Ghost story kicks off new book club
Young adult novel explores faith, history, more

“Days of Little Texas” by R.A. Nelson deals with faith and family in a delightfully original ghost story that also touches on the horrors of slavery and its undying pain.

Ronald Earl, known on the revival circuit as Little Texas, is a 16-year-old preaching prodigy/faith healer who finds himself followed by the ghost of a girl he failed to heal.

How in the world did the author come up with that story?

You can ask him yourself at the inaugural meeting of our new Author Chat Book Club. Each month, we'll read and discuss a different book in a wide range of genres with the author joining our discussion. The first meeting is set for Thursday, July 11, at 6 p.m. at Pizzelle's Confections at Lowe Mill, 2211 Seminole Drive, Railroad Room #4A.

Russ Nelson gives Ronald Earl a fascinating “family”: Miss Wanda Joy is the aunt who took him in after his father went to prison on a drug charge and his mother was killed in a meth lab fire. Sugar Tom's an 87-year-old preacher who was himself a child evangelist. Certain Certain's a 60ish black man who gave his life to the Lord after being shot in the face by a justifiably jealous husband. A history buff, he wears a brass slave tag around his neck in honor of his ancestors.

For details and to put your name on the list, contact Sophie Young at syoung@hmcpl.org or 256-532-2362.
Friends’ Foreword
The latest news from the Friends of the Library

8 Things You Can Do On Facebook at
Friends of the Library, Huntsville Main

LEARN – what’s going on
1. events at the Library
2. FOL events and Book Sales
3. availability of new books in the Library, in the FOL Bookstore and in local bookstores

SHARE – your joy in reading
4. book titles and authors
5. a description of a book you love
6. literature quotations, reading mottos and slogans

INTERACT – with reading Friends
7. Respond to questions such as
   What are you reading this week?
   What’s your favorite old book?
   Who is your favorite contemporary author?
8. Become a part of the reading community
   There are hundreds of Friends of the Library. Imagine our sprawl if all our Friends found us on Facebook at Friends of the Library, Huntsville Main!

Mark October 10 on your calendar for something special! HMCPL, the Huntsville Literary Association and Friends of the Library are collaborating to bring an author you may know and love to our Library for a talk and a book signing. Perhaps you know the Elba, Alabama, native and UA graduate, novelist, screenwriter, and playwright Robert Inman. If not, perhaps you’ve read one of his five novels: HOME FIRES BURNING; OLD DOGS AND CHILDREN; DAIRY QUEEN DAYS; CAPTAIN SATURDAY; and his last, due out in September, THE GOVERNOR’S LADY, about an ex-governor whose wife succeeds him while he’s running for president and happily departs from his state policies. Learn how Inman knows so much about politics, public marriage and human nature. Stay tuned!

The FOL 2013 Junior Service Awards
Since 1984 the Friends of the Library has honored student library aides in the Huntsville-Madison County schools for their exemplary service as determined by their school librarians. Each participating school has been presented with a library plaque to which an engraved nameplate is added for each honored student. They are Buckhorn Middle, Charity McCalpin; Chaffee Elementary, Dannon Kingsbury; Hazel Green High, Komal Patel; James Clements High, Alina Booker; Johnson High, Rachel Ware, Allen Greathouse; Madison County High, Haleigh Kress; Mountain Gap Middle, Autumn Bruncz, Jonathon Hubbert, Hannah Scott; Rainbow Elementary, Mia Fries; Riverton Middle, Olivia Southerland, Ashley Golden; Rolling Hills Elementary, Yazmin Ambriz-Martines, Eber Garcia; Sparkman Middle, Ally Whittemore, Jasmine Turner; Westlawn Intermediate, Quotez Burrett. Congratulations to all!

FOL BIG BIG 25¢ BOOK SALE
AUGUST 10, 9 UNTIL 3:30
Main Library Auditorium

Friends’ Bookstore
Entrance of the Main Branch Library
Phone: 256.532.5986
Monday-Thursday Noon-6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday Noon-4 p.m. Sunday 1-4:30 p.m.

