



BPLinks

the newsletter

17 August 2018

Back to School with BPL



L-R: Creating a make-and-take art project on Craft Day at the Wylam Branch Library; drawing sidewalk art while cooling down with ice pops at the Avondale Regional Branch Library; learning about animals at Grubdown at the Springville Road Regional Branch Library; strategizing at Chess Club at the East Lake Branch Library

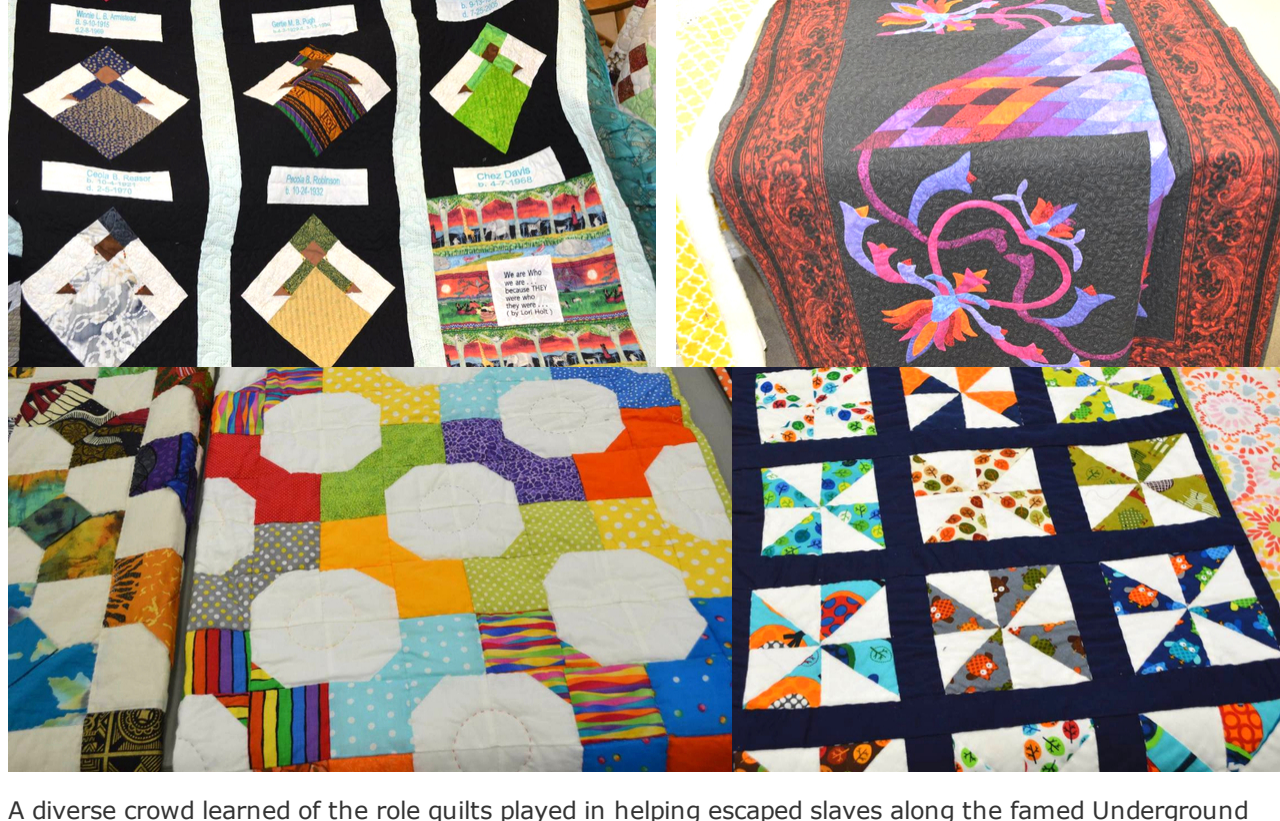
Birmingham Public Library's 19 locations have plenty of free after-school activities and resources to help Birmingham school children gain knowledge and have fun. Our libraries across the city offer a safe and friendly learning environment where kids can study and do homework, read books, play games, make crafts, and more.

