



ALLA COMmunicator: July 2025

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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.



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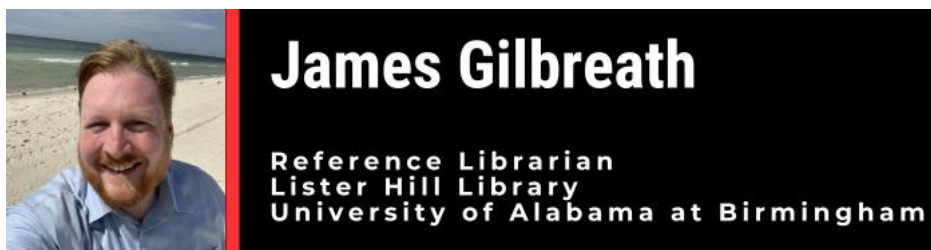
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From the President

ALLA President



Greetings everyone!

I hope you are all doing well! Or, at least, as well as you can be, given the oppressive summer heat, as well as the uncertain times in which we live. Matters continue to be difficult for libraries all across Alabama, due to circumstance and changes at federal, state, and local levels.

It is all too easy to give into despair when fully considering everything that's happening in the world around us. It happens to me, too! And yet, we must go on. We must. For ourselves, for our families, for the folks we serve, whether they're children, adults, young adults, community members, researchers, entrepreneurs, hobbyists, readers, and so on.

As I sit here writing this letter, it's difficult to think of motivational quotes that don't sound trite or platitudinal. So I will simply urge us all to think on the arch. In masonry architecture, arches are formed of bricks or stones, set in an arched shape. The arch stays standing because each component of the arch pushes against and holds up each other part. Together, all the stones of the arch can hold tremendous weight and stress without failing. As the pressures of the world press down on you, lean against someone else. Turn to family and friends, coworkers, members of your community. And in turn, when you feel strong enough, let them lean against you. We are all stronger together.

To that point, you're all welcome to reach out to me at any time. You can reach me at jngilbreath@gmail.com or find me on Facebook, Bluesky, or X. I'm a little hesitant to give out my cell phone in a public forum online, but reach out to me and I'll share it with you. Please, always feel welcome to share your concerns and feedback about the association, our profession in the state, or if you just need to talk to someone. I'm here, and I care.

Wishing all of you the best. Hang in there. Things will get better.

James Gilbreth

President, Alabama Library Association

Reference Librarian, University of Alabama at Birmingham



Get Involved:

- [Executive Council](#)
- [Divisions](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Round Tables](#)

Contact Us:

Alabama Library Association

3966 Atlanta Hwy, PMB 205

Montgomery, AL 36109

allibraryassoc@gmail.com



**Facebook.com/
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@ALLibAssoc

 **ALLA News**

College, University, and Special Libraries Division

Summer Upton, CUS Conference Committee Chair



The College, University, and Special Libraries Division (**CUS**) of the Alabama Library Association (**ALLA**) is seeking proposals for presentations and lightning talks for the free 2nd Annual CUS Fall Mini-Conference to be held on Friday, October 31, 2025, via Zoom.

We welcome submissions from library, staff, students, and faculty. Proposals for presentations and lightning talks can be submitted using this [online submission form](#). More information about proposal types and criteria for consideration can be found [here](#). The deadline to submit a proposal is September 5, 2025. Rolling reviews and decisions will occur as proposals are received.

Please direct any questions to the CUS Conference Committee Chair, Summer Upton (sruption@uab.edu), the CUS chair, Tracy Cole (tmcole@southalabama), or the CUS Chair-Elect, Jason Byrd (jbyrd@uab.edu).

Library Happenings

Dr. Paul Doran, Jr. Receives 2025 ALA Trustee Citation for Distinguished Library Service

The American Library Association's prestigious Trustee Citation, awarded annually by United for Libraries, honors exceptional contributions by public library trustees across the country. This year's award recipient is Dr. Paul Doran, Jr., longtime advocate and leader of the Homewood Public in Alabama. The award was presented during the Opening General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 27, 2025.

Dr. Doran was first appointed to the Homewood Public Library Board of Trustees in 2010, immediately making an impression with his warmth, sincerity, and deep commitment to staff

and community. From his earliest days on the Board, Dr. Doran stood out—visiting the library regularly, introducing himself to each staff member, and learning their names and stories. "He visited weekly and knew every staff member's name, family, and what was happening with them," recalls Judith Wright, now Library Director. "I've never forgotten how meaningful it was to have him make that connection with us."

