

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings,

I hope that this letter finds all of you well in your respective roles in your libraries, institutions and communities. It is hard to believe we are already into the month of October. Before we know it, our pumpkins will transition to turkeys and then to holiday lights. The year truly does rush by in the blink of a moment.

I hope that so far the year has fared well for all of you, even in the midst of the continued issues that are fluctuating from the COVID-19 pandemic. By now many of our libraries are back to operating under a new normal, and the reality is that we are all still navigating the continued changes as they come our way. It's a good thing to remember that you are not alone in the issues you face. That is why it is so important for you to learn from others in your field--and in turn teach them what this past year has taught you. No matter what you are doing, always strive to find the things that you enjoy most -- this will let you grow as a professional in your field and help renew your spirit even on the toughest of days.

As an association, we are thrilled that the ALLA Annual Convention will return April 26 – 29, 2022 to Montgomery, Alabama. In the coming months, information will go out about registering and submitting proposals for a chance to speak at the convention. Attending the ALLA Annual Convention is not only a high point for my career, but a way that I can make connections, spark new ideas and find myself among colleagues with the same issues as we work to bring better library services to our staff and our communities. If you are on the fence about attending the convention, please know

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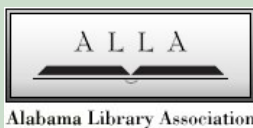
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2021/2022

ALLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Laura Pitts—President
Amanda Melcher —President-Elect
Daniel Tackett —Past President
Paula Webb—Secretary
Karen Preuss—Treasurer
Emily Allee—Member-at-Large: Central AL
Craig Scott —Member-at-Large: North AL
Wendy Congiardo—Member-at-Large: South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Caitlin Rogers—Youth Services & School Library
Wendy Stephens —College, University & Special Libraries
Rosanna McGinnis —Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Angela Moore—Association Administrator
Jodi W. Poe—Web Administrator
Paula Laurita—ALA Councilor
Chris Shaffer —SELA Representative

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt—Editor of the ALLA Communicator and The Alabama Librarian
Donnelly Walton—Archivist
VACANT —President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued

that the value of continued education is at the forefront of the convention's plan. Be on the lookout for more information about our convention and more in the coming months.

As we enter this season of thankfulness, I want it to be known, again, how thankful I am for all of you for serving our state in the way that you do. Our communities need us, our institutions and students need us, and we need each other.

As always, my phone line is open to talk about issues concerning libraries in this state. We can have a cup of coffee in person or virtual – you pick. Just know, you can always come to me with concerns, comments, and ideas, as this is how we are building a better library service for our state – through connection and conversation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Laura Pitts
ALLA President, 2021-2022

LIBRARIES RECEIVE ALABAMA HUMANITIES RECOVERY GRANTS

Submitted by Phillip Jordan, Communications Director

Alabama Humanities Alliance

The Alabama Humanities Alliance has awarded \$800,000 in special grant funding to 83 cultural nonprofits across the state. This funding will help humanities-based organizations recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to serve as community cornerstones.

Winning libraries and archives include:

- ◇ Athens-Limestone County Public Library
- ◇ Public Library of Anniston
- ◇ Calhoun County Courtland Public Library
- ◇ Dothan Houston County Library System
- ◇ Houston Memorial Library/Museum Foundation



RECOVERY GRANTS

Continued

- ◇ Hugo Black Memorial Library Fund
- ◇ Marion-Perry County Library
- ◇ Moon Lake Community Library
- ◇ Magnolia Springs Public Library
- ◇ Tuscaloosa Public Library
- ◇ White Smith Memorial Library
- ◇ Baldwin County Commission's Department of Archives and History
- ◇ Selma-Dallas County Museum of History and Archives

ALLA AWARDS

*Submitted by Anna Mary Williford, ALLA Awards Committee Chair
& Amanda Melcher, ALLA Awards Past-Chair*

All of us know a deserving librarian, paralibrarian, public official, or friends group that contributes significantly to libraries in the state! If you can think of a worthy person, there is an ALLA award for which they qualify!

The Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for:

- ◇ Eminent Librarian Award
- ◇ Merit Award
- ◇ Distinguished Service Award
- ◇ Humanitarian Award
- ◇ Public Servant Award
- ◇ Honorary Membership Award
- ◇ Library Roll of Honor Award
- ◇ Intellectual Freedom Award
- ◇ Paralibrarian Award
- ◇ and Outstanding Youth Services Award.

Don't wait, nominate!

