



HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The **OPEN BOOK**

Focusing on Donor Impact & Updates
September 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**

Don't miss this unforgettable evening!

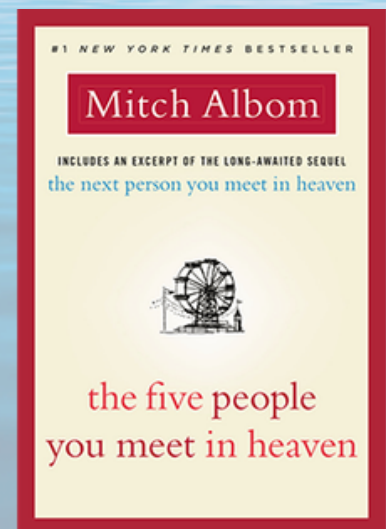
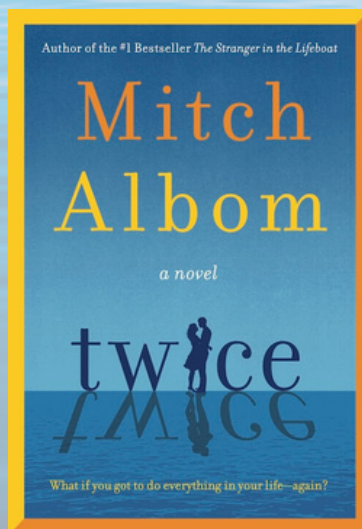
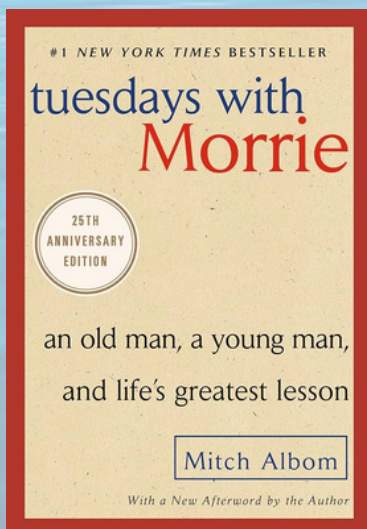
Thank You for Your Continued Support!



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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.



It's Library Card Sign-Up Month!

Celebrate by visiting your library and discovering something new! Visit a Makerspace, attend an event, join one of HMCPL's 40 book clubs, or simply check out a book (or two!). There's always something new to explore at your library, and the possibilities are endless!



And if you already have a library card, encourage a friend, neighbor, or family member to sign up and discover all that the library has to offer!

[More Info!](#)

Thank you, Rep. Marilyn Lands!

Representative Marilyn Lands stopped by the Downtown branch to present a generous \$20,000 gift supporting the Downtown Huntsville Public Library, Madison Public Library, and Triana Public Library.

We are incredibly grateful to Rep. Lands for believing in the power of our libraries and making such a meaningful investment in the people we serve.

Gifts like this help HMCPL continue to provide valuable resources, services, and programs for our community

