



HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The **OPEN BOOK**

Focusing on Donor Impact & Updates
July 2026 Newsletter



Teddy Bear Clinic Helps Young Readers Feel Brave

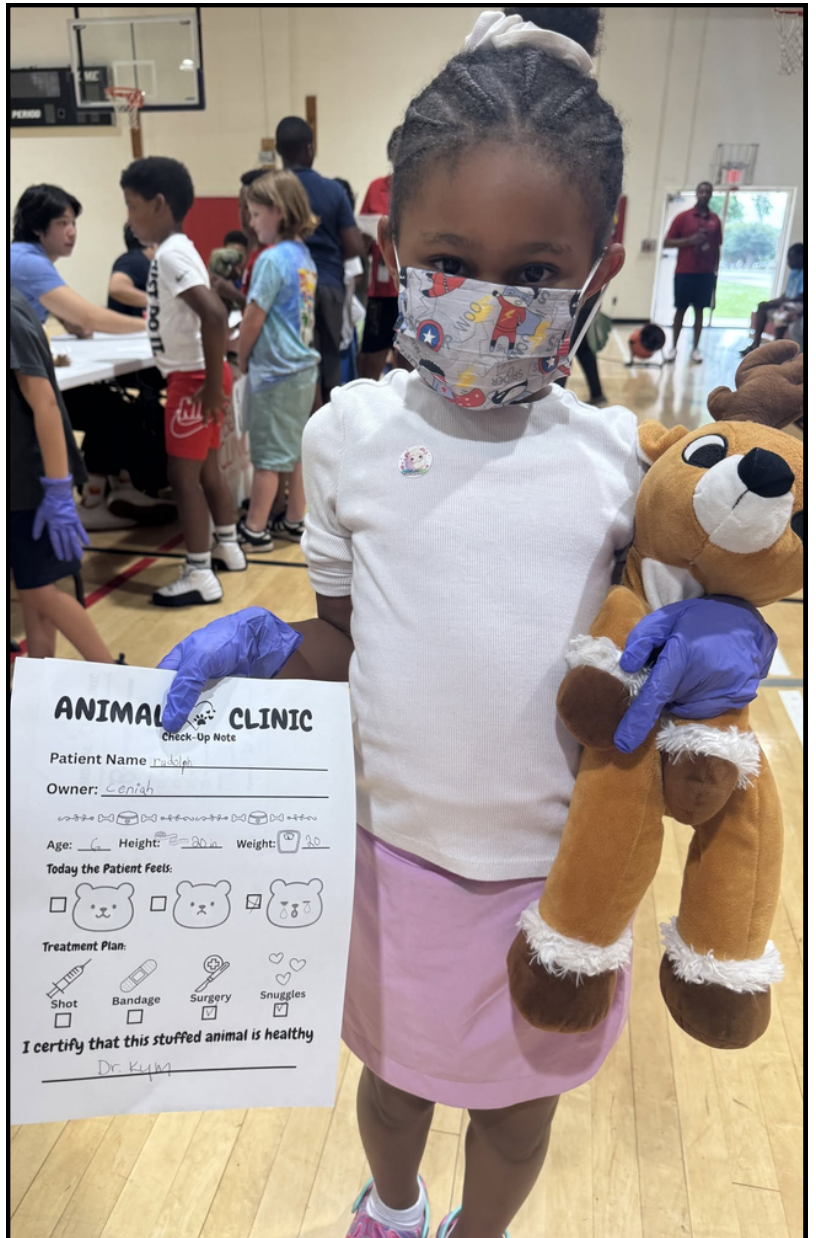


Children and their favorite stuffed animals gathered at the Cavalry Hill Community Center for a Teddy Bear Clinic, a fun, hands-on program led by Dr. Kym Middleton, a pediatrician at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children and former Library Foundation board member.

After Dr. Middleton read *The Berenstain Bears' Hospital Friends*, children were invited to bring their injured, cotton-filled patients through the clinic, where the medical team treated everything from broken bones (including plenty of bent tails!) to cuts, scrapes, and even a case of rabies. Don't worry, every patient made a full recovery with a few bandages and lots of snuggles!

