



HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The OPEN BOOK

Focusing on Donor Impact & Updates
August 2026 Newsletter



Sponsorships and Individual Tickets are Available for the 40th Annual Vive le Livre!



Celebrate the magic of books, authors, and the vital role libraries play in our community at the Huntsville-Madison County Library Foundation's signature event.

Join us on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Jackson Center, and enjoy a reception, seated dinner, and a keynote by international bestselling author Mitch Albom.

Sponsorships and Individual Tickets are on Sale!

**More
Information**

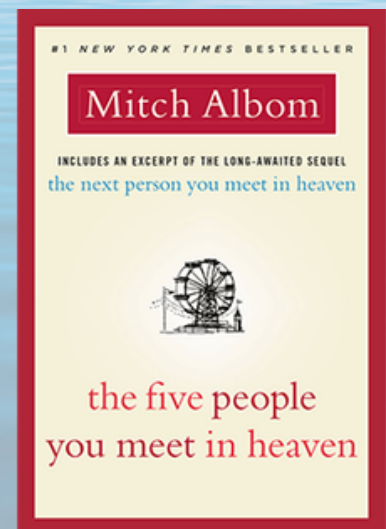
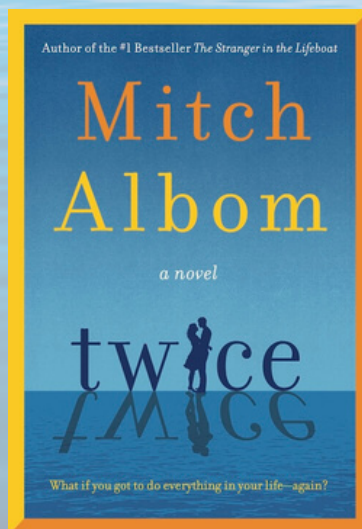
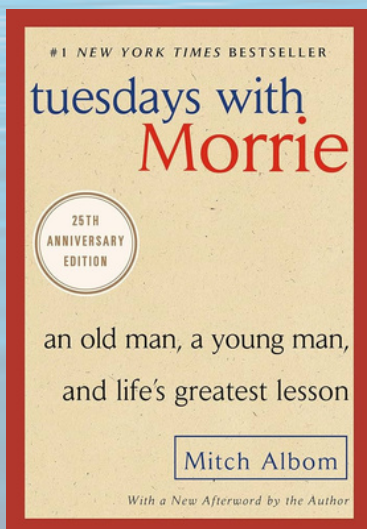
**We expect this year's Vive le Livre to be another sold-out event.
Don't miss this unforgettable evening!**

Thank You for Your Continued Support!



THE JAMES CECIL AND
MARGARET G. ASHBURN
FOUNDATION

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and bestselling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician. His books have collectively sold 42 million copies worldwide; have been published in 51 territories and in 48 languages around the world; and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies. In 2006, he founded the nonprofit SAY Detroit, which provides pathways to success for Detroiters in need through major health, housing and education initiatives. He also founded a dessert shop and a gourmet popcorn line to help fund it. Albom operates Have Faith Haiti, a home and school for impoverished children and orphans in Port-au-Prince, which he visits monthly. He lives with his wife, Janine, in Michigan.



Thank you for Supporting Are You Smarter than a Librarian?!

Thank you to everyone who came out for "Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?!" We had a blast watching teams battle it out and proving that librarians and library supporters are a pretty smart bunch!

A huge thanks to the Beer Hog in Madison for hosting us and giving us the perfect spot for an evening of friendly competition and America 250 trivia! The room was packed with people who love libraries, including 10 HMCPL librarians who joined the competition and put their knowledge to the test.

We loved seeing library supporters and library staff come together for such a fun night! We're so grateful for everyone who played, cheered, volunteered, and supported the Library Foundation.

Thanks for making our first "Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?!" one for the books!

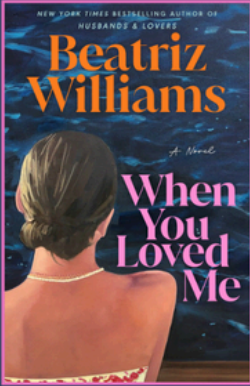




An Evening with Beatriz Williams In Conversation with Karen White

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

AN EVENING *with*
NEW YORK TIMES AND USA TODAY
BESTSELLING AUTHOR
BEATRIZ WILLIAMS

IN CONVERSATION WITH
KAREN WHITE

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

SOUTH HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
AUGUST 13 | 6:00 P.M.


HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Join us as we welcome *New York Times* bestselling author Beatriz Williams to the South Huntsville Public Library on August 13th as she celebrates the release of her new novel, *When You Loved Me*.

Williams will be joined in conversation by fellow *New York Times* bestselling author Karen White for an engaging discussion.