Continued on next page

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:

YSSLD
Youth Services & School Librarians Division

CUS
College, University and Special Libraries

PLD
Public Library Division

ALLA Roundtables:

ALIRT
Alabama Library Instruction

CDMRT
Collection Development and Management

GODORT
Government Documents

MCRT
Multicultural Information

PART
Paraprofessional

RASRT
Reference and Adult Services

TSSRT
Technical Services & Systems

YASRT
Young Adult Services

ALLA Committees:

Association Awards
Authors Awards
Bibliographic
Budget & Finance
Bylaws
Convention
Education
Emeritus Council
(Formerly Past Presidents)
Employee Evaluation
Handbook
Intellectual Freedom
Legislative Development
Membership
Nominating
Planning
Public Relations
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA Committee, fill out the Committee Interest form at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dg6YqFbjjS812>

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ALLA AWARDS

Continued

Alabama Library Association Awards DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING LIBRARIAN, PARALIBRARIAN, OR LIBRARY SUPPORTER? Nominations Due: December 15, 2021

LIBRARY ROLL OF HONOR

recognizes and honors librarians native to or closely associated with the State of Alabama (AL) who have made significant contributions to librarianship in AL. For a person to be honored, he or she must have been a practicing librarian in AL. The award is made primarily on the basis of contributions made to librarianship in AL but the overall career should also be considered

OUTSTANDING YOUTH SERVICES

presented to an AL Children's, Teen, or School librarian or paraprofessional who has gone above and beyond in providing patrons with an innovative, creative, and diverse library program that supports learning and growth. This individual demonstrated an investment in their library program through leadership, collection development, and programming

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

presented to a person or an organization that has made a substantial contribution toward the development or improvement of library or libraries within AL

MERIT AWARD

presented to an organization, group, or body of persons, which has made a significant contribution toward the development of library service within AL

PARALIBRARIAN AWARD

presented to an outstanding library employee in a support staff role who has not obtained a professional library degree and has contributed to the advancement of a library, libraries, or library service within AL

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD

presented to a person who is or has been a duly elected or appointed public official and who has made a significant contribution toward the development of library services within AL during the exercise of said party's service

EMINENT LIBRARIAN AWARD

presented to a librarian or an individual in a related field who has been in AL for a minimum of ten years and who, during this time, has made an exceptional and enduring contribution toward the development of library service within AL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

presented to a librarian or an individual in a related field in recognition of leadership in a specific and noteworthy project that has resulted in a significant contribution toward the development of library service within AL

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

presented to an individual or group who exemplify the spirit of intellectual freedom (IF). Evidence of such spirit might include documentation of their having written policies or procedures supporting IF, having conducted educational programs on the subject in their locale, or otherwise having made an impact in opposing censorship and supporting IF

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

may be conferred on a living person whose contribution to librarianship or a closely related field in AL is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library science. It is intended to reflect honor upon the Association as well as upon the individual. Nominees shall be living, may be active or retired, and may be nominated by any member of the Association

Nomination Forms: <https://alla.memberclicks.net/association-awards>
Send to Anna Mary Williford, Association Awards Chair
awillifo@montevallo.edu

WCPL USES COVID CLOSURE TO RENOVATE & REVITALIZE

Submitted by Jessica M. Ross, Director

Washington County Public Library

On March 23, Washington County Public Library hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the library's new Career Readiness Camp: Small Business Development Center. In addition to serving as Washington County's Career Center for the Alabama Career Center System, the new space will also serve as a satellite VA Office for the county. This flexible, versatile, comfortable office space is fully equipped with computers for test prep, résumé writing, and job searches as well as a large screen and webcam for meetings and interviews. Thanks to a USDA Rural Business Development Grant, additional grant support from an LSTA grant, The Daniel Foundation, The J.L. Bedsole Foundation, Ala Tom RC&D Council, and Alabama Power Foundation/Alabama Business Foundation, and partner agencies such as Alabama Department of Labor/Career Center System, Alabama Veteran's Affairs Department, Town of Chatom, Washington County Commission, Washington County Career Technical Center, Bishop State Community College and many others, this new Career Readiness Camp: Small Business Development Center will help meet long-identified needs for more localized services for citizens in Washington County.

In addition to designating and installing this new multipurpose office area in the library, WCPL was fortunate to use their year of COVID closure to remodel with new paint, flooring, lighting, and furniture. WCPL also automated bathrooms and dispensers, replaced countertops, and redesigned the front desk and workstations to include Plexiglass Shields and self-checkout for safer circulation of materials. A new thermo-scanner was added at the front doors for fast, accurate temperature checks along with an ADPH blood pressure monitoring system and hand sanitizer dispensers. A new partnership with Bishop State Community College to offer adult education, industrial certifications, and career readiness training, as well as ServSafe training and workforce development classes, will allow WCPL to offer more equitable access to college and career prep classes to enhance employability.

