

**When and Where:** First Friday of every month, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Central Library. FREE Admission.

**Brews:** FREE beer sampling (ID required)

**Poets:** Sign up begins at 6:30 p.m. \$5 to compete and winner takes all. You must be at least 18 to participate and 21 to be served. For more info, call 226-3670 or email [hm@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:hm@bham.lib.al.us).

**Musicians:** Musical entertainment 6:30-7:00 p.m. Interested in performing? Email [dramamazings@yahoo.com](mailto:dramamazings@yahoo.com)

Visit us online: [www.bplonline.org](http://www.bplonline.org)

<b>Thanks to the Friends who joined or renewed their membership during October, November, December and January!</b>	Georgia Blair David Blake Irene Blalock Patricia Blalock Betty Bock Yvonne Brakefield William Brantley Ruth Breipohl Anna Brown Audrey Brown Dorothy Brown Virginia Brown Susan Buchanan Bob Burns George Campbell Corinne Caplano	Wilhelmina Cather Sara Cato Jim & Joyce Cauthen Beverly Corbitt Sandra Crawley Alyssa Daniels Juliette Davis Alan Eberhardt John Fuller Ponzella Fuller Joyce Greathouse Anna Griffith David Hartsell Samuel Herring Alverdean Huggins Cora Huggins	Guynelle Hunt Hezekiah Jackson Peggy King Carol Kinnaird Janine Langston Don Long John Lovin Yolanda Manora Carol McCoy Sandra Meeker Jane Miller Arlene Moorer Carole Moormann Adrian Moultrie Hunter Murphy James Murray	Peggie Myles Catherine Neugent Jacqueline Oglesby Mary Oliver Judy Pandelis Cherrye Parker Leona Payne Patty Pilkerton Marian Powell Mary Prude Joshua Raby Angela Ratliff Pat and Sam Rumore Samuel Rumore Theresa Rumore	Marilyn Sessions Sharon Shivers Raviola Sims Grace Slaughter Roger Slaughter Jean Sullivan Myra Tarver Patricia Thomas Robert Todd Charles Tortorici William Van Ells David Walker Mary Watkins Marjorie Lee White Jackie Young
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**Friends Officers**

President, Pat Rumore; Immediate Past President Dora Sims; Vice President, Regina Ammon; Treasurer, Barbara Sirmans; Secretary, Pat Thomas; Members at Large, Arlene Moorer, David Langum

**Friends of the Birmingham Public Library**  
2100 Park Place  
Birmingham, AL 35205



**2011 Winter Newsletter**

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please send your email address to [friends@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:friends@bham.lib.al.us). Paperless newsletters save trees and save the Friends money.

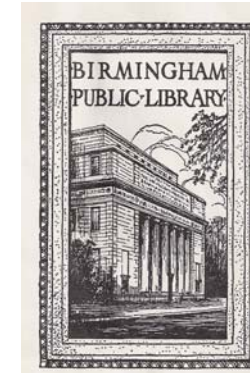
**CALLING ALL FRIENDS!**

**Friends Bookstore**

The Friends Bookstore is our major source of revenue, yet it is run by only a handful of people. If you have a few hours to spare each week, please consider working in our bookstore. Bookstore volunteers shelve donated books, help customers, and operate the cash register. You can commit to as little as three hours per week.

**The Big Book Sale**

To kickoff this year's Summer Reading Program, the Friends will organize an enormous book sale to raise funds for this and other library events. We need heaps of help. If you have a little time to work with us, please let us know! Send an email to [friends@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:friends@bham.lib.al.us) if interested in these volunteer opportunities.



**The Best of Times and The Worst of Times**

The Friends of the Birmingham Public Library has entered into one of the most exciting phases in its history, with a robust membership that is larger than it has ever been, and a Board that has set high and lofty goals for itself, ones that include recruiting new members, spearheading events and fundraising initiatives, as well as strengthening community partnerships.

At the same time, the Birmingham Public Library has found itself in a serious budget crisis. The library materials budget has been cut \$600,000 for this year alone. That's 48% of the total materials budget. To complicate the situation, 25 full-time employees retired on December 3, 2010. These employees took with them over 850 years of library service. Needless to say, the library has suffered some major losses of late.

However, as a Friend, opportunities abound for you. In fact, the library and the Friends need your help now more than ever. As a result of BPL's 2010 Campaign, patrons and gracious donors contributed over \$26,000. That covers just over 3% of the entire budget cut. With its initial success, the library has decided to continue its fundraising campaign. We would like to encourage all Friends to give to this great institution.

