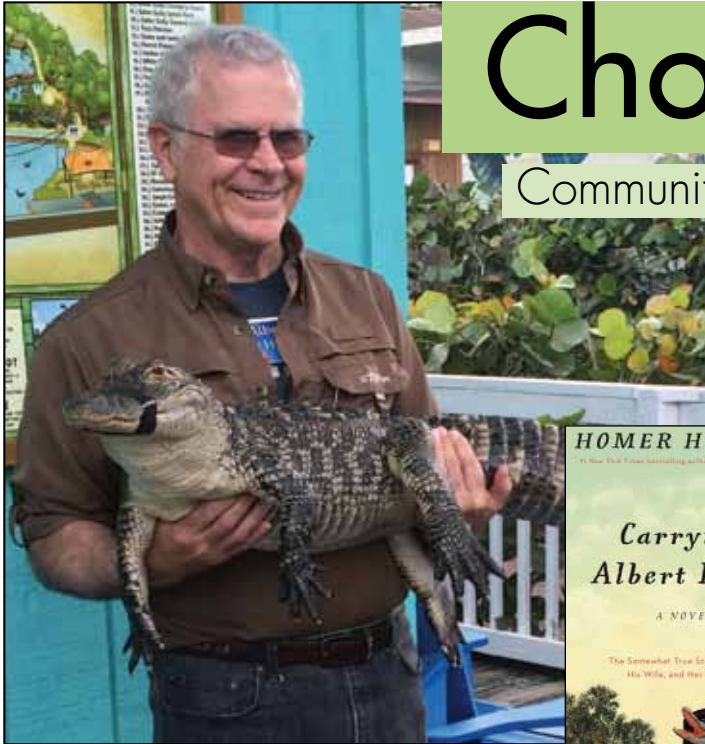




COVER TO COVER

A publication of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

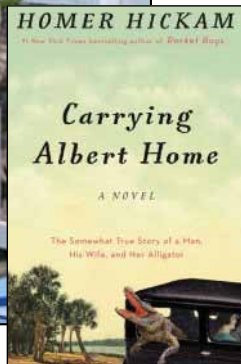


Chompin' time

Community Conversations hosts Homer Hickam

An alligator for a wedding present? Maybe not the best choice for a house pet, but it's quite the conversation starter.

Huntsville's Homer Hickam tells this funny, sweet, and sometimes tragic tale of a young couple (his parents) in his latest book, "Carrying Albert Home." It's filled with the charm and warmth that made his "Rocket Boys" memoir an international bestseller. You can hear him talk about the book during the next Community Conversations, a new author series sponsored by the Huntsville Library Foundation.



The program is set for Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Thurber Fine Arts Center at Randolph School. Tickets are \$25 and are available at huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org/tickets or any library branch. Students will be admitted free with a valid ID. Details at hmcpl.org.

Homer Hickam and a reptilian friend (not Albert)

Black History Month: Celebrating a vibrant legacy

We'll end our celebration of Black History Month on a high note. And a low note. And all the notes in between.

Two groups of acclaimed local musicians – the choir of First Missionary Baptist Church, led by Dr. Janette Kotey, and the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church Praise Choir, led by Deacon Courtney Moore – will perform in concert on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Atrium of the Downtown Huntsville Library. This event is the finale of our Black History Month Extravaganza, happening that day from 3 to 8:15 p.m.

The program begins at 3 p.m. with a learning opportunity in Youth Services. Children – adults, too – can find out more about black inventors at several Inventors Stations, each one featuring a hands-on activity.

Starting at 5:15 p.m., praise dancers from Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church will perform. Then Willie Smith will read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. At 6 p.m., Frances Dillard will present an African Attire fashion show. Reggie Lewis will be our master of ceremonies.



Janette Kotey



Courtney Moore

Details at hmcpl.org.

THIS IS THE PUBLIC'S LIBRARY.

Our mission is to enrich the educational, recreational, and cultural life of our community through materials, information, and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning.

FOL FOREWORD

Expand horizons with Hertha Heller Forums

By JAN KELLY

Friends of the Library, Downtown Huntsville

What is the stuff of time that has carried us so quickly to the number 2016? Years, months, certainly, but more importantly, moments, when we have been dazzled by a sunrise, by a line of poetry, by the discovery of a wood of wildflowers, by the welcoming of one whose experience has sparked our awe and expanded our understanding. In its 57th year, Friends of the Library announces the **2016 Hertha Heller Forums**, hoping to bring a few moments such as these.

