New Glowforge Tool Available at Main’s Maker Lab

The Mobile Public Library (MPL) is very excited to share their newest Maker Lab tool, the Glowforge. This is a laser cutter capable of engraving, cutting and scoring designs on many materials. From metal to chocolate and more, this tool can bring your designs to life. We’re excited to make the Glowforge, but can be created with possibilities of what are still learning the tool. We’re excited to share their newest Maker Lab tool, the Glowforge. This is a laser cutter capable of engraving, cutting and scoring designs on many materials. From metal to chocolate and more, this tool can bring your designs to life. We’re excited to make the Glowforge, but can be created with possibilities of what are still learning the tool.

Friends of the Mobile Public Library Book Sale Returns After 3-Year Hiatus

After a three-year hiatus, the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale returned and was met with a great response from the community. The event was held March 24-27 at the Abba Shrine Center. MPL employees, Friends of the Mobile Public Library (FOL), and many volunteers worked to bring back an event that has been missed by the Mobile community since the last one was held in 2019. During the Friday presale, which is only open to members of the Friends of the Library, we had many old and new Friends show up to beat the rush and take advantage of the early access that is available through membership. The rest of the weekend was also a success. The turnout from Saturday through Monday’s box sale meant the majority of the available inventory was sold. This is a huge accomplishment for all involved with the event and could not have been achieved without the support of our community.

The FOL wants to thank every person who had an impact on the success of this event. Whether you worked the event, volunteered, shopped, shared on social media or became an FOL member, we truly felt the support and are extremely grateful! We already can’t wait to do it again next year!

The FOL accepts new members on a continual basis and is recruiting members to join the board. We are in need of active volunteer members to assist with planning and executing programs, events and fundraising. If you would like to become an active volunteer, reach out to us on Facebook or send an email to pmanager@mplonline.org for more information.

Registration for the Mobile Public Library’s Summer Library Celebration opens Monday, May 15! Register at any MPL location or online at slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org. All in-person registrants will receive a Summer Activity Booklet highlighting the performers, events and programs taking place in June and July.

The 2023 theme for the Summer Reading Celebration is All Together Now. The library invites the public to participate in a wide variety of activities for all ages including special performances, reading challenges, exhibits, crafts, games and more! The celebration lasts all of June and July with the following special performances:

- June 5-8: Deborah Ferguson, The Dancing Story Lady.
- June 12-15: Excelsior Band.
- July 10-13: Mobile Environmental Studies Center’s Wildlife of Mobile Road Show.
- July 24-27: Juggler Ron Anglin - “One of a Kindness.”

Tackle the "Summer slide" by bringing the whole family to enjoy the Summer Library Celebration. Visit your favorite library location to register. For more information or to register online, please visit slc.mobilepubliclibrary.org or call 251-340-1535.

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MPL Welcomes Pioneering Alabama Legislator Ann Bedsole

Ann Bedsole is an American politician, businesswoman, community activist and philanthropist. She was the first Republican woman to serve in the Alabama House of Representatives and, alongside Frances Strong, the first woman to serve in the Alabama Senate. She will be joining us on Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m. at the Ben May Main Library and sharing details from her book “Leave Your Footprint.” After her talk, there will be a question-and-answer session, followed by a book signing and reception in the Armbrrecht Briskman Meeting Room. Book sales will be provided by the Haunted Book Shop.

Can’t-Miss Performance: ‘Fly, The Musical Revue’

MPL is honored to bring, “Fly, The Musical Revue,” before it heads to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. In collaboration with the Memphis International Culture House and Shining Talent Education and Recreation, the Nubian Theatre Company is in development with a new imagining of one of their signature pieces, “The People Could Fly,” last produced in 1995 for the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. This new multimedia production combines folklore and magic with the historical aspects of slavery in America and its 21st century ramifications for today’s society in a transformative musical that showcases a mashup of various music and dance genres. The production is heavily inspired by authors Virginia Hamilton and Zora Neale Hurston. It is filled with humor and heartbreak as it attempts to answer the question young people are asking today: What can be done to end the racial divide in America? The musical revue will be presented on Thursday, May 25, at the Ben May Main Library in Bernheim Hall at 6:00 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public, and no registration or tickets are required. “Fly, The Musical Revue,” is produced by Shining Talent and the Nubian Theatre Company, with lyrics by Deborah Adero Ferguson and music composed by Dr. Jeremy McMillan. The touring musical revue is produced in collaboration with the Mobile Area Jewish Federation and presented on Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public, and no registration or tickets are required. 

Mobile Register newspaper, Mobile Public Library is pleased to be able to provide our community with access to current Mobile news coverage through the Newsbank database. Use the Newsbank: Mobile Register Archive link to access The Lede articles, including color photographs! Newsbank is accessible on every Mobile Public Library computer, and you can also access it remotely with your Mobile Public Library card number. To access the Mobile Register remotely, visit mobilepubliclibrary.org, hover over “eResources,” then on the drop-down menu select “E-Books and More,” and lastly click on the Newsbank graphic. Access to information is an important value at MPL. Please share with others about the Newsbank database.

AMERICANS and the Holocaust

“AMERICANS and the Holocaust,” a traveling exhibition that examines Americans’ responses to Nazism and the persecution of Jews in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s, will be on display from May 15 until June 23 at the Ben May Main Library. The exhibit asks, “What did Americans know, and what more could have been done?”

The opening reception will take place on Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m. and will feature local guest speaker Ari Morgenstern, a descendant of a Holocaust survivor, and a recorded survivor interview with Susan Wasinger, conducted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, Holocaust/Jewish studies scholars will participate in a panel discussion on the topic of American reaction to events in 1930s and 1940s Europe. Both of these programs are presented in cooperation with the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

Another program for youth/children — Book Wizards Book Club: Special on the Holocaust — will feature an audiobook program along with an art program led by an instructor from the Alabama Contemporary Art Center on Tuesday, June 13, at 4 p.m. There will be a Teen Group Novel Book Discussion on “They Called Us Enemy” by George Takei on Tuesday, June 20, at 3 p.m. We invite teens to pick up a free copy of the book a month ahead of the discussion.

Concluding the programming is a film showing on Tuesday, June 20, at 6 p.m. of “From Swastika to Jim Crow.” A guest speaker will further discuss the film and take questions. The program is presented in cooperation with the Mobile Area Jewish Federation.

All programs take place at the Ben May Main Library, in downtown Mobile. This exhibition is an educational initiative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association.
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by Lauren Williams, FOL First Vice President

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