About Beatriz Williams

Beatriz Williams is an internationally bestselling author of numerous works of historical fiction. Her novels have won multiple awards, been translated into more than a dozen languages, and regularly appear on bestseller lists around the world. A former communications and corporate strategy consultant, Williams now lives in Connecticut with her husband and family.

About Karen White

With almost two million books in print in fifteen different languages, Karen White is the bestselling author of 38 novels. Her latest releases include *That Last Carolina Summer* and *The Lady on Esplanade*, the third book in her New Orleans-set mystery series.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Two Bestselling Authors Visit HMCPL

An Afternoon with Chanel Cleeton

Thank you to everyone who joined us for an afternoon with New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Chanel Cleeton at the Downtown Huntsville Public Library. Guests enjoyed a fascinating conversation about her new novel, *An Infinite Love Story*, set against the backdrop of the 1960s Space Race.

A special thank you to Library Foundation board member Tessa Lucas for serving as moderator and sharing her unique perspective from 27 years in NASA's Command Center.



An Afternoon with Kelly Rimmer

We were thrilled to welcome bestselling author Kelly Rimmer to the South Huntsville Public Library all the way from Australia! Nearly 100 readers joined us to celebrate her newest novel, *The Story Keeper*.

Kelly, whose bestselling novel *The German Wife* is set in Huntsville, shared the story behind her writing during a wonderful conversation moderated by Lorie Hubsher, Assistant Branch Manager of the South Huntsville Public Library.



THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:



SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 7, 2026
DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOOD TRUCKS!
AUTHORS!
ARTISTS!
BOOKISH VENDORS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT
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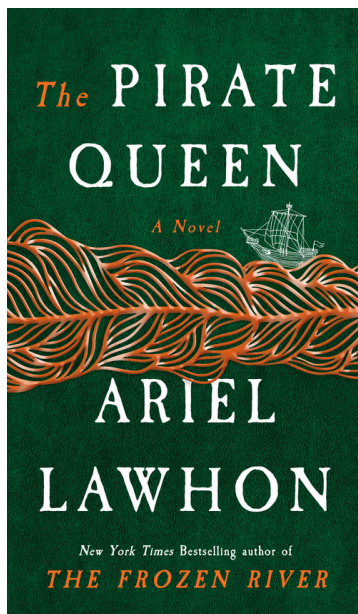

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Celebrate a full day of reading, writing, and connection at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library!

We're thrilled to present the inaugural Great Big Book Festival on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Downtown Huntsville Public Library. This exciting all-day event features a robust lineup of free programming, including an author panel, book signings, and a selection of bookish vendors. **We appreciate our event sponsor, The Propst Family Foundation!**

We're excited to welcome New York Times bestselling author Ariel Lawhon, author of *The Frozen River*, as The Great Big Book Festival's headliner!

Venture onto the high seas as we celebrate her upcoming release, *The Pirate Queen*, a sweeping historical adventure inspired by a real-life Irish folk heroine.



ARIEL LAWHON is an award-winning, critically acclaimed, *New York Times* bestselling author of historical fiction. Her books have been translated into over 30 languages and have been featured on *Good Morning America*, *LibraryReads*, and *One Book One County* selections. She lives outside Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and sons.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Help Readers Get Popular Books Faster!