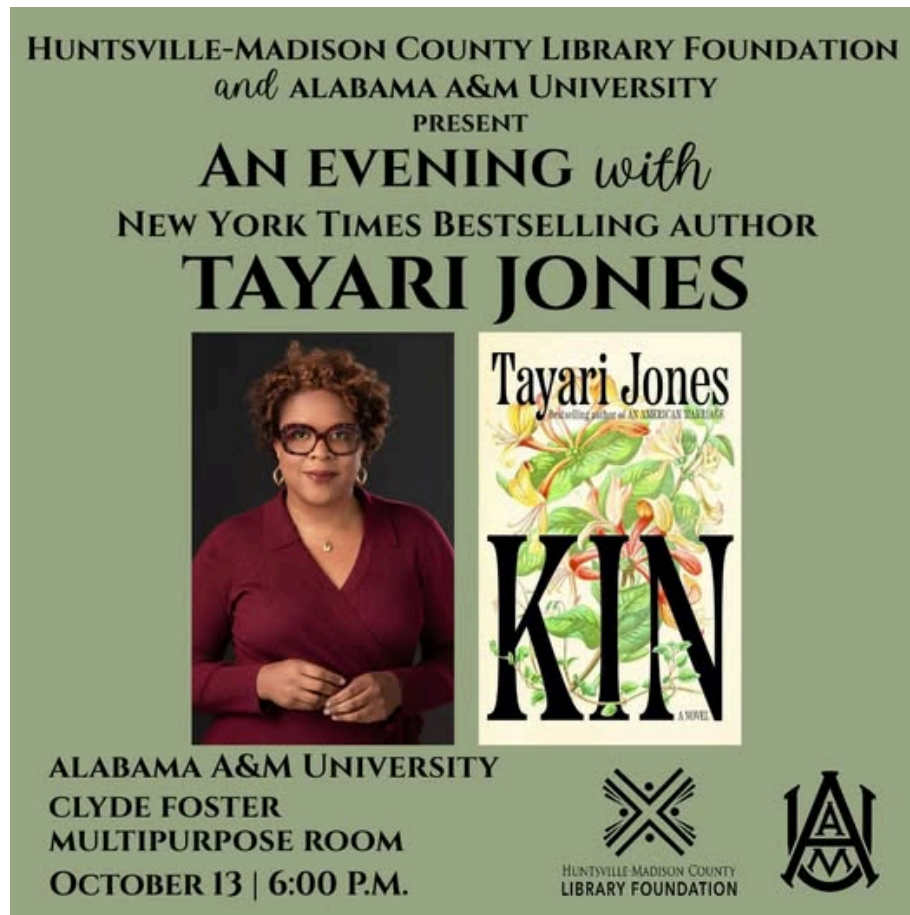


Pictured from left: Brooke Rawlins, Connie Chow, Rep. Marilyn Lands, and Stephen Efird.

An Evening with Tayari Jones

Due to overwhelming interest, this event has been moved to a larger venue at Alabama A&M University! We originally planned to host Tayari Jones at the North Huntsville Public Library, but tickets sold out quickly, so we're thrilled to move the event to Alabama A&M University's Clyde Foster Multipurpose Room so even more readers can join us.

We are grateful to AAMU for generously accommodating us!



About Tayari Jones

Tayari Jones is the author of four novels, most recently *An American Marriage*, which was an Oprah's Book Club selection and also appeared on Barack Obama's summer reading list and his year-end roundup. It won the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Aspen Words Literary Prize, and an NAACP Image Award and has been published in two dozen countries. Jones is the C.H. Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University and lives in Atlanta.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Author Event Recap

We loved welcoming two bestselling authors to the South Huntsville Public Library in August to celebrate Beatriz Williams's new novel, *When You Loved Me*. Author Karen White led a meaningful conversation filled with thoughtful insights and a lot of laughs!

We appreciate everyone who came out and supported the Library Foundation. We love bringing our community together to celebrate books, authors, and libraries!



THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

AUTHORS!

ARTISTS!

THE
GREAT
BIG
BOOK
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KEYNOTE
AUTHOR:
ARIEL LAWHON
"THE PIRATE
QUEEN"

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TRUCKS!

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

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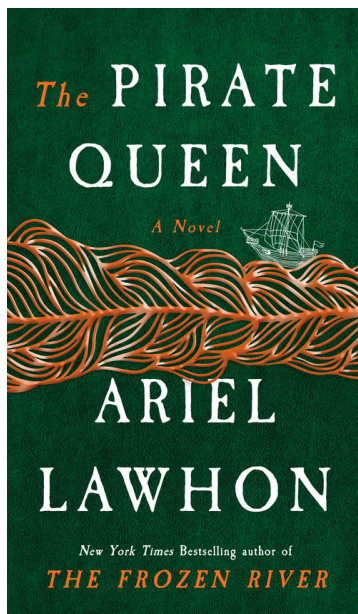
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Celebrate a full day of reading, writing, and connection at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library!

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 sponsors, The Propst Family Foundation and Hoopla Digital!*

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](#)

Thank You, Kiwanis Club of Huntsville Foundation!



The Library Foundation received a \$3,000 grant from the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville Foundation. These funds will support the HMCPL's 2027 Summer Reading program.

We are grateful for the Club's generosity and love of literacy and libraries!

We're thrilled to be part of the Huntsville Botanical Garden's Scarecrow Trail for the second year in a row!



This year's theme is Garden Watchers, and our scarecrow is on the lookout for something we can all agree is worth finding: a good book!

Visit her at the Garden now through the end of October!



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, so check back often for updated lists!

CLEAR THE HOLDS



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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