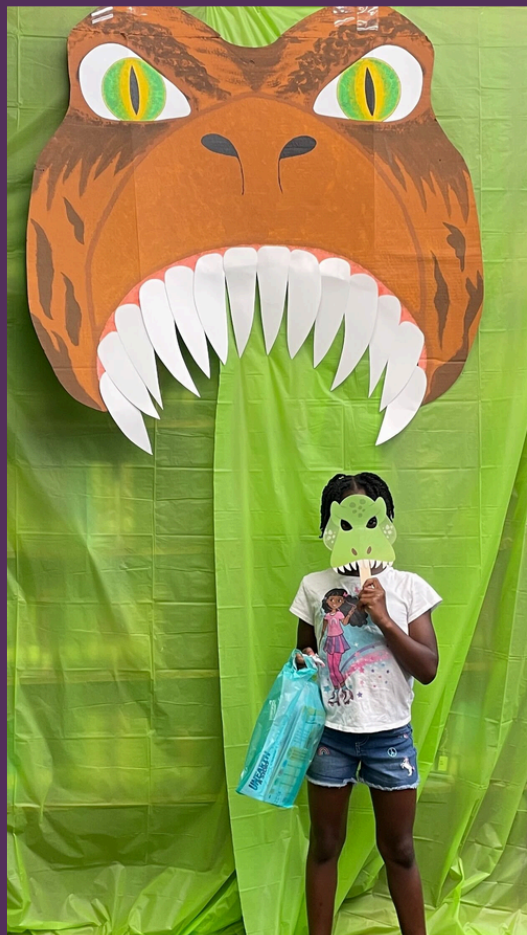
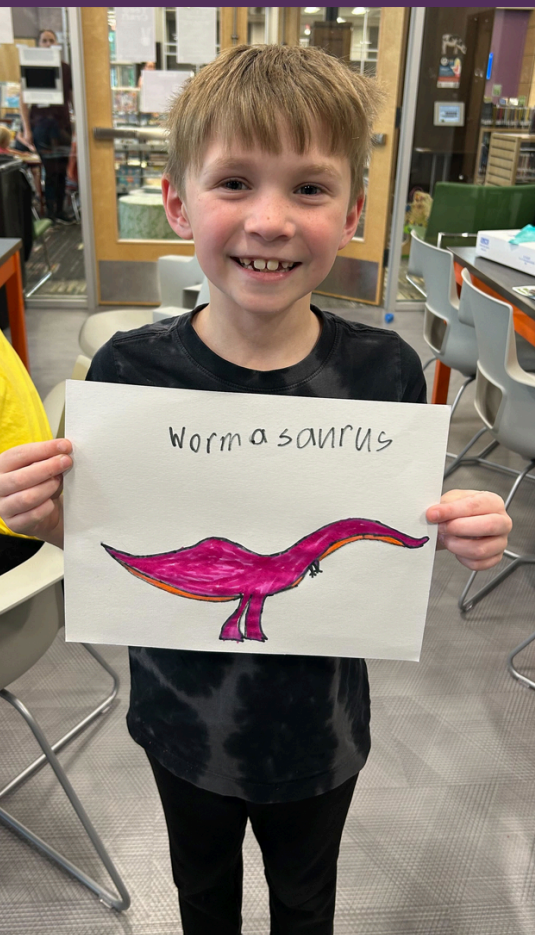




HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

# The OPEN BOOK

Focusing on Donor Impact & Updates  
June 2026 Newsletter



## Unearth a Story at the HMCPL!

Summer Reading is in full swing! This year's theme is "Unearth a Story," and readers of all ages are invited to uncover hidden histories, explore the past, and dig into a good book.

The Library Foundation is proud to support Summer Reading, and we are grateful to Alabama Pediatric Dental Associates & Orthodontics for their sponsorship of this year's program!