However, if you cannot donate funds, please consider donating your time. In the upcoming months, the Friends will offer many opportunities for you to volunteer, including such committees as the Bookstore, Newsletter, Hospitality, and Book Sale committees. You can help us expand our membership, as well, by asking a handful of your friends to join our organization.

This is a critically important time in our organization. We are seizing the opportunity to support the library, but we need your help in order to do it. We look forward to working with you.

**Friends Activities in the Works**

**Wednesday, April 13, Noon**

To commemorate National Volunteer Week, the Birmingham Public Library and the Friends will host a Volunteer Luncheon to show our inestimable appreciation of the many volunteers who work at Central and the Branch Libraries. If you would like to help put this event together, please call Hunter Murphy at 226-3761.

**Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.**

The Hospitality Committee needs hospitable people to organize a reception for Ashley Bryan, an American author and illustrator noted for his children's books. Ashley Bryan's numerous awards and honors include the six Coretta Scott King Honors, the Arbutnot Prize, and a Fulbright Scholarship.

**Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 pm**

BPL@Night and the Friends of the Birmingham Public Library present Casual Causality, part of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance. This is a job for the Hospitality Committee! We need delectable homemade hors d'oeuvres and help setting up and serving at the program. And you'll get to hear some of Birmingham's best musicians play in person.

**Wednesday, June 1, Summer Reading Kickoff Book Sale**

The Friends Bookstore is filled to the rafters with books. To celebrate the beginning of Summer Reading and to raise money for summer reading events, the Friends of BPL is going to hold the biggest book sale ever. And we need your help. Moving, sorting, setting up, selling. You know the drill.

To sign up for any event, please call Hunter Murphy at 226-3761.



Hello BPL Friend,

I am excited about taking the helm of the BPL Friends. Our immediate past president Dora Sims has been an enthusiastic and dedicated leader.

We are over 250 members strong and have established an enviable track record of service to BPL. My goal is for our membership to grow to 1,000 as fast as possible and to expand the positive impact of our participation in every way possible. So spread the word and forward this newsletter to your friends, inviting them to join us at our website <http://friends.bplonline.org>.

BPL's greatest need is MONEY to support the purchase of books, e-books, audio-books, computers, CDs, DVDs, and other library materials since drastic budget cuts by the city have reduced its acquisition budget by almost half. (Without these materials, how can we call BPL a library?)

BPL also needs MONEY to increase its support of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative, which provides the backbone of BPL's day to day operations-with its online library and checkout system, Internet access, reference data bases, downloadable book service, and system-wide delivery service which gives us all access to most library materials in the county.

We need to raise MONEY for BPL-and we can have fun doing it! Let's make our Friends bookstore the envy of all libraries in the state by giving it a facelift and adding a retail gift shop and then volunteering our time working there and spending our money making purchases there. Let's have a gigantic book sale to kick-off the library's summer reading program. Let's bake and sell Friends cookies at random coffee klatches in our branch libraries. Let's form book clubs that purchase books and then donate them to the library once we're through with them. Let's enjoy volunteering together by serving on the Friends' hospitality committee, membership/volunteer recruitment committee, and our fundraising committee. Let's advocate for increased funding from the city. Let's get to know each other and share our love of BPL!!!

In November 2010, BPL was named a STAR Library by *Library Journal*, one of only 258 given a STAR designation from over 7,400 public libraries rated. We must do ALL we can to help BPL maintain this designation. BPL deserves our support, and I know we will come through!!!

Warm regards.

Pat Boyd Rumore  
President, Friends of BPL

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT BPL

### Children of the Holocaust Documentary

Sunday, March 20, 3:00 p.m.

Nine Birmingham Holocaust survivors share their stories of despair, endurance, and ultimate survival in Nazi Germany and then their arrival in the United States. The stories themselves are powerful and compelling, but the fact that these are narrated by the survivors themselves makes them an undeniable truth and a testament to the events of the time. This documentary makes use of original photographs and footage taken during the years of the Holocaust, creating a powerful historical record. It is our hope that through this work, these Holocaust survivors will not be forgotten and their experiences will remain a truth that we can all learn from.

BPL@Night presents

### Alabama School of Fine Arts Faculty in Recital

Thursday, March 10th, 6:30 p.m., Arrington Auditorium

The music faculty at the Alabama School of Fine Arts will present a recital of solo and chamber music at the Birmingham Public Library, featuring the music of Francis

Poulenc, Derek Charke and Leonard Bernstein. The performance will highlight clarinet, harp, voice, flute and piano. This recital is free and open to the general public.