On Sunday, Jan. 24, we begin with **Poets' Choice Readings**, an annual event we share with the Huntsville Literary Association. Twenty local poets will read their favorite recently written poems. Their talents are sharpened and perfected through writing in HLA's Poetry Writing Workshop, where many have long participated. Chapbooks containing the poetry to be read will be available for the audience.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, George and Stephanie Hanna will present "**Wildflowers of North Alabama.**" Some of the most beautiful and diverse wildflowers are on display in our midst. You will be led to the best locations for wildflower hikes and helped to identify the variety of wildflowers and native plants of North Alabama. All four seasons of the year provide a feast for your eyes. Come and be dazzled.

On Sunday, April 3, Christel Ludewig McCanless will present "**Lady Roofer to Librarian: From East Germany to Russia**

or America?" She will tell the story of her flight with her parents in 1953 from East Germany, where her father's former work with the von Braun team had to be concealed. The Communist East German government had decreed that her schooling would end after eighth grade, and that she would be trained as a roofer. Mrs. McCanless will tell of the struggle to get out of East Germany and the experience of arriving in Huntsville, Ala., in the middle of the night, not knowing a word of English and with no possessions but the clothes on her back. Be prepared to be awakened.



Christel McCanless

All Hertha Heller Forums are held in the auditorium of the Downtown Huntsville Library, 915 Monroe St., at 2 p.m.

It's time to say thank you to our **2015 Friends of the Library board officers** for their many contributions, their guidance and diligence: president, Margaret Vann; vice president, John Jeter; secretary, Anna Sherwood, and treasurer, Bill Rankins. Thank you also to our board members whose terms ended in 2015: John Graves, Ellen Harris, Evelyn Kilgore, and Glennice Swaim.

Welcome to our **2016 board officers**: president, Anna Sherwood; vice president, Bett DeLong; secretary, Cecilia Bruton, and treasurer, Ron Shirley. And welcome to the new 2016 board members: Pat Lutz, Ron Shirley, Carolyn Sorden, and Liz Stagg.

Join the Friends of the Library!

Fill out this membership form, and mail it to Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 443, Huntsville, AL 35804

Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch (If you join multiple branches, you must pay a fee per branch): _____

- Senior/Student..... \$15
- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Good Friend..... \$50
- Best Friend \$100

New Renewal

As a member, I would like to volunteer in the bookstore.

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Library.

CREATE

Be a part of BKR's BIG Picture



We have big plans for the small Bessie K. Russell Branch Library at 3011-C Sparkman Drive. As the focus of the New North Huntsville Library capital campaign, BKR is getting a new home right next door. After extensive renovations, the library will move into the former Berachah Academy building when its current occupant, the Huntsville Police Academy Public Safety Training Center, moves out. You can learn more about what's in store for the Bessie K. Russell Library and how you can help when the BIG Picture hosts a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. at a location to be announced. Visit hmcpl.org or bigpicturehuntsville.com for updates.

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

LearningQUEST

LearningQUEST begins another year of building a mentally, physically, and socially active community for adults in partnership with the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. You can join the LearningQUEST journey by signing up for the winter/spring term at Rally Day on Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church Life Center, just across St. Clair Avenue from the Downtown Huntsville Library.

LearningQUEST membership is \$10 for the calendar year. Each term, members can sign up for as many classes as they like for a flat fee of \$25. (Some classes and trips have extra fees.) There are also free programs

open to the public. Most programs are held at the Downtown Huntsville Library.

Free programming highlights include Bob Fanning's presentation on "Interesting Facts About Bees" on Wednesday, Feb. 24, from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. in the library auditorium.

Then there's the Great Books Discussion Group, co-sponsored by the library and LearningQUEST. The group meets on the fourth Friday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and provides a chance to read and discuss those books we all should have read, but probably haven't.

Find more information at lquest.org.



CONTACT US

915 Monroe Street
Huntsville, AL 35801
256.532.5940
hmcpl.org

CIRCULATION & RENEWALS

256.532.5940

FRIENDS BOOKSTORE

Entrance of the
Downtown Huntsville Library
256.532.5986

Mon - Thu: Noon - 6pm
Fri: Noon - 4pm
Sat: 10am - 4pm
Sun: 1 - 4:30pm

VISIT US

Bailey Cove

Bessie K. Russell

Downtown Huntsville

Eleanor E. Murphy

Elizabeth Carpenter
of New Hope

Gurley

Madison

Monrovia

Oscar Mason

Showers Center

Tillman D. Hill

Triana

JANUARY

The Films of George Pal

Mondays • 6pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

- Jan 4, "Destination Moon"
- Jan 11, "War of the Worlds"
- Jan 25, "The Time Machine"
- Feb 1, "7 Faces of Dr. Lao"

Explore science fiction and fantasy films of the 1950s and '60s by acclaimed producer and director George Pal. Free. 256.532.5975.

