SLP Kickoff 2020

Imagine Your Story

Thanks to our host this year, Montgomery City-County Library, we had a great kickoff! With APLS currently undergoing renovations, MCCPL graciously allowed us to use their facility. They offered their meeting room for three days and supplied us with coffee, water and some awesome pastries and fruit. APLS is very grateful for their hospitality.

We had some great presenters, Kailee Montes (Miss Camellia 2020) who spoke about her library reading initiative Racing Readers, and the importance of knowing how to address those of our patrons with dyslexia. Diane Huff from the Society for Creative Anachronism gave us information about how their organization with different “shires” across the state could help offer free programming about life in medieval times. Anna Mullican from the Oakville Indian Mounds (Lawrence County) talked about various programs that their location and other indigenous mound locations throughout Alabama could offer for your summer programs.

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We tried to incorporate some of your ideas from last year’s suggestions – more craft ideas and more networking time. We were slightly limited in space to spread out, but my committee shared some terrific craft ideas and the networking time seemed to go well. Of course we are

Diane Huff of the Society for Creative Anachronism provides ideas for various programs linked to myths and legends

See Kickoff continued on next page
always tweaking things and are looking forward to seeing your responses from this year’s survey to improve even more next year. If you missed the survey, please don’t hesitate to send me your suggestions.

Many thanks to my committee: Cassie Chenowith (Orange Beach), Sharon Green (Town Creek), Savannah Kitchens (Parnell Library), Mandy Pinyan (Huntsville-Madison County), Cherold Rhodes (Mobile), Ricky Statham (Oneonta), Nicole Tudor (Gadsden), and last (but definitely not least) Alisa McLeod from APLS.

All of the resources from the kickoff are available on the Summer Library Program page on the APLS website. And it is never too early to start dreaming about next year – the theme will be Animals, and the slogan will be "Tales and Tails."
It seems like paranoia until it happens. The Lockwood brothers, John and Stew, were raised in the remote Nevada wilderness by a father who believed in being prepared for anything. A six-month supply of food and water for the entire family, a generator with plenty of gas, and regular lessons for his sons on surviving in the wilderness. It seemed excessive. At least until the power went out and stayed out.

After John and Stew were attacked and had their supplies stolen, their only chance for survival is to walk to a family friend’s ranch nearly a hundred miles away. Stew’s combative, their supplies are limited, and now they’re adding Cleverly and Will to the party, a sister/brother duo with no supplies of their own. The trek seems doomed to failure, but John’s determined to keep everyone alive and get them to safety.

This was a solid read, especially the characterizations, plot, and setting. Every single character was realistic. John and Stew knew a lot, but they weren’t miniature Bear Grylls’s pulling off miracles. Cleverly wasn’t a love interest, token female, or useless despite her lack of survival skills. She found ways to help when and where she could. The strangers they run into, the man who lead the robbery, a sister/brother duo with no supplies of their own. The trek seems doomed to failure, but John’s determined to keep everyone alive and get them to safety.

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With that said, I would still recommend 96 Miles. The downsides pretty much knock down what could have been an incredible story to a solid one, and I did enjoy reading a survival/disaster story with such a refreshing and realistic take. There are many readers out there who will enjoy it who aren’t as picky as me. 

**Recommended for:** Readers who enjoy survival/disaster/realistic stories.

**Things to watch out for:** The main characters are attacked in their own home and robbed at gunpoint. Stew becomes fatalistic, and John threatens his own suicide through starvation to get him to act. John has what seems to be a panic attack, and he and his brother evidence some symptoms of trauma due to the attack. Main characters steal and John is attacked during the theft. However, the book was written for a preteen audience, and nothing is graphic.
“Happy Birthday Alabama,” was the refrain of the day on Dec. 14, 2019 at the Homewood Public Library as they celebrated Alabama’s 200th Birthday. Charles Ghigna led the birthday song after reading aloud, *Alabama, My Home Sweet Home*, a Bicentennial picture book created by Ghigna and Homewood illustrator Michelle Hazelwood Hyde.