WCPL staff also identified needs from existing small business owners about ways the library could offer assistance and encourage new entrepreneurship in the county. This new flexible space has become a mini incubator for different avenues of economic development and community service and has been a wonderful addition to the other available working spaces of the library, such as our large meeting room, board room, and study rooms, which are used as well for classes, individual virtual training, and one-on-one meetings.

Continued on next page

NEW & NOTABLE

WCPL USES COVID CLOSURE TO RENOVATE & REVITALIZE

Continued

“We have been fortunate to have so much support from the Town, our County Commission, and from the many partnering foundations and agencies that helped bring this project to fruition. We are also happy that our staff could continue to work hard to make a difference in our community during the past year of COVID closure while we completely renovated our library to designate this office space that will serve as Washington County’s new Career Readiness Camp: Small Business Development Center/VA office! We look forward to exploring the potential of this project and this new role for the library to promote career readiness, economic growth, and resource development for our rural area,” says WCPL Director, Jessica Ross.

Alabama District 1 Congressman Jerry Carl, State VA Commissioner Kent Davis, Interim State Director of USDA Allen Bowen, AL Secretary of Labor Fitzgerald Washington, Dr. Reginald Sykes of Bishop State Community College, State Representative Brett Easterbrook, and many other local and state officials attended the opening events and activities of the library’s new center.

For more information about WCPL’s new services and programs, please visit www.wcpls.org or WCPL’s FB page - Washington County Public Library, Alabama.



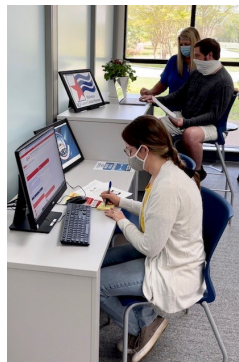
Ribbon cutting for the WCPL Career Readiness Center



WCPL staff in the new workspace



Congressman Jerry Carl speaking at ribbon cutting



Assisting job seekers with career readiness



Assisting senior workers with career prep

A NOTE FROM YOUR MEMBER-AT-LARGE, CENTRAL ALABAMA

*Submitted by Emily Allee,
Birmingham Public Library*

Hello library friends!

In one of the first sessions of one of my very first library conferences I attended, an author enthusiastically exclaimed to the crowd “Y’all are sexy, freakin’ beasts!” It made me laugh, but I didn’t argue. I certainly cannot argue now. Library employees are some of the most resilient and forward-thinking people I know. My first job at a library was in the circulation department at an academic library; I had a brief internship at a museum library; and I have been working in technical services since 2012. I’ve seen library workers come together in many ways to serve their communities – in all the everyday ways you might expect but also to clean-up after floods, get a kitten out of a wall, protect materials from vinegar syndrome, and care for their communities during a pandemic (just to name a few). In case no one has told you today, you are making a difference! I am a librarian in the Catalog Department at Birmingham Public Library, member of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative. I would love to hear what you are doing at your library. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or questions for the ALLA Executive Council – especially if you reside or work in the central region of Alabama – you may contact me at

librarian.emilykira@gmail.com.

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY KICKS OFF VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH ON OCTOBER 2nd

The Birmingham Public Library is hosting its annual Family History Month celebration. Seven programs, all virtual, will be held beginning on Saturday, October 28, 2021.

Since being passed by Congress in 2001, Family History Month has been observed annually during the month of October. Family History Month encourages people to do research into their past to learn more about their ancestors. It is a great time to investigate your genealogy to gain knowledge of your family tree.

For more information, contact BPL at (205) 226-3600.

NEW & NOTABLE (CONTINUED)

ALABASTER LIBRARY DIRECTOR LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

Submitted by Savannah Kitchens, Director

Parnell Memorial Library, Montevallo, AL

The Alabama library community lost a longtime leader this year when Nan Abbott, former director of the Albert L. Scott library in Alabaster, AL, passed away at the age of 75. According to Shelby County Reporter writer Scott Howell, Nan was with the Alabaster Public Library for nearly 30 years, the majority of those spent as director. A dedicated public servant, Nan was well known for her passion for bringing the joy of reading to her community—especially to children. According to Youth Services Director Frances Smith, of the Albert L. Scott Library, “We...received many grants while Nan was the director and, you know, she always supported innovative, educational and fun programs for kids and adults... She wasn’t afraid to get involved. For example, she even served kids during tea parties. A couple of years ago, she went with me to conduct an outreach story time and craft at a day-care center. And she also led us through the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Beyond focusing on programs and services, Nan was also a strong advocate for the role the library plays in our daily lives. According to Smith, “I think that Nan was the epitome of a library director for the times. In the ‘90s she successfully led the library during a major censorship battle which resulted in the library earning an American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Award...She ushered in automation and technology at the library and supervised major renovations including the construction of a new meeting room.”