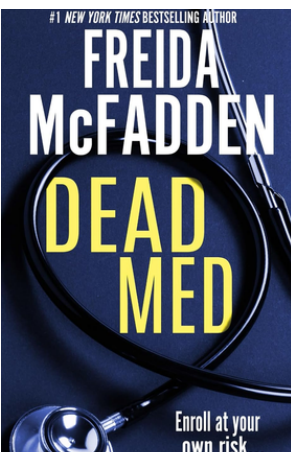
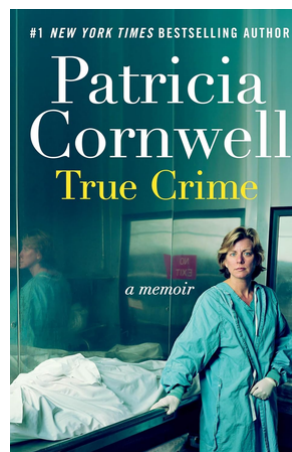
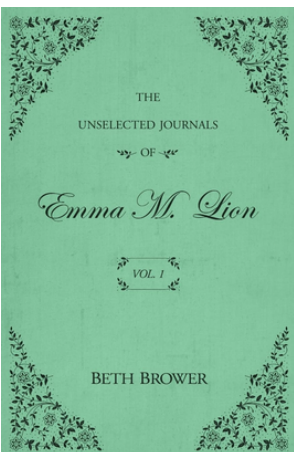
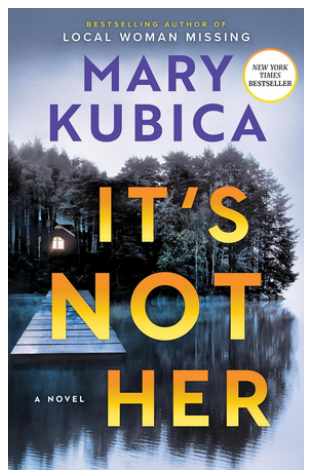
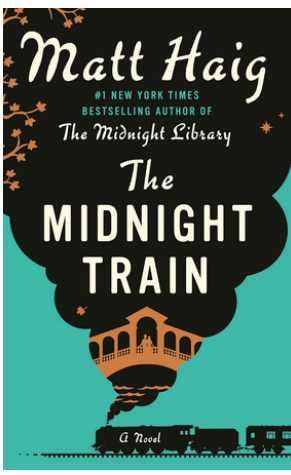
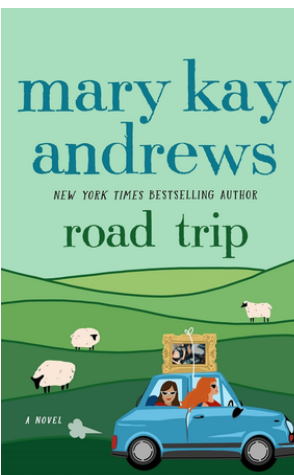
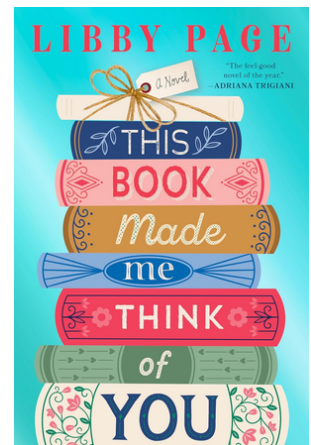
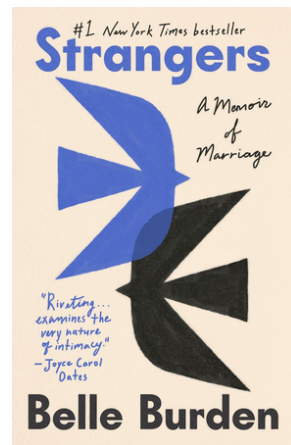
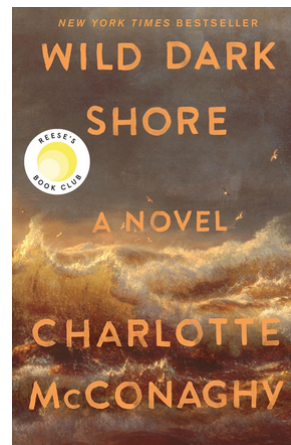
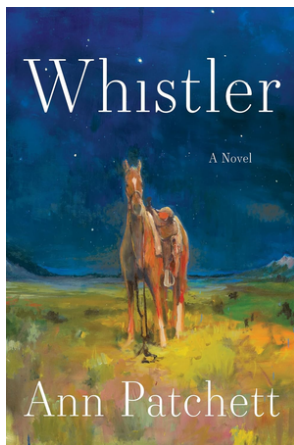
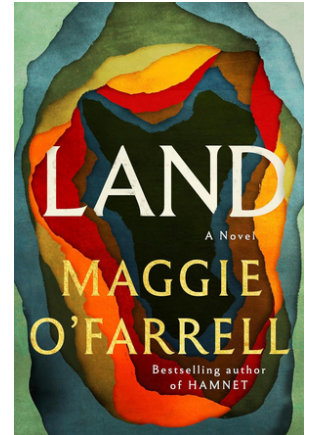
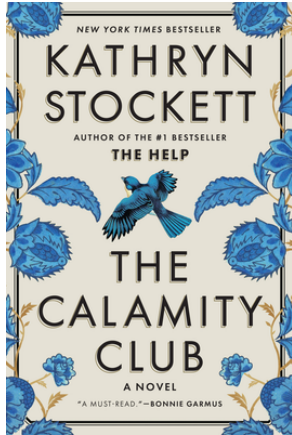
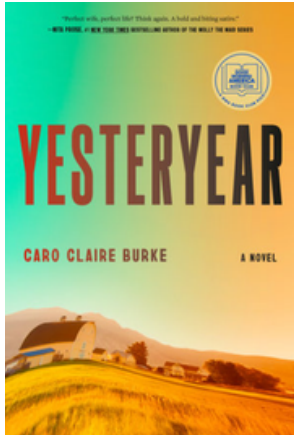
From bestselling books to BookTok favorites and page-to-screen hits, HMCPL readers love discovering the stories everyone is talking about. When a book takes off, hold lists can grow quickly.