Gentle Yoga

Wednesdays, Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27

• 5:15 - 6:30pm

Thursdays, Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28

• 11:30am - 12:45pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

Free and beginner-friendly. Bring your own mat or borrow one of ours.

Meet the Author:**Leslie Nicole Thomas**

Thursday, Jan 7 • 2 - 4pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

Author Leslie Nicole Thomas wrote about "Legendary Locals of Huntsville" in her new book.

Artrageous: Book Art

Saturday, Jan 9 • 2 - 4:30pm

Madison Library

Give discarded books a new life during the first edition of this monthly studio session for teens and adults. acampbell@hmcpl.org, 256.461.0046.

Make It & Take It: Tea Time

Monday, Jan 11 • 6:30pm

Madison Library

Try "The Unofficial 'Downton Abbey' Cookbook." 256.461.0046.

Tuesdays with TED

Tuesday, Jan 12 • Noon - 1pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

We'll watch "The Curly Fry Conundrum, Why Social Media 'Likes' Say More Than You Might Think" by Jennifer Golbeck. Dr. Pavica Sheldon of UAH's communication arts faculty will lead the discussion. Free.

How to Do Things: Crochet a Mobius Cowl/Scarf

Tuesday, Jan 12 • 6:30 - 8:30pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

Learn a couple of crochet stitches and make a seamless mobius cowl/scarf. asprogramming@hmcpl.org.

BLT Book Club

Wednesday, Jan 20 • Noon

Monrovia Library

Discuss "The Tragedy and Triumph of Phenix City, Alabama" by Margaret Anne Barne. 256.489.3392.

Murder at Main Mystery Book Club

Thursday, Jan 21 • 5:30pm

Amendment XXI, 123 North Side Square

The group will discuss the novels of Kerry Greenwood. 256.532.5984.

Once Upon a Winter's Night

Friday, Jan 22 • 6 - 8pm

Madison Library

The Madison Friends of the Library will hold a fairy tale-themed event for all ages with medieval/Renaissance dances, games, puppet show, and the movie "Frozen." \$7 for adults; \$5 for children 3 and older.

An Invitation to Tea

Saturday, Jan 23 • Noon

Triana Library

Join the Triana Friends of the Library for a festive tea. 256.772.9943.

'Downton Abbey' Tea

Saturday, Jan 23 • 3 - 5pm

Monrovia Library

Celebrate the culture of "Downton Abbey" during a festive English tea presented by Monrovia Friends of the Library. Dress for tea and bring your own cup. Tea provided by Piper & Leaf Tea Company. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 for two. Deadline is Jan 11. For ages 10 and older. 256.489.3392.

Hertha Heller Forum:**Poets' Choice Readings**

Sunday, Jan 24 • 2pm

Downtown Huntsville Library

Friends of the Library presents 20 members of the Huntsville Literary Association's Poetry Writing Workshop, reading recent works. Free.

Mind Your Money: Smart investing@your library

Thursdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm, Downtown Huntsville Library

Jan 14: Practical Steps to Building Wealth

Jan 21: Net Worth & Basic Investment Options

Jan 28: Principles of Investing

Feb 4: Creating and Managing a Portfolio

March 3: Advanced Class I on personal finances and investing

March 10: Advanced Class II



Classes are free, and registration is not required. Details at hmcpl.org/mym.

FEBRUARY

Make It & Take It: Cooking for Two

Monday, Feb 8 • 6:30pm

[Madison Library](#)

"The Complete Cooking for Two Cookbook," America's Test Kitchen.

Tuesdays with TED

Tuesday, Feb 9 • Noon - 1pm

[Downtown Huntsville Library](#)

We'll watch "Don't Insist on English" by Patricia Ryan. Dr. Kwaku Gyasi, language and culture researcher at UAH, will lead the discussion. Free.

Let's Talk about Abe Lincoln

Thursday, Feb 11 • 4pm

[Elizabeth Carpenter Library](#)

Retired teacher Gary Carlyle will lead the discussion and share little-known information about our 16th president. RSVP by Feb 8.

Patron Appreciation Day

Friday, Feb 12 • 9am - 4pm

[Oscar Mason Library](#)

Free refreshments and prizes will be given to patrons. 256.535.2249.

Postcards for Alabama Bicentennial

Saturday, Feb 13 • 2 - 4:30pm

[Downtown Huntsville Library](#)

Historian Frances Robb will talk about the postcard collecting project for the upcoming Alabama Bicentennial. Then patrons can scan their postcards from 2:30 to 4:30.