The event welcomed young library patrons, as well as children from the Community Center's Summer Camp. With help from UAB medical students, a nurse practitioner from Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children, and the Child Life team, children learned that doctor and hospital visits don't have to be scary. Guests also enjoyed a special visit from Paxton, a therapy dog, who stopped by to lend a helping paw.

This program was a wonderful success, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make the event possible. The Teddy Bear Clinic will be offered again at the New Hope Public Library on July 15 at 11 a.m. and at the Tillman D. Hill Public Library of Hazel Green on July 23 at 3 p.m.



Sponsorships 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 are available now.
Individual tickets go on sale August 1.**

**More Information and
Sponsorship Opportunities**

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

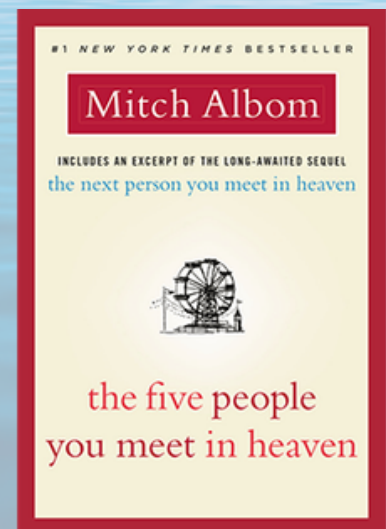
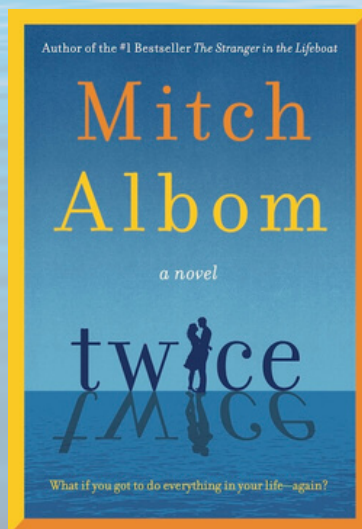
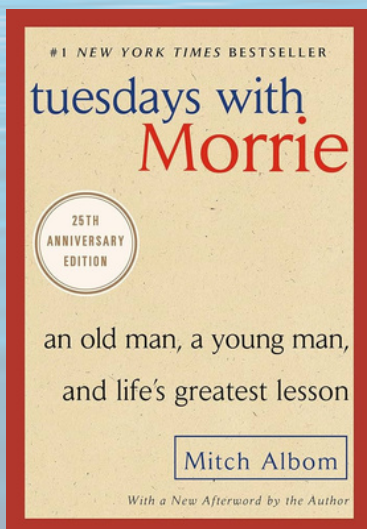
Thank You for Your Continued Support!



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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.



Think You've Got What It Takes to Outsmart a Librarian?

Put your knowledge to the test in this fun, fast-paced trivia showdown, all in celebration of America 250!



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A LIBRARIAN?

AMERICA 250 YEAR TRIVIA NIGHT

Event Highlights

- American-history trivia spanning 250 years
- Food & drinks available for purchase
- Fun prizes for top teams + bragging rights
- Challenge local librarians on their knowledge

18+
event

Thursday, July 30

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Beer Hog - Madison

How to Play

Join as an individual or as a team!

\$25 per person to play or \$15 to spectate

If you don't have a team, we'll help place you on one

Limited team spots available - register early!



*Proceeds benefit the
Huntsville-Madison County
Library Foundation.*

Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

Tomorrow Night! An Evening with Chanel Cleeton In Conversation with Tessa Lucas

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION
PRESENTS
AN EVENING *with*
NEW YORK TIMES AND USA TODAY
BESTSELLING AUTHOR
CHANEL CLEETON

IN CONVERSATION WITH
TESSA LUCAS
FORMER NASA SPACE
STATION FLIGHT
CONTROLLER

BOOKS PROVIDED BY:
 

**DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
JULY 8 | 6:00 P.M.**

Join us at the Downtown Huntsville Public Library as we welcome Chanel Cleeton and celebrate her July release, ***An Infinite Love Story***, set against the backdrop of the 1960s Space Race (perfect for The Rocket City)! This conversation will be moderated by Tessa Lucas, a retired NASA Space Station Flight Controller who spent 27 years helping keep shuttle and space station missions running smoothly.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

About Chanel Cleeton

Chanel Cleeton is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Cuban Heiress*, *Our Last Days in Barcelona*, *The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba*, *The Last Train to Key West*, *When We Left Cuba*, and Reese's Book Club pick *Next Year in Havana*.

