

Growing public libraries across Alabama

APLS *Seeds*

May 2019

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Making an Impact

APLS Director Nancy C. Pack presents the Bicentennial children's book, Alabama: My Home Sweet Home! by Charles Ghigna, as a gift to Gov. Kay Ivey after signing a proclamation to declare Library Week in Alabama. The proclamation signing followed ALLA's successful Legislative Day on May 1.

Legislative Day a success

The ALLA Legislative Day held on May 1 at the Alabama State House was successful on many fronts. A large number of librarians were on hand to inform state lawmakers of the important work libraries in Alabama do for the many citizens of this state.

The following day, the Alabama Senate passed the Education Trust Fund budget with \$1.00 per capita funding for State Aid. This is huge, especially considering that State Aid has not been funded at a dollar or more since FY2010.

The Senate-passed budget also contains funding for the library broadband initiative through the Alabama Supercomputer Authority, which will provide a free 100 megabits per second (Mbps) WiFi connection for public libraries throughout the state.

Special thanks to everyone who contacted your legislators and attended Legislative Day to help make big things happen in FY2020!



The ALLA Legislative Day led to positive outcomes with the Legislature in days that followed



Alabama Rep. Rod Scott (left) poses for a banner photo with APLS leaders on Legislative Day



Alabama Reps. Danny Crawford (left) and Parker Moore (right) learn about various online databases provided to Alabama citizens



From left, Alabama author Charles Ghigna, APLS Library Consultant Gail Sheldon, and Bicentennial Director Jay Lamar



Alabama Sen. Vivian Figures poses with APLS staff



Birmingham Public Library Executive Director Floyd Council signs the Resolution of Support for the Alabama Virtual Library at ALLA Legislative Day



Alabama Rep. Howard Sanderford talks to APLS Reference Librarian Alex Perry about services provided through the state library



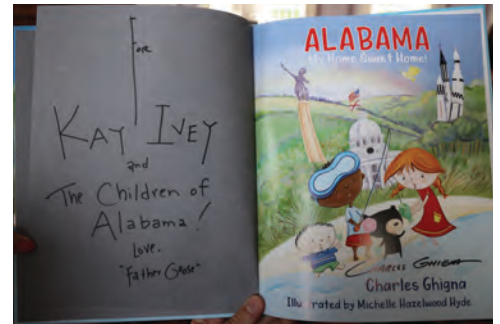
Gov. Kay Ivey signs a proclamation declaring Library Week in Alabama



Nancy C. Pack talks to WSFA Political Reporter Lydia Nusbaum on broadband's importance



Alabama Rep. Harry Shiver (left) discusses antique legal books with Law Librarian Tim Lewis (right) on Legislative Day



The book presented to Gov. Kay Ivey was dedicated to the governor and the children of Alabama by author Charles Ghigna

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apl.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.

Author visits

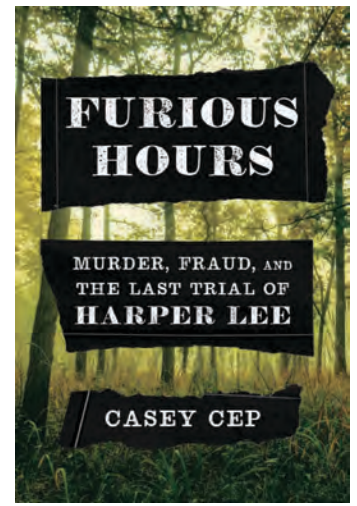
Adelia M. Russell Library

Alex City's Adelia M. Russell Library welcomed author Casey Cep on May 8 to provide a brief overview of her first book, *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*.

Cep's book revolves around Rev. Willie Maxwell and a string of murders he was connected to. When Maxwell was later shot and killed, the trial drew national attention and Harper Lee went to Alexander City to gather information for a book centered on the drama.

Cep explores the relationship of Harper Lee to the trial, and she delves into the discovered chapter of a true crime novel written by Lee. Lee spent many hours in the Adelia M. Russell Library's Alabama History Room doing research for this project.

Cep, who resides along Maryland's Eastern Shore, has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, and other publications.



Cep visits the Adelia M. Russell Library in Alexander City to discuss her book on Harper Lee



Junie B. Jones visits Gadsden Public Library

The Gadsden Public Library had the distinct pleasure of hosting a special guest in their children's department for 2019's Children's Book Week, April 29 - May 5.

Junie B. Jones joined GPL Children's Department Manager Jillian Reeves for a fun and exciting storytime which included a beautiful rendition of the "Baby Shark" song. Reeves and Junie B. also traveled for an outreach program at Attalla Elementary School to introduce Junie B. Jones to the first and second grade classes there. It was a very special time for everyone involved.



Local writer's workshop

In April, Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library in Brundidge hosted their first Local Writer's Showcase, where area writers were able to bring in any work — published or unpublished — Each author had an area for patrons to visit to purchase material, stop and ask questions, or simply show up and offer support. Fifteen area writers (pictured left) participated in the event, and there are plans to grow the event even more in the future.

African American Read-In comes to Mobile Public Library branch

The National African American Read-In is the nation's first — and oldest — event dedicated to diversity in literature. It was established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month and has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

On Feb. 4-7, the event took place at the Virginia Dillard Smith/Toulminville Branch Library. Mobile Public Library's goal in hosting this event was to highlight African-American literature and to encourage others to explore its culture and history.

This year, several local artists and entrepreneurs of all ages volunteered their time to share literature, poetry, songs, music, dance and wisdom concerning the history and culture of African Americans.

The Mt. Hebron Ministries Praise Team kicked off the four-day event by performing contemporary and traditional music. Many local authors shared their work, including Chris Napier, Councilman Fred Richardson, Eleanor Reynolds,



Children sing and dance as part of the African American Read-In festival held at the Virginia Dillard Smith/Toulminville Branch Library

seventh grade student Jade Roberts and fourth grade student Douglas Chestang.

The event was filled with music and poetry. Local spoken word artists, Huggy Bear da Poet, and Delores "Barefooted Poet" Gibson performed. Makinde Gbolahan shared Aesop's Fables and African music played on traditional instruments.

Attendees were educated on African American history by children from local day cares and schools

who performed historical skits, sang, and danced. Robbie Pritchett shared a dramatic rendition of the life of Harriet Tubman, and Carolyn Francis entertained children with stories and encouraged them to research their family trees.

Festivities concluded with Dr. Joseph P. Laffiette II, pastor of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, providing wisdom and encouragement on the importance of education and striving to be the best that you can be.

Albert L. Scott has April library fun, rain or shine



A bumblebee celebrates the arrival of spring as part of an Easter program at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster



Homeschoolers have an hour of fun and learning with ABC 33/40 Meteorologist James Spann

Below, children ride a trackless train at the Albert L. Scott Library on April 17 as part of the library's program with the Easter Bunny



Children decorate cookies as part of an Easter program at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster



Children have their photo taken with Miss Spring and the Easter Bunny at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster



Left, an April 16 egg decorating workshop had children transform dozens of boiled eggs into colorful works of art.

The event was held courtesy of the Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library.