Jan Kelly
Friends of the Library

http://hmcpl.org
Get your Rick Bragg tickets in July

Vive le Livre speaker learned to tell stories on family’s porches

Alabama’s own Rick Bragg shares stories from his childhood and his career as a journalist at Vive le Livre 2013 on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. at Randolph School.

Rick won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 1996 for his work at *The New York Times*. Born in Piedmont, Alabama, in 1959, he is the author of the memoirs *All Over But the Shoutin’*, *Ava’s Man* and *The Prince of Frogtown*.

Rick has credited his writing ability to the oral storytelling of family and friends in his childhood in the Appalachian foothills of Alabama: “They taught me, on a thousand front porch nights, as a million jugs passed from hand to hand, how to tell a story.”

Tickets for the Huntsville Library Foundation’s annual fundraiser will be available beginning in July at all library branches. Individual tickets are $75 per person to include the keynote address, book signing and dessert.

Susanna Leberman to speak at archivists’ meeting

Susanna Leberman, archivist at the main Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, has been invited to speak at the national conference of the Society of American Archivists, New Orleans 2013. Her topic is “Virtual Libraries and Digital Preservation in Alabama: The Role of Archives and Special Collections.”

“With Huntsville City Schools discontinuing use of textbooks in favor of digital resources, the topic of virtual libraries and their role seems particularly relevant,” Susanna said. “This is a great opportunity to bring statewide attention to the archival system and historical network that we are building in Madison County, as well as our participation in the Alabama Digital Preservation Network and Alabama Mosaic, the virtual library for the state of Alabama, which contains almost 80,000 items from more than twenty institutions. I will specifically address how area students actively use the digital resources we provide, and I will talk about the technical, administrative, and financial challenges of building and maintaining a comprehensive virtual library.”

Susanna thanks the Huntsville Historical Society for supporting her work with generous funding, as well as the Huntsville Antique Club and Friends of the Library.

Another step on the road to a new Triana Library

Triana officials broke ground for a new Triana Public Library on June 14 in a ceremony attended by state and local officials, library supporters and Huntsville-Madison County Public Library officials and staff members. Wielding ceremonial shovels to officially begin the construction process for the facility are, from left, Triana Mayor Mary Caudle and Triana Town Council members Theresa Nelson, George Ragland, and Jurlene Caudle-Rogers.
“Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference”
Going on through July 9
Main Library
Interactive fun for the whole family.

Evenings With Wilder:
A Billy Wilder Retrospective
Main Library
Double Indemnity (1944)
July 1, 6 p.m.
Film noir starring Fred MacMurray.
Sunset Boulevard (1950)
July 8, 6 p.m.
Film noir starring William Holden.
Some Like it Hot (1959)
July 15, 6 p.m.
All-star screwball comedy.
The Apartment (1960)
July 22, 6 p.m.
Acclaimed comedy/drama.
The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970)
July 29, 6 p.m.
See the man behind the stories.

Bollywood Film Series
Main Library
Delhi Belly (2011)
July 3, 5:30 p.m.
A black comedy. ** Adult content **
Ra.One (2011)
July 10, 5:30 p.m.
A science fiction superhero film.

How to Do Things: Sprang
July 9, 6:30 p.m.
Main Library
Crystal Kitchens of Huntsville Fiber Guild shows how to construct fabric with natural elasticity.

Thursday Evening Concerts:
Dancing with the Library Stars,
Rocket City Jazz Orchestra
July 11, 6 p.m.
Main Library
Talented dancers and big band music in round one of our dance contest.

Bullying: What Is It? How Do We Prevent It?
July 18, 6-8 p.m.
Main Library
Alabama Issues Forum moderated by David Mathews Center for Civic Life.

Hobbit Party
July 22, 6:30 p.m.
Monrovia Library
Teens (12-18) can celebrate the fun of J.R.R. Tolkien’s classic adventure.

Health Forum: Sleep/Insomnia
July 23, 11 a.m.
Main Library
Dr. Ron Stansell of Huntsville Hospital Sleep Center talks about sleep issues and strategies.

