me*, makes it okay for parents to play too," Western Region Coordinator for BPL Janine Langston said. "Thanks to interactive and self-selected play, the library is a destination place for many families. It is a place where parents and children feel at ease and can bond and learn together through play. Library programs like [this] provide a positive early learning experience designed to strengthen families and prepare children for school."

Little Free Library



Adelia M. Russell Library and Mamie's Place Children's Library started Alexander City's very first *Little Free Library*, made from an old newspaper stand. Kids and adults can get books or leave books that they want to share with the community.

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 of kids checking out books in the mid to late seventies. See more of HMCPL's contributions, and browse other wonderful photos and documents at www.alabamamosaic.org.



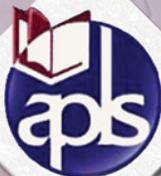
Courtesy of Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

Abbeville History

On September 2nd, the Notgrass History Class visited Abbeville Memorial Library. The young ladies in the photograph designed and built this display, which contains lots of information about Pocahontas. The class meets every other Friday at the library.



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Attalla Book Club



The Attalla Public Library Book Club recently enjoyed a visit from Mark Seymour (above). He entertained the group with a lively performance of songs, keyboard playing, and a discussion of percussion instruments! They all had a wonderful time!

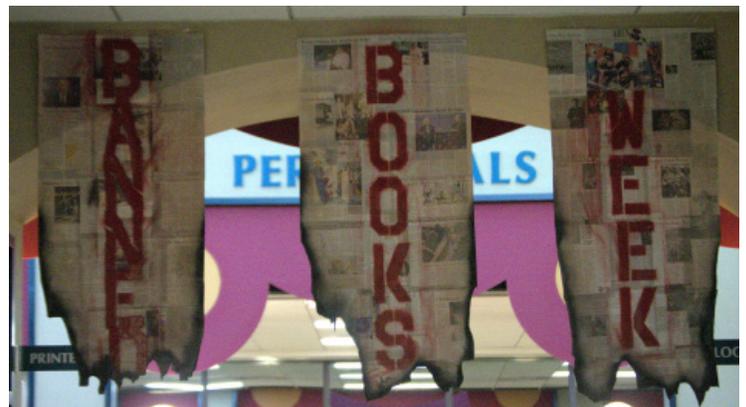


Banned Books Week



According to the American Library Association (ALA), more than 11,300 books have been challenged in the last 34 years. This year's Banned Books Week was held from September 25th to October 1st. This annual celebration of the freedom to read highlighted the value of free and open access to information. Opp Public Library celebrated with the clever display shown above.

The Homewood Public Library celebrated Banned Books Week with lots of creative decorations (shown below), a banned books bingo event, and a special screening of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.





The Librarian's Toolkit

Doing Library Data Differently: Part 4, by Sherry Sakovich, Decatur Public Library Director

In the last part of this series (http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplscurrent/aplseeds_2016_10_21.pdf) we talked about survey design, benchmarks, and data visualization. In today's article we will discuss *Project Outcome*.

One of the most important projects we learned about at RIPL was *Project Outcome* <https://www.projectoutcome.org>. *Project Outcome* is a three-year Public Library Association project spanning 2015 to 2018. PLA appointed a Performance Measurement Task Force which has been working since 2013 on the development of a set of outcome measures simple enough to be conducted by public libraries of any size and useful to individual public libraries for internal management and advocacy. With uniform implementation, the results of such outcome measurement may also be aggregated for advocacy at a broader level. Work on the project has been supported by a \$2.9 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. *Project Outcome* was launched in a pre-conference at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco in June 2015.

The Project Outcome site is free to access and offers easy to use outcome surveys in seven different areas: early childhood literacy, education/lifelong learning, job skills, digital inclusion, economic development, civic/community engagement, and summer reading. For example, the survey of early literacy includes multiple choice questions that measure the following: learning something new, increased confidence, anticipated change in behavior, and increased awareness.

Tools such as these can help us answer the questions: Where can we make a difference? Where can the library allocate to make the greatest impact? We're gathering data to create better libraries. Think about what the library can do for particular groups to help them live better lives. Take steps to validate what you're doing. Our business is not just information - it is stories.

In the last part of this series I will refer you to some additional data resources and tools.

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