You can help shorten the wait. A gift of just \$25 helps us purchase an additional copy of a high-demand book or other popular library material, putting sought-after titles into readers' hands sooner.

Because reading trends change every day, our list of high-demand titles is always evolving. Explore HMCPL's Top 20 high-demand titles on the next page and help us **Clear the Holds.**

CLEAR THE HOLDS

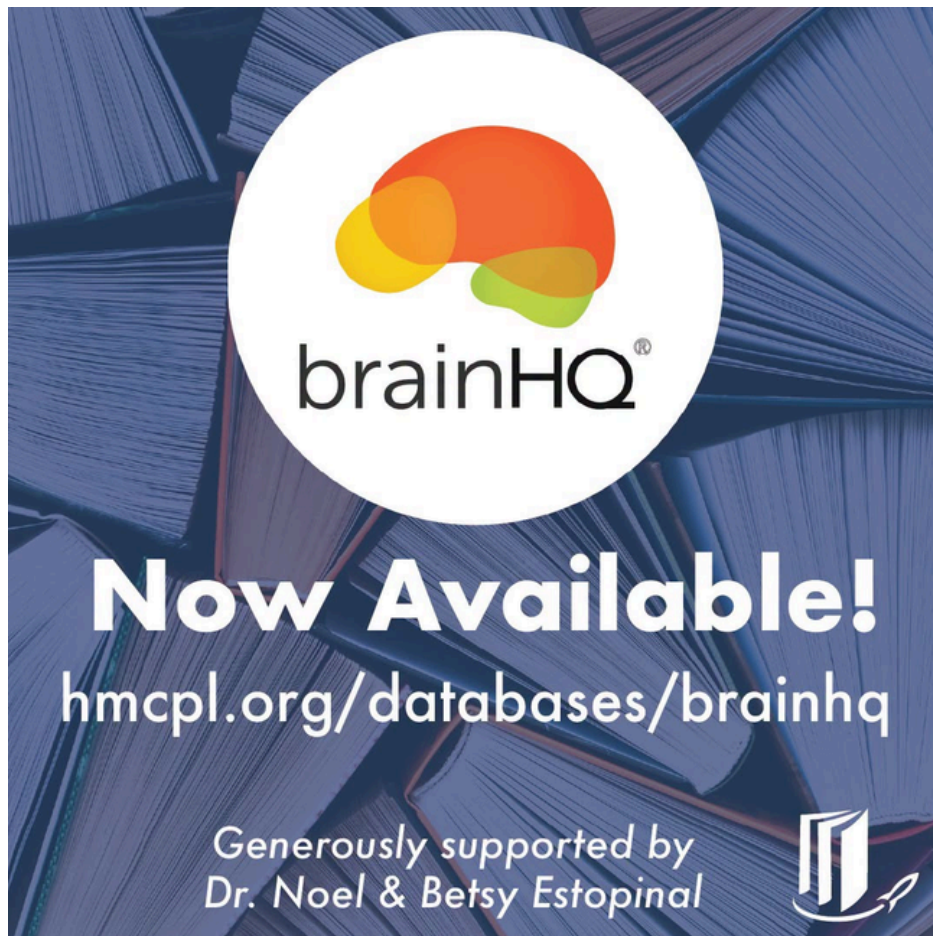
Top 20 High-Demand Titles at the HMCPL



New Digital Resource: BrainHQ

Thanks to the generous support of Dr. Noel and Betsy Estopinal, HMCPL cardholders now have access to BrainHQ, an interactive brain-training program designed to help strengthen memory, focus, and cognitive skills.

BrainHQ offers exercises in six areas: Memory, Attention, Brain Speed, People Skills, Intelligence, and Navigation. Activities adapt to each user's progress, providing personalized challenges that help users build their skills over time.



Ready to get started? Visit [this link](https://hmcpl.org/databases/brainhq) for information on accessing BrainHQ through the app or your desktop computer.

Thank You, Senator Orr!

On July 13, Senator Arthur Orr presented a \$5,000 grant to the Triana Public Library during the Town of Triana Council meeting. This generous support will help strengthen the library's resources and services for the community.



Pictured, left to right: Kim Holmes, Triana Public Library Branch Manager; Senator Arthur Orr; and Town of Triana Mayor Mary Caudle.

We are grateful to Senator Orr for his continued investment in the HMCPL and for recognizing the important role our libraries play in serving the people of Madison County. Thank you for your partnership and support!



A city cannot be great without a great library.

The 10 branches of the HMCPL serve as vibrant community hubs where technology, information, and culture are within everyone's reach.

We challenge donors to help inspire lifelong learning through financial gifts that support the HMCPL.

For more details on ways to give or to make a donation, visit <https://hmcpl.org/foundation/waystogive>.

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