# 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](#)

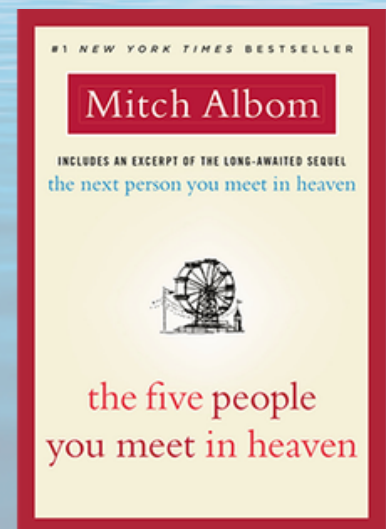
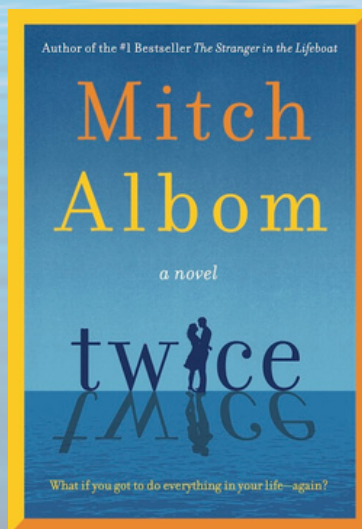
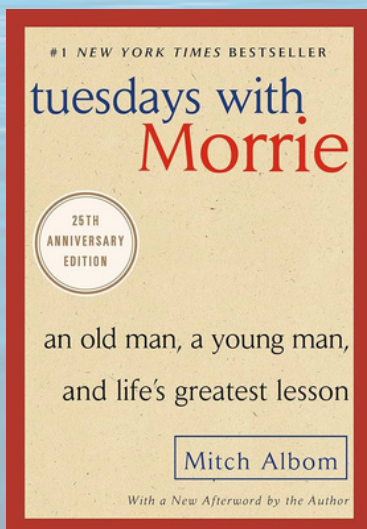
**We expect this year's Vive le Livre to be another sold-out event.  
Don't miss this unforgettable evening!**

**Thank You for Your Continued Support!**



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.



# Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

## An Evening with Kevin Wilson

We're thrilled to welcome Kevin Wilson to the South Huntsville Public Library to celebrate the paperback release of *Run for the Hills*.

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS  
AN EVENING *with*  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
KEVIN WILSON

KEVIN WILSON  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
NOTHING TO SEE HERE

RUN FOR THE HILLS  
A NOVEL

SOUTH HUNTSVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
JUNE 23 | 6:00 P.M.

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

BOOKS PROVIDED BY:  
The SNAIL  
on the wall

The poster features a green background with white text. At the top, it reads 'HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS AN EVENING with NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR KEVIN WILSON'. Below this, there are two images: on the left, the cover of the book 'Run for the Hills' by Kevin Wilson, which shows a red Volkswagen Beetle in a field; on the right, a portrait of Kevin Wilson, a man with dark hair wearing a blue button-down shirt. At the bottom left, it says 'SOUTH HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY JUNE 23 | 6:00 P.M.'. At the bottom center is the logo for the Huntsville-Madison County Library Foundation, and at the bottom right is the logo for 'The SNAIL on the wall' with the text 'BOOKS PROVIDED BY:' above it.

### About the Author:

Kevin Wilson is the *New York Times* bestselling author of five novels, including *Now Is Not the Time to Panic*, *Nothing to See Here*, and *The Family Fang*, as well as two story collections. His work has received the Shirley Jackson Award and been selected as a Read with Jenna book club pick. He lives in Sewanee, Tennessee, with his wife and two sons.

[Buy Tickets](#)

# Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

## 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

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS  
**AN AFTERNOON** *with*  
NEW YORK TIMES AND USA TODAY BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR OF "THE GERMAN WIFE"  
**KELLY RIMMER**



IN CONVERSATION WITH  
LORIE HUBSCHER



HMCPL LIBRARIAN

**SOUTH HUNTSVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
JULY 26 | 2:00 P.M.**



HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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


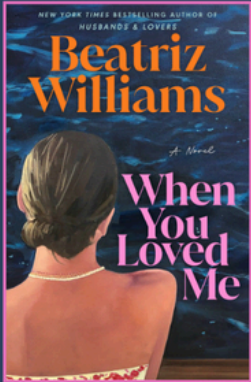
Lorie Hubscher is the assistant branch manager at the South Huntsville Public Library, and has spent 14 years with HMCPL. Lorie is also a long-time member of the Huntsville arts community as a director, actor, and playwright. Lorie is passionate about books and reading and enjoys sharing her love of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

# Upcoming HMCLF Author Events

## Join the Waitlist: An Evening with Tayari Jones

We're pleased to welcome Tayari Jones to the North Huntsville Public Library this October to celebrate her new novel, *Kin*. **This event is currently sold out, and a waitlist is available for those interested in attending should seats become available.**

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS  
AN EVENING *with*  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**TAYARI JONES**

NORTH HUNTSVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 13 | 6:00 P.M.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  
 

### 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. Jones is the C.H. Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University and lives in Atlanta.

[Join the Waitlist](#)

# Author Events - Recap

We had an incredible time welcoming bestselling author Ruta Sepetys to celebrate her new novel, *A Fortune of Sand*, on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and wow, did our community show up! More than 110 attendees joined us for an engaging evening of conversation.

A huge thank you to Library Foundation board member Jillian Miles Massey for her insightful conversation with Ruta, covering her historical research process and her commitment to telling underrepresented stories and bringing difficult moments in history to life.