How to Do Things: Plan a Party
July 23, 6:30-8 p.m.
Main Library
Classy Happenings event designers share secrets to a successful party.

Thursday Evening Concerts:
Dancing with the Library Stars,
Moondust Big Band
July 25, 6 p.m.
Main Library
Dance contest finals.

Harry Potter Week
July 29-August 2, 4 p.m. daily
Bailey Cove Library
Celebrate with Quidditch, Wizard’s Chess, wand-making, and more.

Murphy Library Book Swap
August 1-3, regular library hours
Eleanor E. Murphy Library
Bring a $10 donation and your gently used books, movies, and music, and you can pick as many items as you like from the available selection in the Friends of the Library bookstore.

Fandom Showdown
August 3, 1-4:30 p.m.
Main Library
Support your favorite fandom by participating in games, discussion panels, and a costume contest.
Thursday Evening Concerts:
Maurice & Destiny
August 8, 6 p.m.
Main Library
Classic R&B and blues.

Meet the Author: Skip Tucker
August 11, 2 p.m.
Main Library

Books and Brews
August 15, 7-9 p.m.
Straight to Ale Brewery, 3200 Leeman Ferry Road
Eleanor E. Murphy Library celebrates the end of the adult summer reading program with books, trivia, food, and brews.

Southern Breeze Schmooze with author R.A. Nelson
August 21, 5:30 p.m.
Madison Library
Local author offers advice on how to write a query letter and get an agent. Event hosted by Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
Mark your calendars so you won’t miss any of the fun.

Thursday Evening Concerts:
Ivy Joe Milan & Jim Cavender
August 22, 6 p.m.
Main Library
R&B and R&R hits from the ’50s and ’60s.

Special Literary Concert:
The Poetry of Alabama Music
August 25, 2 p.m.
Main Library
Frye Gaillard and Kathryn Scheldt intertwine music and poetry in this discussion/performance.

Health Forum: Vision
August 27, 11 a.m.
Main Library
Dr. Patricia McCoy of McCoy Vision talks about your vision and how to preserve it. 256-532-2362

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**FRIENDS EVENTS**
Upcoming events for the Friends network.

**BECOME A FRIEND**
Countless volunteer hours and fund-raising boost library services.

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To join, use the membership form on this page.

Name: _________________________
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NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐

- Senior/ Student $15
- Individual $20
- Family $25
- Good Friend $50
- Best Friend $100
- As a member, I'd like to volunteer in the bookstore.

Phone: _________________________

Please make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, and mail to:
Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 443
Huntsville, AL 35804

**Professional Training Resources**
The Reference department hosts monthly professional development workshops for entrepreneurs, nonprofits and writers. Admission is free, and no registration is required. Bring a sack lunch; drinks will be provided. For more details, contact the Reference department at 256-532-5975, or visit hmcpl.org/reference.

**Small Business Lunch & Learn**
Monday, July 1, noon to 1 p.m.
University of Alabama in Huntsville Small Business Development Center
For both start-ups and existing small businesses, the Small Business Development Center’s mission is to be a catalyst and essential resource for successful growth and profitability through free business counseling and affordable business training.

**Write Right Lunch & Learn**
Tuesday, July 9, noon to 1 p.m.
“Facts and Fancy: How a Newspaper Career Taught Me to Write Fiction”
A former writer and editor for *The Huntsville Times*, Ann Marie Martin is communications director for the HMCPL system. She’ll share stories from her newspaper career and offer insights on the process and psychology of writing for both fiction and creative nonfiction.

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**Upcoming Events**
- **Thursday Evening Concerts: Maurice & Destiny**
  - August 8, 6 p.m.
  - Main Library
  - Classic R&B and blues.

- **Meet the Author: Skip Tucker**
  - August 11, 2 p.m.
  - Main Library

- **Books and Brews**
  - August 15, 7-9 p.m.
  - Straight to Ale Brewery, 3200 Leeman Ferry Road
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  - Frye Gaillard and Kathryn Scheldt intertwine music and poetry in this discussion/performance.

