Dr. Wayne Flynt
on "Pulitzers and Politics: The Best and Worst of Alabama History"

The Friends of the Mobile Public Library are thrilled to be welcoming Dr. Wayne Flynt as the 2019 Annual Meeting speaker on Thursday, January 31 at the West Regional Library, 5555 Grelot Road. The reception begins at 5:30 with Dr. Flynt’s remarks starting at 6:45.

Dr. Flynt, Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at Auburn, is an award-winning author of 13 books, and one of the most recognized and honored scholars of Southern history, politics, and religion.

He has also published his memoir Keeping the Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives in which he writes about his experiences in the Civil Rights movement. The September 15, 1963 bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church was key in shaping Flynt’s views on the movement, confirming for him that those against civil rights were wrong and those who supported the movement were right. Flynt notes that being seventy allowed him some freedom in writing. “I’m retired, I don’t give a hoot what anybody thinks about me... nobody can get me fired because you can’t fire someone from retirement.”

A teacher, believes Flynt, is always a teacher, and can be a teacher in many different ways—through writing, lectures or through his or her memoir. It is Flynt’s ultimate wish to leave a legacy. “I’d sort of like for somebody to believe... somehow Alabama’s a little bit better because I was a teacher and wrote about what I experienced and how I changed.”

Wild Things
are coming to the library!

February 10 - March 27, 2019, the Ben May Main Library will host an exhibit honoring the work of popular children's author Maurice Sendak.

The exhibit primarily features original works from Sendak's most well-known work, Where the Wild Things Are. Titled "Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons", it celebrates the 50th anniversary of this wildly popular children's book.

In addition to the exhibit, a special children's play area and programs are being designed especially for the event.

To schedule a school field trip for the exhibit, call 251-208-7074.

This very special event is made possible thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Mobile Public Library.

First Lady of the Revolution

Mobile Public Library is proud to announce the upcoming screening of Spark Media's latest documentary feature First Lady of the Revolution in Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library. Supported by Alabama Humanities Foundation and sponsored in the state by Montgomery City-County Public Library, the film has garnered ten awards since its Sidewalk Film Festival premiere, including two prestigious Audience Awards.

Written and directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Andrea Kalin, "First Lady of the Revolution" traces the life of Henrietta Boggs, Southern Belle and remarkable first wife of legendary Costa Rican President José Figueres, and her wildly improbable path that profoundly changed a small Central American country.

Free admission. For more information, please call 251-208-7097.

Film Screening
Sunday, November 4, 2 p.m.
Bernheim Hall at Ben May Main Library, 701 Government St.

Restoring and Preserving Abandoned Cemeteries

Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Ben May Main Library & Oaklawn Cemetery

This two-part program about cemetery care is applicable to cemeteries in general, but a significant portion of the program focuses on the Oaklawn Cemetery in Mobile.

Speakers include Emily Ford, owner of the Oak & Laurel Cemetery Preservation, LLC, Eddie Erby, President of the 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of WWII, Tracy Neely, President of the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society, and Lorenzo Martin, City of Prichard Councilman. There is no limit to attendance for this program. There will be a lunch break from 12 to 12:30 p.m.

The second part of the program is a two hour, hands-on workshop at Oaklawn Cemetery, restoring neglected gravesites, including re-setting headstones, proper headstone cleaning, and landscape maintenance. All materials will be provided. We will meet at Oaklawn at 2:30 p.m. Attendance for this portion is limited to 25 participants. For more information or to register for this class, please call 251-208-7094.
Happy Fall everyone! I don’t know about you but I was very happy to have many books purchased at the Friends Book Sale in the April during our very hot summer. I am now ready to “recycle” them by returning them for resale at the next sale and getting a whole new collection.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Friends of the Mobile Public Library is dedicated to raising funds to provide gifts for programs, materials, equipment, and support for our library system and its employees. These funds are raised through memberships, memorial gifts, and our annual book sale. Public libraries enrich our lives and help us to grow as a community. We are so excited to have helped our Mobile Public Library bring the Maurice Sendak travelling exhibit with the authors original artwork to our Library in February. Our dedicated staff has been working to make this a grand event. Your Friends Board is planning a Pre-View event exclusively for members of the Friends of the Mobile Public Library. This is just another reason to consider joining the Friends for the 2019 year.

Please consider joining us by completing a membership application and return it to the library or simply go to the Friends website at MPL.org and find the Friends section with an application attached. We would love to have you and hope to see you at our annual meeting in January.

Linda Turnipseed
President, FOMPL

Writing Contest

We’re happy to report that entries have begun coming in for our Annual Creative Writing Contest. All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, January 25, 2019.

Here are the rules/guidelines:

Open to all high school students (public, private and home schooled) grades 9-12.

Entries are invited in three categories—Poetry, Short Story, & Essay. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in each category. Honorable mentions may also be awarded. Only one entry per category per student.

All entries must be typed. Each entry must have a title. Students should submit each entry under a pen name located on the title page.

A separate sheet containing the student’s pen name, real name, phone number, high school, and English teacher’s name should be stapled to the back of each entry.

Winners’ submissions will be uploaded to the Friends of the Mobile Public Library website.

Length: Poems should be no longer than two pages; Essays should be between 500-2100 words; and Short Stories may be up to 15 pages (using 10 point type or larger).

Subject and theme are open for all categories.

Entries should be mailed to: FOMPL
700 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602
Friends of the Mobile Public Library

Membership Contribution

When you become a Friend of the Library member, you become an advocate for the Library. All contributors will enjoy the full benefits of membership.

Partner - $500  Patron - $250  Sponsor - $100  Associate - $50  Regular - $30

Amount enclosed $ __________________________ Date __________________________

Telephone __________________________ Email __________________________

*Name and Address as they should appear on our mailing list*

Name __________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________________________ Zip __________________________

*Name as it should appear on the roster in our Newsletter*

Name __________________________________________

☐ New Member  ☐ Membership Renewal

Did you know that you can join or renew your Friends membership online?

Go to mobilepubliclibrary.org/friends

After you fill out the membership form online, please select your membership level and click the *Join Online Now* button to pay using a credit card with PayPal’s secure online check-out. You do not need to have a PayPal account to make your payment.

Donations to The Friends of the Mobile Public Library are tax-deductible as we have been recognized as a tax exempt organization by the IRS, under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Visit our website at mobilepubliclibrary.org/friends

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