Over his 12-year tenure, Dr. Doran led with both heart and vision, championing key staff and service advancements including:

- A new paid parental leave policy
- Vacation benefits for part-time employees
- A restructured pay scale ensuring equitable compensation
- A state-of-the-art computer lab, named in honor of retiring Director Deborah Fout

His leadership extended beyond the walls of the library:

- He founded the Homewood Library Foundation, which grew from just six members in 2011 to 45 members today.
- He spearheaded the annual Library Block Party, a vibrant community event that in 2024 raised nearly \$38,000 in just two hours.
- He became the Library Board's first and only Emeritus Trustee in 2024, a distinction created in his honor.
- He continues to mentor new trustees and is currently helping guide the library's next capital campaign—a performing arts center.

"He ends most conversations with, 'I appreciate you', and we all know he is sincere," says Director Wright. "Dr. Doran is passionate and protective of the library staff."

Outside the library, Dr. Doran's service legacy spans numerous institutions, including St. Vincent's Hospital, the University of Montevallo, and the Hoover Board of Education, where he played a pivotal role in founding the Hoover City School System.

A former professor of statistics at Jefferson State and Samford University, Dr. Doran has spent over 33 years in education. He and his wife of 55 years, Connie, have lived in Homewood for over two decades. His leadership, generosity, and sincere connection to others have left a lasting mark on the Homewood Public Library—and this national recognition honors a legacy that will continue to shape the library's future for years to come.

Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library



Pave the Way: Leave a Lasting Legacy at Homewood Public Library



The Homewood Library Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of Pave the Way, a commemorative brick and paver campaign supporting the continued growth and excellence of the Homewood Public Library.

This special fundraiser revives a tradition dating back to the Library's major expansion in the mid-1990s, when engraved bricks were first installed along the pathway leading to the flagpole. Those bricks still stand today, representing a community's enduring support. Now, patrons have the opportunity to be part of the next chapter.

Through Pave the Way, supporters can purchase engraved bricks for \$250 or 8x8 pavers for \$500, leaving a personal and permanent mark on the Library. Bricks will be placed alongside those from the 1990s, while pavers will be featured near the Foundation's new Sound Garden, creating a meaningful and visible tribute space.

"This campaign gives individuals, families, and local businesses a chance to visibly express their love for the Library," said Liz Moye, Administrative Assistant at Homewood Public Library.

"Whether honoring a loved one, celebrating a milestone, or recognizing your business or family commitment to education and literacy, each brick and paver becomes a lasting part of Homewood's story."

Bricks and pavers can be ordered now through November 15 by visiting: ppl.pub/pave-the-way. All proceeds benefit the Homewood Library Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to enhancing Library services, technology, collections, facilities, and programs beyond what public funding provides.

Help us build the future—one brick at a time.

Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library (from the Homewood Public Library Foundation press release)

Color Our World, 2025 Summer Reading Challenge @ Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

The Albert L. Scott Library's 2025 Color Our World™ Summer Challenge, that started in June, has been bringing a rainbow of reading and programming! This summer hundreds of children and adults have joined in on the fun of reading.

- Pre-K (Ages 0-4): Participants partake in reading fun at an age appropriate level. They can enjoy treasure box prizes that are updated weekly. There is a grand prize at the end.
- Children (Ages 5-11): Lap readers, emergent readers, and independent readers have their own challenge. They can log reading time or book count, with extra points awarded for chapter books. There are leveled prizes and a drawing at summer's end for a bike.
- Teens (Ages 12-18): Tweens and teens are reading and earning leveled prizes and weekly prize drawings. For every two books read per week, participants earn an entry into the weekly prize drawing—more reading means more chances to win! Three winners each week receive a digital gift card to Domino's, AMC Theatres, Dunkin' Donuts, Amazon, or Starbucks. A grand prize drawing will also be held at the end of the summer.
- Adults: Even adults can read and win! Read one book per week to enter our weekly prize drawings. Reading seven books earns an entry into the grand prize drawing. Only teen, young adult, and adult titles qualify. Adults can also complete activities to earn a Missions Badge and enter the Mission Prize Drawing.

Use the arrows to navigate the slideshow. Click the box in the top-left corner of the photo for captions.



1 - Two identical magic shows launched the Summer Challenge at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Russell Davis presented the Art of Magic combining slight of hand, books, optical illusions, color, and comedy.



2 - Mark Seymour of Be Your Best Drums worked up the crowd at he Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster with drumming singing, joking, and dancing. His presentation of songs, levity, and percussion instruments from around the world delighted the audience.



3 - Children have fun with several farm animals at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster thanks to a visit from the Tuscaloosa Barnyard. Youngsters and their caregivers petted a pig, rabbit, pony and other animals.



