

Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

ISSUE 02
Winter 2018

The Wild Rumpus starts February 10, 2019

by Carly Akers, Acquisitions Librarian

ON Feb. 10th the Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition will arrive at the Ben May Main Library. The exhibit, a retrospective of original works, will delight children and adults alike until March 25.

The author and illustrator of more than 50 children's books, Sendak is best known for the 1963 children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*. *Where the Wild Things Are* has been adapted into an animated short, a feature length film, an opera, has sold over 19 million copies and has been translated into 15 different languages. It is frequently voted the number one picture book by a number of publications, including *School Library Journal*. The classic tale was also awarded the 1964 Caldecott Medal Award.

The exhibit, titled *Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons*, is comprised of 50 original works by Sendak from his earliest pencil drawings done while in high school through a bronze sculpture the author was presented when accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Illustrators. In addition to housing the exhibit, the Library will have ongoing

programming for both children and adults. An illustrator workshop, themed story times, crafts, movies, and a custom built children's area featuring Max's boat from *Where the Wild Things Are* will be ongoing during the exhibit's display.



Universal Class: Free Online Learning for All Ages

DO you want to learn Excel? Get tips for taking great photographs? Brush up on your Algebra skills? Maybe you'd like to learn how to make a killer martini or bake the perfect pie. If so, Universal Class is the resource for you!

Over 500 online courses are offered, many providing CEU (Continuing Education Unit) credits. These self-directed classes allow learners to work at their own pace, whenever and wherever.

Universal Class offers training for people who want to brush up on skills or gain new proficiencies to advance their careers. It can help homeschoolers by supporting their curricula, non-English speakers



with ESL classes, test preparation courses for the US Citizenship test and the GED... the list goes on and on. It truly has something for everyone!

Visit our website today to create your account and get started learning something new.

Active Afternoons at the Parkway Branch Library

by Ashley Ponder, Library Associate

THE Parkway Branch Library offers an array of after school programs for children and teens throughout the week. Conveniently located near several schools in the Dauphin Island Parkway area, our branch gets a great wave of students every week day around 2:30 p.m.

In addition to art projects, games, movies, crafts, and LEGO Challenges, we help spark major scientific thinking and creative energy with circuitry projects, creating blackout poetry, making slime, and competing in karaoke and video game tournaments. There are often pop up programs and story times

designed for our immediate audience that are not regularly scheduled.

Our kids are competitive and love a chance to beat their friends and win something along the way, so we have lots of prizes! Our staff stay focused on positive interactions between kids of all ages while keeping things fun.

For so many children and teens in the Parkway community, the library is their designated stop between school and when they get a ride home. Whether they are here for a few minutes or a few hours, we want them to have a positive experience, learn something new, and

know that the library is here to support them with more to offer than just what's on their reading list.

For more information on what we have going on, please call (251) 470-7766.



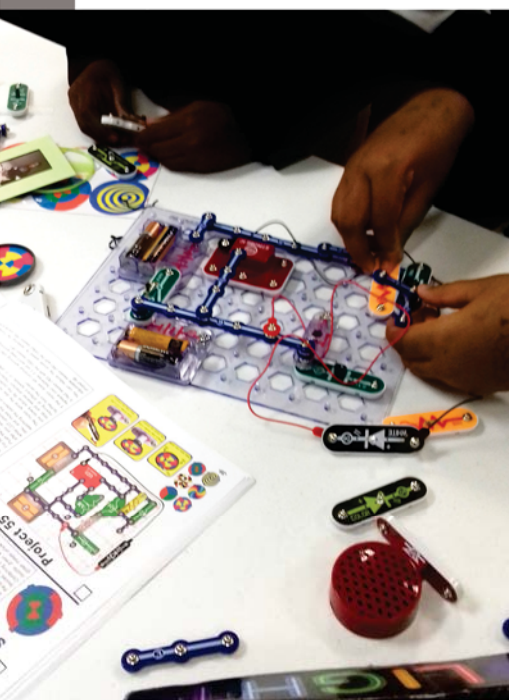
Create! Play! Learn! at West Regional Library

by Emmie Powell, Childrens Librarian

ONCE a month the West Regional Library offers a fun and educational program for toddlers and preschoolers called *Create! Play! Learn!* It's designed to encourage their development with the goal of getting children ready to start school!

There are four stations offered at the program: fine motor, gross motor, writing, and sensory. The fine motor station helps children develop dexterity with activities like tweezing, lacing, cutting and pasting. The gross motor station helps develop large muscles by dancing, running through an obstacle course, and playing hopscotch. Paper, markers, stickers, tape, scissors and more are available to develop writing skills. The sensory station gives children a chance to experiences different textures, smells, and tastes.

Create! Play! Learn! is on Jan. 8, Feb. 5, & March 12 from 10 to 11 a.m. for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years and from 11 a.m. to noon for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 years. Don't forget to wear play clothes in case things get messy! For more information, please call (251)340-8571.



Opera & Library: A Lasting Relationship

by Nancy Anlage, Event Coordinator

THE opening of the West Regional Library in November 2002 saw the beginning of an enduring partnership with the Mobile Opera. Many groups began to use the new library with its large meeting room and up-to-date facilities and the Mobile Opera was one.