Artrageous: My Ideal Bookshelf

Saturday, Feb 13 • 2 - 4:30pm

[Madison Library](#)

Paint a bookshelf of your all-time favorite books. acampbell@hmcpl.org.

Honoring Black History Month

Sunday, Feb 14 • 1 - 2:30pm

[Madison Library](#)

Art program for children. Sponsored by Rosie's International Services, Inc.



Meet the Author: Tim Dorsey

Friday, Feb 26 • Noon - 1pm

[Downtown Huntsville Library](#)

New York Times bestselling author Tim Dorsey is back with "Coconut Cowboy," a new adventure for his serial-killer hero, Serge Storms. Talk to Tim about the crazy true stories behind his fiction. Books available for sale and signing. asprogramming@hmcpl.org, 256.532.2362. Free.

African American History Celebration

Thursday, Feb 18 • 5pm

[Triana Library](#)

Explore the evolution of music. 256.772.9943.

Murder at Main Mystery Book Club

Thursday, Feb 18 • 5:30pm

[Pane E Vino, Huntsville Museum of Art, 300 Church St.](#)

The group will discuss the novels of Donna Leon. 256.532.5984.

The Book Report

Thursday, Feb 18 • 7 - 8pm

[Yellowhammer Brewery, 2406 Clinton Ave.](#)

Talk about whatever you're reading, no pressure. 256.881.5620.

Huntsville's Civil Rights Movement in the '60s

Thursday, Feb 18 • 7pm

[Downtown Huntsville Library](#)

Brian Bess of the Special Collections Department offers an overview that includes contributions of Dr. Sonnie Hereford III and Dr. John Cashin.

Honoring Black History Month

Saturday, Feb 20 • 1 - 3pm

[Madison Library](#)

Local children will read and recite poetry. Sponsored by Rosie's International Services, Inc.

Honoring Black History Month

Saturday, Feb 27 • 1 - 3pm

[Madison Library](#)

Program features storytelling and an African dance, rhythm and musical experience. Sponsored by Rosie's International Services, Inc.

Hertha Heller Forum: "Wildflowers of North Alabama"

Sunday, Feb 28 • 2pm

[Downtown Huntsville Library](#)

Friends of the Library presents George and Stephanie Hanna, who will talk about the diverse wildflowers in our area and the best locations for wildflower hikes. Free. 256.532.5986.

LOOKING AHEAD

Madison County Reads

Throughout March

[All 12 Library Branches](#)

We'll spotlight the Flavia de Luce mystery series by Alan Bradley for our annual community read program, but we're focusing on the first book, "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie." Keep up with MCR news at facebook.com/MadisonCountyReads.

These are just a sampling of the programming treats at our 12 branches. Find more events on our website: hmcpl.org.

CONNECT

Check out new Wi-Fi hotspots

Technology upgrades continue at your Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. Library cardholders will be able to check out mobile Wi-Fi hotspots from T-Mobile for a small fee beginning Monday, Jan. 4.

Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots will let you save money on your phone data plans and still have a personal Internet access point to take on vacation or to use in your cars, homes, and any other place where you need to connect. Performance will vary based on T-Mobile's availability and the hotspot's location in a building. Users are advised to put the hotspot near a window in different areas to find its best performance.

Wi-Fi hotspots will be available for check-out at all 12 library branches. Fees are \$10 for seven days or \$20 for 14 days with no renewals allowed.

Learn more about our mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and our other technological offerings on our website, hmcpl.org.



Author Winston Groom and his wife, Susan, center, with, left to right, Vive le Livre co-chairs Lindsay Rice and Lady Smith, Huntsville Library Foundation board chair Christina Tabereaux, board vice chair Betsy Estopinal, Foundation member Emily Pauli, and Susan Markham, director of the library's Department of Institutional Advancement.

Vive is a big success!