About Tessa Lucas

Tessa Lucas is a retired NASA Space Station Flight Controller from Teledyne Brown Engineering, where she spent 27 years helping keep shuttle and space station missions running smoothly. A lifelong lover of books, libraries, and learning, she serves as a dedicated board member of the Library Foundation.

Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

An Afternoon with Kelly Rimmer In Conversation with Lorie Hubscher



We're thrilled to welcome *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Kelly Rimmer to Huntsville as part of her tour celebrating her highly anticipated new novel, *The Story Keeper*.

Rimmer, the acclaimed author of *The German Wife*, will be joined in conversation by HMCPL librarian Lorie Hubscher. This is a great opportunity to hear from one of today's most beloved historical fiction authors.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

About Kelly Rimmer

Kelly Rimmer is the worldwide, *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of *The German Wife*, *The Warsaw Orphan*, and *The Things We Cannot Say*. She lives in rural Australia with her husband, two children, and fantastically naughty dogs, Sully and Basil. Her novels have been translated into more than twenty languages.

About Lorie Hubscher

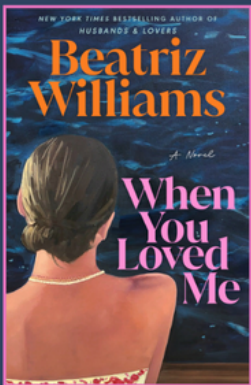
Lorie Hubscher is the assistant branch manager at the South Huntsville Public Library, and has spent 14 years with HMCPL. Lorie is also a long-time member of the Huntsville arts community as a director, actor, and playwright. Lorie is passionate about books and reading and enjoys sharing her love of literature with the community.

Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

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](#)

THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:



FOOD
TRUCKS!

ARTISTS!

AUTHORS!

BOOKISH
VENDORS!

SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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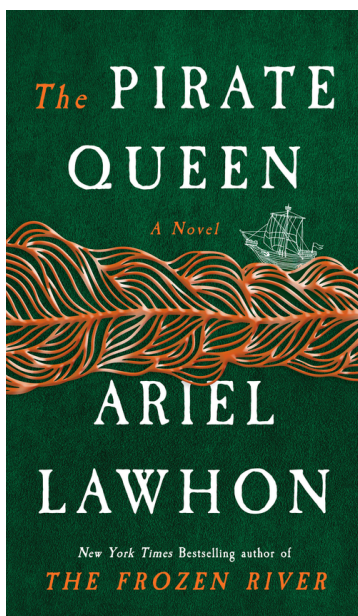
HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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!



Everyone loves a book everyone is talking about, but nobody loves waiting months to read it!

When a new release takes off, a celebrity recommends a must-read, or a book becomes the next big screen sensation, HMCPL readers are ready to dive in. The only problem? Those holds can pile up fast.

That's where you come in! A gift of just \$25 can help Clear the Holds by purchasing an additional copy of a high-demand title or other popular library material, helping more readers get their hands on the stories they can't wait to read.

Our list of high-demand titles is always changing, so check back often to see which books need a boost.

Ready to help Clear the Holds?

Click below to make a gift and help the next reader get their turn.

CLEAR THE HOLDS

Thank you, MVP Volunteers!

Right hand blue.

Left foot green!

A big thank you to the wonderful and hard-working volunteers who spent Saturday, June 20th, creating a painted Twister game outside the Madison Public Library during Madison Visionary Partners' Big Weekend of Service.



This colorful addition is ready for children (and adults, too!) to enjoy.

Thank you, MVP, for helping make the library a welcoming and fun place for everyone!





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>.

2026 HMCLF Board of Directors

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