We began coordinating efforts with *Get to Know Your Mobile Opera* in September 2003 in anticipation of the Opera's 58th season at the Saenger Theatre. This performance featured two of the Opera's favorite performers, Scott and Sarah Wright. Since that day, the relationship has richly evolved to become one of our longest lasting partnerships in the community.

In the same year, Dr. John Hafner began a monthly lecture series at the West Regional Library that covered a wide array of topics including Opera's composers, history, costumes, and compositions. The series developed into *Opera Insights* a few years later and *Libretto Book Club* was soon added, a daytime program that aimed to "understand music through literature."

Throughout the years, the Opera has helped the library system with special events including carolers for *Dickens of a Christmas* from 2007-2011 where they also involved Mobile's Singing Children. Most recently, the Mobile Opera added movie sing-a-longs in Bernheim Hall to the list of events. However, *Afternoon of the Stars*,



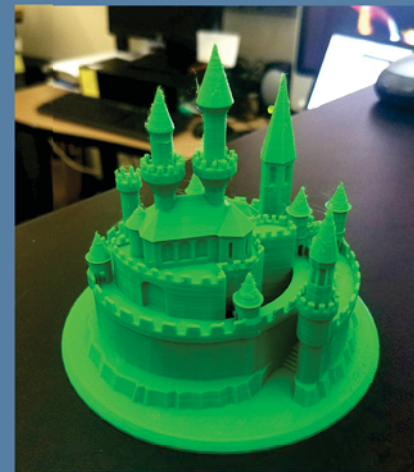
created in 2007, is our most popular collaboration and features the talented cast members from up and coming productions.

Throughout the years, the Mobile Opera has helped the library system present unique and professional programs free to the public. We are grateful for the partnership and look forward to many more programs full of talent and music including our next *Movie Sing-a-Long* on Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. featuring the 2017 film, *The Greatest Showman*.

See you then!

CREATE SOMETHING UNIQUE AT LIBRARY MAKER SPACES

Need some t-shirts with your last name on them for that upcoming family reunion? How about name pins for your small business staff? Want to 3D print a toy, tool or part? We can do that and more in our maker spaces.



Our tech tools include:

- PRUSA i3 MK3 3D printer
- 3D pens
- Carvey CNC machine
- Photo, film, negative and document flatbed scanner
- Hot Air Rework and Soldering Iron Station
- T-shirt Heat Press
- Arduino and Raspberry Pi (available for checkout)
- 2.5 inch punch press pin/button maker
- Laminator
- Cricut Cutter
- Drones

For more information about how you can use these tools for your next project go to bit.ly/MPLmakerlab or call Ben May Main Library reference at (251)208-7078.

Connection Center: Business and Careers

ARE you looking for a job or thinking about a career change? Do you own a business or want to start one? Our Connection Center can help! The Connection Center opened on October 1, 2018 and is our dedicated space for job seeking and small business creation. It offers helpful resources including sample business plans, desktop and laptop computers, printing, copying, scanning and faxing.

We also offer classes to brush up on the skills you need to get the job you want, and we regularly partner with local agencies to provide business workshops.

Visit us on the second floor of the Ben May Main Library or go to connectioncenter.mobilepubliclibrary.org for more information.

Take charge of your career and do business better!

DID YOU KNOW?

Local History and Genealogy has a new free service: *The Memory Studio*.

Do you have family videos, cassette tapes, negatives, or photos that you worry you will lose to wear and tear or outdated formats? We have the equipment you need.

Convert:

- VHS to DVD
- VHS to .MP4 Files
- Cassette Tapes to CD
- Cassette Tapes to .MP3 Files
- Scan photos & negatives

Just bring your materials and an appropriate storage device.

To make your appointment: (251) 208-7093 or call mainlhg@mplonline.org.

Local History & Genealogy is located at 753 Government St., two doors down from the Ben May Main Library. Parking is available off Scott St., which dead ends at the Church Street Cemetery entrance.

Now is the perfect time to join the Friends of the Mobile Public Library!

THE Friends are thrilled to be welcoming Dr. Wayne Flynt as the 2019 Annual Meeting speaker on Thursday, Jan. 31 at the West Regional Library, 5555 Grelot Road. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with Dr. Flynt's remarks on "Pulitzers and Politics: The Best and Worst of Alabama History" starting at 6:45 p.m.

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.

In addition to admission to the Annual Meeting, each spring all Friends members are invited to take advantage of the special Preview Sale, held the Friday evening before the annual Used Book Sale is open to the general public on Saturday.

The money raised from memberships and the Book Sale supports the Mobile Public Library's Summer Reading Celebration, databases and digital platforms, the Bookmobile and special programs like the Maurice Sendak exhibition that will be on display at the Ben May Main Library from Feb. 10 - March 25, 2019.

All members of the Friends for 2019 are also invited to a special sneak preview of *Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons* on Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Memberships range from \$30 for an Individual/Family to \$500 for a Partner. Since the Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, memberships are tax deductible.

For more information on becoming a Friend, call (251)208-7902.



Mobile Public Library
700 Government Street
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Our Mission is to Support Literacy and Connect Our Community

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