- **Health Forum: Vision**
  - August 27, 11 a.m.
  - Main Library
  - Dr. Patricia McCoy of McCoy Vision talks about your vision and how to preserve it. 256-532-2362

**Junior Library**

**BIG BIG BIG 25¢ BOOK SALE**
AUGUST 10, 9 UNTIL 3:30
Main Library Auditorium
WALL TO WALL BOOKS
The Public Is Invited!

**Join Friends of the Library**
To join, use the membership form on this page.

Name: _________________________
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NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐

- Senior/ Student $15
- Individual $20
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- Good Friend $50
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- As a member, I'd like to volunteer in the bookstore.

**Phone: _________________________**

Please make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, and mail to:
Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 443
Huntsville, AL 35804
Out on a branch: Murphy Public Library

Personalized service is a hallmark of this longtime community gathering place.

Good writers are good readers, and good readers are good writers. The Eleanor E. Murphy Public Library nourishes both. Murphy manager Connie Chow, pictured at right, is proud of the success of the Murphy Writers Group, organized in August 2012 under the leadership of Alabama A&M University graduate student Oluwakemi Elufiede. This diverse group of writers in many different stages and genres of writing meets twice a month on the second and fourth Saturdays at 3 p.m. Members read to their peers and receive positive feedback. This summer, the writing program expanded to include a weekly Teen Authors Workshop during the month of June.

As for the reading part, the Murphy Library staff offers personalized service to regular patrons. “We get a lot of people who walk or bike over here,” Connie said. “Because we’re a community library, we see the same people every week, and we can make recommendations.”

They’re glad to welcome new patrons at Murphy, too. “A lot of our patrons are older.” Connie said. “When their kids and grandkids come to visit, they come to the library to use our computers.”

Of course, Murphy’s computers are for all ages. To make sure all the patrons are comfortable with the technology, Connie began a series of computer classes last summer, and she and her staff are ready to answer a variety of high-tech queries. “People bring in their e-readers, and we’ll sit down with them and walk them through the process.”

The Murphy Library is located in a former floral shop on Charlotte Drive, about a block west of South Memorial Parkway. It’s named in honor of a woman who devoted her life to reading, the late Eleanor Murphy Jones, longtime librarian and former director of the HMCPL system.

For more information about what’s going on at Murphy, visit hmcpl.org/murphy or call 256-881-5620.

Wrap up Summer Reading fun at our closing parties

Library patrons of all ages have been immersing themselves in Summer Reading 2013 fun with Dig into Reading for kids, Beneath the Surface for teens, and Groundbreaking Reads for adults.

Now it’s time to celebrate our reading achievements with a series of parties at all our branches: Showers, July 18, 10 a.m.; Oscar Mason, July 19, 2-4 p.m., with the Oscar Mason Idol Contest; New Hope, July 22, 6 p.m.; Gurley, July 24, 10:30 a.m., with Sci-Quest; Bessie K. Russell, July 24, 1:30 p.m., with Huntsville Botanical Garden; Monrovia, July 25, 1 p.m., with Animal Tales; Main, July 26, 2 p.m., with Animal Tales; Bailey Cove, July 26, 3 p.m., with Magical Mr. Krugh; Madison, July 26, 6 p.m., with Animal Tales; Murphy, July 31, 3:30 p.m., with Huntsville Lacrosse Association; Hazel Green, Aug. 2, 11 a.m.; Triana, TBA.

Thanks again to our Summer Reading 2013 sponsors: Doris Burwell Foundation, Junior League of Huntsville, Madison County Commission, and PPG Aerospace. And thank you to the Huntsville Library Foundation for continued support of Summer Reading.

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You can help boost the library’s offerings in the areas of education, entertainment, economic development and more by participating in the Library WishList program: http://www.librarywishlist.com/wl/WishList_Home.cfm?x=89769530.
Just choose an item you’d like to sponsor, make a contribution and soon you’ll see it in use in your library. Our wish is to make your library an even better place for you and your children, and everyone else who visits.