### Alabama Bound presents Wade Hall

Saturday, February 12, 2:00 p.m. Arrington Auditorium

Following the publication of his book *One Man's Lincoln*, Wade Hall has conceived a new approach to the same subject in *An Interview with Abraham Lincoln*. This book features a fictional reporter named Shelby Grider speaking to our nation's 16th president two days before he leaves Washington D. C. to reclaim Virginia and her Southern sisters for the Union. A mixture of imagination and fact, Hall's book employs the fictional reporter to examine President Lincoln's views on slavery, war, and life, with Lincoln's words all coming from the historical record. Mr. Hall gives a lively impression of the President, one which allows an understanding of Lincoln's personal history and character and the breadth of his thinking as the leader of our nation. A fitting memorial to Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Mr. Hall's presentation will be a dramatic experience to be remembered!

## Brown Bag Lunch Programs

Wednesdays at Noon in the Arrington Auditorium

### February 2 □ Spiral

Romare Bearden, an artist during the early 1960s in New York City, invited fellow artists to meet and discuss their roles in the charged society of the civil rights era. On July 5, 1963, the group formed a collective and called themselves Spiral. Emily G. Hanna, Ph.D., Curator for the Arts of Africa and the Americas, will discuss the roles these black artists played during the Civil Rights Movement. The exhibit is currently on display at the Birmingham Museum of Art until March 6, 2011.

### February 9 □ Alabama School of Fine Arts

The Alabama School of Fine Arts Music Department, under the direction of Kim Scott, will be performing a variety of musical selections in honor of Black History Month.



### February 16 □ My Journey

Dr. Ethel Hall, author of *My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American To Preside Over the Alabama Board of Education*, will be speaking about overcoming discrimination, racial tension and other road blocks to becoming a statewide political leader.

### February 23 □ Looking at First Leaders

Barbara Sirmans, former Director of the Birmingham Public Library, will discuss the opportunities and challenges of being the first black Library Director in Birmingham, Alabama.

### March 2 □ In the Footsteps of the Holocaust

Ann Mollengarden will talk about her recent study trip to Germany and Poland with the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, tracing the evolution of Nazism and its genocidal policies, as well as the privilege of meeting over 50 rescuers.

### March 9 □ A Reluctant Journey from Vienna to New York

Dr. Robert Adler of the University of North Alabama will

discuss the development of the Holocaust in Austria, focusing on his father's personal experience before, during and after his capture by the Nazis as well as his final arrival in the U.S. He will also speak about the role of the Catholic Church, and particularly the role of Pope Pius XII, in the rise of the Third Reich and the spread of Nazism in Europe, contrasted with the Pope and the Vatican's aid to Jews escaping the Holocaust, one of whom was his father.

### March 16 □ New Themes on Anti-Semitism

Birmingham attorney Maury Shevin will discuss antisemitism in both its historical and current forms. His presentation will cover several topics, including the notion that Zionism is racism, and the fact that the Iranian president and other Holocaust deniers are welcomed into the fraternity of nations.

### March 23 □ Survivors Stories

The congregation of Temple Beth-El in Anniston was founded in 1888 and among the members of the congregation, probably never totaling more than fifty families, were sixteen individuals with unique pasts. They were Holocaust survivors. These sixteen are now dead. In this program, Sherry Blanton, Guardian of Remembrance for The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, will chronicle their lives.

### Wednesday, March 30 □ A Holocaust Survivor Speaks

At the age of 10, Max Herzel, along with his family, escaped the German invasion of their home city of Antwerp, Belgium, and sought refuge in France. Soon after their arrival in France, the Herzels, along with other Jews, were captured and faced harrowing experiences during the next five years until their ultimate rescue.

All programs are free and open and to the public. For more information on the programs listed, please contact Sandi Lee at 226-3742.



Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art

### In the Gallery - February 24 - April 8

In this sensitive assembly of photography by Becky Seitel and art by Mitzi J. Levin, viewers are provided intimate glimpses into the private memories of twenty Alabama Holocaust survivors. Seitel and Levin spent hours visiting each survivor and listening to their stories. The survivors began with their memo-

ries of life before occupation and imprisonment. Their stories continue with their lives in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile and Opelika. Both artists provide bold, thought-provoking and moving paintings and photographs with text explaining the personal stories behind each piece. Survivor biographies and maps provide an additional historical dimension to the exhibit.

"Through the stories of these Alabama Holocaust survivors, we hope to impart this history, as well as a richer understanding of its impact on these individuals and their families, to a larger audience. View their pictures. Read their stories. Allow this exhibition to move you." - Becky Seitel, Photographer, and Mitzi J. Levin, Artist