On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we welcomed Meg Shaffer to the Downtown Huntsville Public Library to celebrate her newest novel, *The Book Witch*.

Shaffer shared how childhood books inspired the story, calling it a love letter to readers and books. She also discussed her partnership with husband and illustrator Andrew Shaffer and her growing library card collection, now including HMCPL.



THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:



FOOD  
TRUCKS!

ARTISTS!

AUTHORS!

BOOKISH  
VENDORS!

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT  
[HMCPL.ORG/GBBF](http://HMCPL.ORG/GBBF)

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Family Foundation



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.

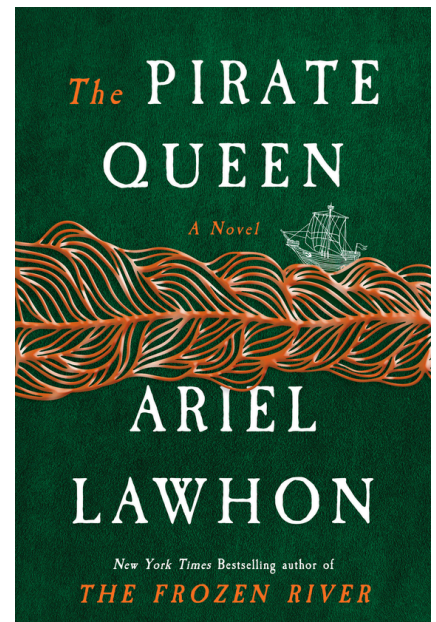
We appreciate our event sponsor, The Propst Family Foundation!

**Are you a local author, artisan, bookseller, community organization, or small business offering bookish goods or services? We're looking for vendors! If you're interested, please follow the link below to apply or learn more.**

[Vendor Applications & Info](#)

**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 fall 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 four sons. Ariel splits her time between the grocery store and the baseball field.

[Buy Tickets](#)

# We Need Your Help!



## CLEAR *the* HOLDS

There's nothing quite like the excitement of a book everyone is talking about, the kind readers can't wait to get their hands on. But when a title becomes wildly popular, whether through a celebrity book club or a film adaptation, that excitement often turns into long waitlists and delayed access.

HMCPL librarians work hard to meet this demand, but they could use your help!

With a gift of \$25, you can help us purchase a high-demand book or other library material right when it is needed most. Your support shortens wait times and puts beloved stories into readers' hands while the excitement is still fresh.

We're constantly updating this list as new books are added, so check back often.

Interested in helping HMCPL Clear the Holds?

Click the button below to learn more or make a donation today.

[CLEAR THE HOLDS](#)

# Wear Your Library Love!

Show your support in style.

*Proceeds benefit the Library Foundation.*

Our online shop features custom-designed shirts, hoodies, totes, and more — perfect for gifts or everyday wear.



[Visit the Online Shop!](https://go.hmcpl.org/store)

Bonfire is a print-on-demand service, so each item will be printed individually as it is ordered and shipped directly to the customer.

# HMCPL Receives a \$20,000 Collection Development Grant

The HMCPL has been awarded a \$20,000 Collection Development Grant from the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program to expand and refresh book collections across five library locations. LSTA funds are federal support provided to APLS by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This grant will directly benefit the Gurley, Hazel Green, Monrovia, New Hope, and Triana branches, with each location receiving \$4,000 to add new fiction and nonfiction titles tailored to local readers' interests and requests.

This support arrives during a time of strong growth across these branches. From 2024 to 2025, visits increased significantly at several locations, including a 99% increase at Gurley, 54% at Monrovia, 55% at Hazel Green, and 34.6% at Triana. New Hope continues to serve as a steady and valued hub for its community.

With this funding, HMCPL will be able to respond even more quickly to what readers are asking for—whether that's the latest popular fiction, high-demand nonfiction, or upcoming releases identified through holds lists and patron suggestions. It means faster access to the books people are excited about, and more of the stories and information our communities want most.



# Wonderbooks at the Downtown Huntsville Public Library

Funds from February's Love Your Library campaign were used to purchase children's books and materials for all 10 branches of the HMCPL. A portion of these funds also helped bring Wonderbooks to the collection, expanding access to engaging read-along books that support early literacy and make storytime more interactive for young readers.



These read-along books combine print books with built-in audiobooks, helping children follow along with the story while building early reading skills and fostering a love of reading. They are perfect for emerging readers, bedtime stories, or family read-aloud time.

Stop by the Downtown Huntsville Public Library to check out a Wonderbook and bring storytime to life. For a list of staff favorites, visit: <https://go.hmcpl.org/wonderbooks>



HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

# 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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