4 - Jan Mattingly, the Science Lady from Dynamic Education Adventures, engaged science-minded kids at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. She presented the Color of Science combining chemical reactions, color, and a little fire. The program also included the crowd-pleasing elephant toothpaste experiment.



5 - Twenty-five youngsters and adults joined forces and made an impact at the first Reads & Deeds community service project of the summer at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. They made nearly 225 brown bag lunches that were donated to the Food for Our Journey nonprofit food van that feeds food insecure people with no transportation. The library group made peanut and butter jelly sandwiches and almond butter and jelly sandwiches. They decorated the bags and packed them with a sandwich, a salty snack, and cookies.



6 - Color, comedy, and furry Winston the dog, and more were part of the fun show Mr. Larry's Kaleidoscope of Magic at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.



7 - Junior Librarians Sarah and Lina helped their peers get skills to express their opinions at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster during Teen Time: Public-Speaking—Let Your Voice Be Heard. The girls planned and led the session that included a debate and snacks.



8 - Movement, storytelling, character building, and crafts were all part of Colorful Crowns & Terrific Tales at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Children's author Irealle Saul-Sylvas presented the program which a little bit of everything.



9 - The young and the young at heart had fun building towers and more with colorful blocks at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Lego ® Day featured Mr. Stefan as the construction guide and the thousands of blocks that he shared with the group. A challenge to build towers showed the creativity and persistence of builders.



10 - Families learned about the development of storytelling by the light of fire to film when an educator from the McWane Science Center visited the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. During Flame to Film, the group discovered how the science through animation, color changing dyes, and light-bending lenses shapes creativity and storytelling.



11 - Little artists ages 6 to 11 years old learned how to create using watercolor pens at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Under the tutelage of Julie Yocom of Shelby County 4-H, children had more than one painting to take home after the two-hour Intensive Watercolor Workshop.



12 - Families were amazed by the facts and stories about raptors brought to the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster by an educator from the Alabama Wildlife Center.



13 - Youngsters at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster got a behind the curtain look at an old entertainment form. Gene Cordova presented the Art of Puppetry & Ventriloquism which provided laughs as well as tricks of the trade.



14 - Junior Librarians Elizabeth and Wendy led younger children in making several art pieces during Cool Summer Crafts at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.



15 - The Lorax by Dr. Seuss and its lesson about taking care of the earth was front and center on Seuss Saturday at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. It was a program planned and presented by Junior Librarians Kai and Luna and included a craft and snack.



16 - Teenagers continued their journey learning about relationships while combining creativity at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster during the Origami Boundary Box session. It was presented by SafeHouse to help teens use art to understand healthy relationships.



17 - Kids with a heart for animals living in shelters made several kerchiefs and pet toys to donate. It was part of the Reads & Deeds community service series at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.



18 - Sunflowers and vegetables were harvested from the community garden at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster during the June gathering of the Garden Club. Children are proud that what they planted has grown.



19 - Kids of all ages turned out for Chess & Checkers Game Night at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Several games were ongoing but players took time enjoy pizza, drinks, and making friends.



20 - Young actors between the ages of 8 and 15 years old performed before a packed audience at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. It was the culmination of two week-long Intensive Drama Workshops conducted by Darrell Revel. The program included monologues, theatre games, and skits based on Aesop's Fables. Each actor was awarded a certificate of achievement.



21 - Families enjoyed a cool and colorful treat courtesy of the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Sherbet Sunday combined the sweet, creamy indulgence with the hues of the rainbow to celebrate the midpoint of the Color Our World Summer Challenge.


Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library


About Alabama Libraries





Now accepting articles for two upcoming special issues:

 **Right to Read** – Focus: censorship & intellectual freedom ⓘ Deadline: Sept. 1, 2025

 **AI and Libraries** – Focus: AI technologies & library services ⓘ Deadline: Feb. 1, 2026

 **Eligibility:** Submissions must relate to Alabama's library community or be authored by individuals with Alabama ties (residents, library workers, or LIS students/graduates).

 **Details & Guidelines:** <https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries> - All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review.

 **Questions or Submissions?** Contact Dr. Laura Pitts, Editor –  lepitts@jsu.edu

Alabama Libraries is seeking articles relevant to librarianship in Alabama. The Alabama Library Association's peer-reviewed journal publishes scholarly articles biannually in an open access format. The journal accepts four types of articles: Scholarly (peer-reviewed), practical, student research, and guest columns. Submissions by all professionals who work in any type of library are welcome. To review the specific guidelines for each of type of article submission, review the [Call for Articles](#) information on the [Alabama Libraries](#) website.