The Huntsville Library Foundation appreciates all our supporters who helped us welcome author Winston Groom to town for Vive le Livre 2015 on Nov. 19 at the Jackson Center. The Foundation raised over \$68,000 to fund the library's Digital Media Zone and other programs during the next year. We offer a special "thank you" to these Vive supporters who invested in our library at levels of \$500 and above:

Benefactor, \$500 – Jim and Marian Accardi; Dr. Rob and Linda Casselman Akenhead; Mike and Debbie Ball; Sally Barnett; Laurel Best and Art Abdinoor; N.E. Brower; Kathleen and Philip Dotts; Lu and Patton Downey; Laura and Roan Gannon; Shaf and Melinda Holden; Cutter and Mary Shepard Hughes; Drs. W. R. Humphrey and Sherry Thaggard; Dr. and Mrs. John D. Johnson Jr.; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) and Mrs. James Link; Robert and Julie Lockwood; George and Sue Royer; Dianne and Calame Sammons; William and Marie Schneider; Pam and Tazewell Shepard; Scott and Lady Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Macklyn

M. Vann II; Juliet and Carter Wells; Frances H. Woodard; Bridgeworth, LLC; Donny's Diamond Gallery; Dunagan Yates Plastic Surgery Center; Hall Albright Garrison & Associates; Mission Multiplier Consulting; Progress Bank; Warren Averett Asset Management.

Sponsor, \$1,000 – Robert Churchill; Lee and Elizabeth Jones; Tine and John Purdy; Elizabeth Schonrock; Loretta Spencer; Joe Still Building Company, Inc.; Renasant Bank; ServisFirst Bank; The Boeing Company; \$1,500, Wealth Management, LLC.

Patron, \$2,500 – Noel and Elizabeth Estopinal; Dr. and Mrs. Ross Hunter; Emily Pauli; Bradley and Lindsay Rice; Christina and Paul Tabereaux; Kord Technologies; Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings, LLP; Valley Vascular Consultants.

Author's Circle, \$5,000 – Jerry Damson Honda Acura; Redstone Federal Credit Union; Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama.

CONTRIBUTIONS

IN MEMORY

- Charles Roy "Charlie" Baker by Thiokol - Huntsville Division Alumni Association
 Childs Berry by Bonnie Hamner
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by The GRITS Book Club
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Karen Kiss
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by K.M. Ofenloch
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Suzanne Pritchett
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Kathryn Reinhart
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Nancy Robertson
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Nancy Robinson
 Katherine Rogers "Katie" Clark by Carol Wallace
 Mary Walton Johnson Dudley by Colonel Walter Aston Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century
 Anne Galloway by Katherine Garstka
 Mary Ellen Galloway by Margaret J. and Mack Vann
 John Echols Gann by Thiokol - Huntsville Division Alumni Association
 Felix Godwin by Al Eng
 Scott Fitzgerald Henry by Wendy Wilson and Curtis Benzle
 Clark Hereford by Jane A. McBride
 Elizabeth Lambeth Howell by Huntsville Chapter DAR
 Rosa Bragg Hughes by Jay and Barbara Fisher
 Dorothy Scott Johnson by Ellen P. Flaherty
 Dorothy Scott Johnson by Scott and Joan Haas
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 Dorothy Scott Johnson by John T. Towry
 Joseph Paul Eugene Jones by Brandon and Christina Smith
 Joseph Paul Eugene Jones by Paulette, Anna, Maria, and John Paul Teel
 Marilyn "Lynn" Jones by Margaret J. and Mack Vann
 Michelle L. "Shelly" Knotts by Pediatric Gastroenterology Associates
 Renate (Pschera) Lowers by Sigrun Duerr
 Laurel Carlile McDaniel by Carlene and George Elrod
 Laurel Carlile McDaniel by Dorla Evans
 Laurel Carlile McDaniel by Friends of the Library
 Laurel Carlile McDaniel by Jane Gamble
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 Laurel Carlile McDaniel by Dorothy Ward
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 William C. Pittman, Jr. by Tennessee Valley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
 Jacob Eli Reep by Thiokol - Huntsville Division Alumni Association
 Doris Sue McAlpin Russell by Colonel Walter Aston Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century
 Anne G. Rutledge by Margaret J. and Mack Vann
 Anne Schoenknecht by Merrie and Bob DePierre
 Anne Schoenknecht by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fountain
 Anne Schoenknecht by Margaret J. and Mack Vann
 Mr. Hoyt O. Smith by Sue and George Royer
 Mr. Hoyt O. Smith by Tennessee Valley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
 Ricky Stafford by Bill Priest
 Lyle Taylor by John Shaver
 Jack Towery by Laurel Best
 Jack Towery by Library Staff Organization
 Viola Probus Van Orden by Colonel Walter Aston Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century
 Wheeler Vann by Margaret J. and Mack Vann
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 Walter J. Wheeling by Willard and Dee Holmes
 Walter J. Wheeling by Jerry and Sarah Scheiman
 Walter J. Wheeling by Constance White

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 LearningQUEST, Inc.
 Russell Newquist
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 The Boeing Company
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If you would like to make a donation to the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, please contact Diane Metrick at dmetrick@hmcpl.org or 256.532.5950.

COVER TO COVER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



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