Local Authors Expo Highlights



Birmingham Public Library visitors gained valuable insight on the process of moving from the thoughts to publishing a book thanks to nearly 40 writers and two publishers who participated in the 2018 BPL Local Authors Expo on August 11 at the Central Library. First-time expo authors included 14-year-old Alex Clark (left), who has written a fantasy novel. Veteran expo authors included Joyce Brooks (middle, right), who worked the room, taking advantage of the opportunity to network with other writers. Tevin Gibbs (right), fascinated many by sharing his brave story of how despite being diagnosed with autism at a young age, he didn't let that stop him from achieving his goal of writing books. BPL has hosted the expo since 2007 as a way to help support local authors.

Riley Center Quilters Highlights



A diverse crowd learned the role quilts played in helping escaped slaves along the famed Underground Railroad during a fascinating discussion at the Central Library East Grand Reading Room on August 14. In addition to leading the discussion, the talented women of the Riley Center Quilters/Riley Community Center also had dozens of their beautiful quilts on display. [Read more about the quilters and the role quilts played in the Underground Railroad.](#)

Program Spotlight



Prime Time Family Reading Time leaders at the Inglewood Branch Library discuss the importance of reading

Prime Time Family Reading Time

The Birmingham Public Library is a proud participant of Prime Time Family Reading Time, a six-week program held at public libraries across the country that encourages reading, discussion, and storytelling as a family. Five Points West Regional Branch Library hosts Prime Time Family Reading Time on Tuesdays, August 21-September 18, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is limited to 30 families. The program features award-winning children's books to stimulate discussion about issues families encounter everyday. [Read More](#)

BPL Perspectives

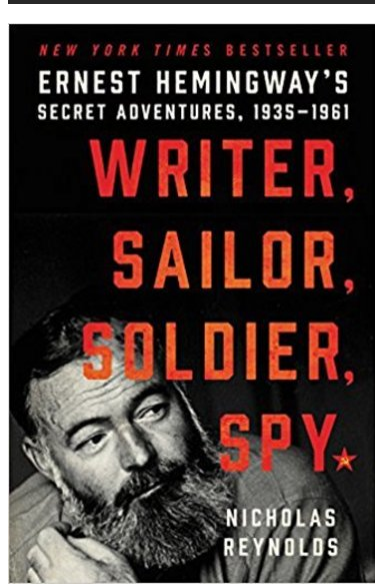


L-R: West End Library branch manager Maya Jones and intern Tamika Green

West End Branch Library Intern Tamika Green Talks about Her Involvement with Inclusive Internship Initiative

2018 Parker High School graduate Tamika Green gained a better perspective of the important role libraries play in Birmingham this summer. In June she was selected to participate in the Public Library Association 2018 Inclusive Internship Initiative, a national program designed to expose teen interns to library careers. Green, who is now enrolled at Alabama State University pursuing a degree in criminal justice, was so impressed that she plans to return to her assigned library, West End Library, to work while home during her Christmas holiday break. [Read More](#)

What We're Reading at BPL



Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy by Nicholas Reynolds Reviewed by David Ryan, Arts, Literature and Sports Department, Central Library

A really good biography does more than provide birth and death dates and dish dirt associated with this marriage or that divorce. An exemplary biography opens a window into the book's subject. You finish the book and you have some insight into the reasoning behind their deeds, both good and bad. If you've read a truly good biography, you might even have the tools to judge if, within the subject's moral framework, their deeds were committed for altruistic or selfish reasons. [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events/Closures

Beyond the Basics of Genealogy – So Many DNA Relatives!
August 19, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Central Library

Birmingham Public Library closed for Labor Day
September 2 and 3

Bards & Brews Poetry Event
September 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Central Library

Beyond the Basics of Genealogy – Dear Cousin: Corresponding with Your DNA Relatives
October 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Central Library

Smithfield Branch Library closed for Magic City Classic
October 26: closing at 1:00 p.m.; October 27: closed all day

Church Records and Histories for the Genealogist
October 28, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Central Library



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Birmingham Public Library, 2100 Park Place, Birmingham, Alabama, 35203

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