The GODORT Corner



This year the Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature extended from February 4 through May 14. This might be a good time to explore the main features of the [Alabama Legislature's web site](#).

Like the federal government and those of the states, Alabama's legislature is bicameral, consisting of a House of Representatives and a Senate. Consequently, you will see two large icons on the screen, one for [the House](#) and one for [the Senate](#). Links to the same two pages are also located on the bar near the top of the main Alabama Legislature page. That of the House provides links to eleven topics including House Leaders & Members, House Staff, House Committees, and Proposed Special Order Calendar, to name perhaps the most useful. That of the Senate provides links to only eight topics including Senate Leaders & Members, a Senate Staff Directory, Senate Standing Committees, and a Senate Special Order Calendar (but not "Proposed" as in the House). to name perhaps the most useful here too.

How might one use this web site?

First of all, if you do not know who your State Representative or your State Senator is, you will want to click on the "Home" link top left side of the home page. This brings up ten options; click on "Find my Legislator." This brings up a rather faded and fuzzy screen featuring a map but (looking closely) you'll see instructions for entering your address in a space bar located top left side of the screen. Entering my home address in Camp Hill, I see on the righthand side of the

screen a lengthy list of Elected Officials both federal and state. Scrolling down I now find I am located in State Senate District 27 with Jay Hovey (Republican) my State Senator and that I am in State House District 81 with Ed Oliver (Republican) my State Representative. Going back to the House Leaders & Members link or icon, I see helpful contact information under “Profile” but no biographical information. Rep. Oliver serves on four House committees and has sponsored or co-sponsored 81 bills this past session. Clicking on the Senate Leaders & Members link or icon, I see Sen. Hovey has some helpful contact information but, oddly, no district office address or phone number is listed. The biographical information tells me he is a graduate of Auburn University. Sen. Hovey serves on eight committees and he sponsored or co-sponsored 13 bills this past session.

There are several ways of locating legislative information (*i.e.*, bills, status of bills, and the legislative calendar).

First, you will see prominently displayed the following six links: “Bills – Current Session,” “Bills – All Sessions,” “Bills by House Sponsor,” “Bills by Senate Sponsor,” “Companion Bills,” and “Acts..” As of this writing, the Legislature is no longer in session, so the “Current Session” listing only covers the period February 4 - May 14, 2025. It lists 968 bills! Each of these, conveniently, provides links to things such as the bill’s history, sponsor, text, current status, and last action, among other things. It is possible to enter search terms if one is searching for specific bills or bills concerning a specific topic. Having the bill number makes the search even better. For an example that might be of interest, let’s use House Bill 4 (HB4), one of two library-related bills that were of some concern to library supporters this past legislative session. (The other was Senate Bill 6).

This *GODORT Note* has provided a basic introduction to using the Alabama Legislature web site. There is considerably more information available for those interested in seeking legislative information. Legislation can be a complex process, so I will leave you with a link to “[Alabama’s Legislative Process](#)” located on the home page of the Alabama Legislature under the “Joint resources” link, if you wish to get into the true details of what goes on in the Alabama State House.

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator

Promotions



- [Library Card Sign-up Month](#) (September)
- [National Coloring Book Day](#) (August 2)
- [National Book Lovers Day](#) (August 9)
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (September 15 to October 15)
- [Banned Books Week](#) (October 5-11)
- [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#) (Wednesday of Banned Books Week)
- [TeenTober](#) (October)
- [National Friends of Libraries Week](#) (October 19-25)
- [International Open Access Week](#) (October 20-26)

From the Editor


A Note from the Editor



I want to express my appreciation to those whom have taken the time to submit event information, informative essays, photographs, and more to use in current and past issues. Your contributions bring this newsletter to life and allow library professionals across the state to learn, connect, and share. If you haven't contributed in the past, please consider doing so.

What types of content can I submit?

- upcoming events
- recent past events, accomplishments, and honors recaps
- success stories
- ALLA committee news and events
- "My library story" features

 **What types of files can I submit?** Save yourself time and effort by submitting flyers and press releases that you have already created for use elsewhere. Submissions can be as simple photograph and a paragraph or two or a more detailed feature. You can [browse past issues](#) for ideas. For more information, see the submission guidelines below.

ALLA COMmunicator Submissions

Submission Guidelines

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 or phone
- article in PDF or Word (or via email text)
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of image
- embeddable YouTube videos

Submission Timeline

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
July/Aug/Sep	July (Early)	July (Mid/Late)
Oct/Nov/Dec	Oct (Early)	Oct (Mid/Late)
Jan/Feb/Mar	Jan (Early)	Jan (Mid/Late)
Apr/May/June	Apr (Early)	Apr (Mid/Late)