Her example had a long lasting impact on Alabama libraries, even beyond the city of Alabaster—Four of her former employees went on to become library directors themselves, including Dan Dearing in Helena, Victoria Ashford also in Helena, Steve Gillis in Orange Beach and Alabaster’s current director, Kim Roberts. “Nan was a wonderful person, colleague and boss. She truly cared for everyone around her and was very dedicated to libraries,” Roberts said.

According to former employee and current Helena Library Director Dan Dearing, “She was there for 29 years. Our area has seen a lot of growth since then. We were a much smaller group back then and she was a big figure back then in the Shelby County public library system. She meant a lot to people in the library field and a lot to the city of Alabaster. She was beloved by staff members and the public. She was a really inspirational person.”

Her legacy with the city of Alabaster is immense, but the impact of her leadership will be felt throughout Alabama libraries for many years to come.

Quotes and facts from the Shelby County Reporter article, “Nancy ‘Nan’ Abbott remembered as an inspiration to many,” by Nathan Howell, published Friday, June 18 2021.

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

AWARDED \$50,000

IN COVID RELIEF AWARD

Submitted by Savannah Kitchens, Director

Parnell Memorial Library, Montevallo, AL

The Birmingham Public Library (BPL) is the only Alabama recipient of the ALA COVID Library Relief Fund. According to the American Library Association, only 15 percent of applicants received these grant awards, with just 34 libraries chosen across the country. BPL will receive \$50,000 from this fund.

“We are honored to be a recipient of the ALA COVID Library Relief Fund grant,” said Janine Langston, BPL Interim Executive Director. “This award will allow BPL to rebuild our online tools, subscriptions and expand our e-resources. Our patrons depend on these valuable services, and we are so grateful to ALA for their support.”

Like many libraries, the Birmingham Public Library suffered budget cuts because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The BPL plans to use the ALA COVID Library Relief Fund award to provide important online tools relied upon by the elderly, as well as patrons needing legal forms and businesses needing assistance in recovering from the pandemic; provide access to local newspapers such as the *Birmingham News*, *Birmingham Times*, *Birmingham Business Journal*, and others; and to expand library resources for K-12 students in the community.

The ALA COVID Library Relief Fund is generously supported by Acton Family Giving as part of its pandemic responsive grant making. Initial seed funding was provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of its efforts to bolster educational and cultural organizations devastated by the economic fallout from COVID-19. ALA’s Chapter Relations Office administers the ALA COVID Library Emergency Relief Fund.

THE ALA COVID LIBRARY RELIEF FUND

ALA
American
Library
Association

*Facts and quotes taken from the Birmingham Public Library’s BPL Online News blog article,
“Birmingham Public Library Is Recipient of \$50,000 ALA COVID Library Relief Fund Grant,”
published June 28, 2021.*

NEW & NOTABLE (CONTINUED)

ALLA COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:
communicator.alla@gmail.com
Submissions must include:

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA COMMUNICATOR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Jul/Aug/Sep	Mid-June	July
Oct/Nov/Dec	Mid-Sept.	October
Jan/Feb/Mar	Mid-Dec.	January
Apr/May/Jun	Mid-March	April

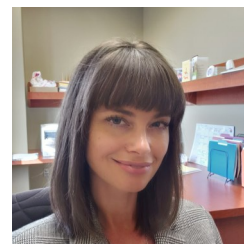
The Alabama Library Association

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[Click here to donate to ALLA.](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

*Contributed by Jessica Platt,
Education Doctoral Librarian
Alabama State University*



As always, thank you for reading—and/or submitting content to—the *ALLA COMMunicator*, the official newsletter of the Alabama Library Association. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to

communicator.alla@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Savannah Kitchens for contributing to this issue and to Charlotte Daniel Carr for her proofreading services.

And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.

—Oscar Wilde

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY'S FAMILY HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

Want to learn more about your family ancestors? Then register now for 7 Family History Month programs being offered during October by the Birmingham Public Library's Southern History Department.



The Birmingham Public Library is hosting its annual Family History Month celebration. Seven programs, all virtual, will be held, kicking off Saturday, October 2, 2021, and concluding on Thursday, October 28. To register for these Zoom programs, [go to the BPL website and register on the event calendar.](#)

Since being passed by Congress in 2001, Family History Month has been observed annually during the month of October. Family History Month encourages people to do research into their past to learn more about their ancestors. It is a great time to investigate your genealogy to gain knowledge of your family tree.