Mayor Scott McBrayer opened the program with little known facts about Alabama. Mayor McBrayer also helped cut the giant birthday cake shaped like the state. The Homewood Library Foundation provided a special mug for all participants to take home and commemorate this special occasion. Other activities included Alabama themed balloon art, College Counts representatives and Exploring Alabama Inventors with Dynamic Education Adventures.

The winners of the Fourth Grade Alabama the Beautiful Project Contest for Homewood City Schools were announced:

- **Best All Around**, Luke Gillis, Edgewood
- **Most Creative**, Owen Berthiaume, Shades Cahaba
- **Most Artistic**, Julianne Elizabeth Bawden, Shades Cahaba
- **Most Informative**, Parker Byrom, Shades Cahaba

From left, Homewood Public Library Director Debora Fout, Homewood Mayor Scott McBrayer, Charles Ghigna, and Laura Tucker

Author Charles Ghigna with Illustrator Michelle Hazelwood Hyde

Luke Gillis’ winning entry for the Alabama the Beautiful Project contest

Teen Advisory Board Volunteer Fatima Vega Vazquez cuts the cake with Mayor Scott McBrayer
February is:
- Black History Month
- American Heart Month
- National Bird Feeding Month
- National Cherry Month
- Library Lover’s Month

March is:
- Women's History Month
- Youth Art Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- Play the Recorder Month
- National Craft Month
- National Noodle Month

Cool Dates to Remember

February 1 — National Freedom Day / National Dark Chocolate Day
February 2 — Groundhog Day / National Tater Tot Day / National Ukulele Day
February 3 — National Golden Retriever Day / Doggie Date Night
February 4 — World Cancer Day
February 5 — World Read Aloud Day / World Weatherperson’s Day / World Nutella Day
February 6 — Pay a Compliment Day / National Frozen Yogurt Day
February 7 — Ballet Day / National Send a Card to a Friend Day / National Bubble Gum Day
February 8 — National Kite Flying Day
February 9 — National Pizza Day
February 11 — National Make a Friend Day / National Guitar Day / International Day of Women and Girls in Science
February 13 — World Radio Day
February 14 — Valentine’s Day
February 15 — National Gumdrop Day
February 16 — National Almond Day
February 16-22 — Random Acts of Kindness Week
February 17 — Presidents’ Day
February 19 — Author’s Birthday - Jeff Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid)
February 20 — National Love Your Pet Day / National Muffin Day
February 22 — National Walking the Dog Day
February 23 — National Dog Biscuit Day
February 24 — National Tortilla Chip Day
February 26 — National Tell a Fairy Tale Day / National Pistachio Day
February 27 — Pokémon Day / International Polar Bear Day / National Chili Day
February 28 — National Tooth Fairy Day
February 29 — Leap Day

March 1 — National Pig Day / National Peanut Butter Lover’s Day
March 2 — Dr. Seuss’s Birthday / Read Across America Day
March 3 — World Wildlife Day
March 4 — National Grammar Day / National Hug A G.I. Day
March 5 — National Potty Dance Day
March 6 — National Oreo Cookie Day / National Dentist’s Day
March 7 — National Cereal Day
March 8 — International Women’s Day
March 9 — National Napping Day / National Meatball Day
March 12 — National Plant A Flower Day / National Pancake Day
March 13 — National Earmuff Day
March 14 — National Learn About Butterflies Day / National Potato Chip Day / National Pi Day
March 15-21 — Poison Prevention Week
March 16 — National Panda Day
March 17 — St. Patrick’s Day
March 19 — Let’s Laugh Day
March 20 — Mr. Roger’s Birthday / Spring Equinox
March 21 — World Poetry Day
March 22 — United Nations World Water Day
March 23 — National Puppy Day / World Meteorological Day
March 25 — Manatee Appreciation Day
March 26 — Make Up Your Own Holiday Day / National Spinach Day
March 27 — National Scribble Day
March 28 — Respect Your Cat Day
March 30 — Take a Walk in the Park Day / National Doctor’s Day / National Pencil Day
STEAMing along

Make a Kite (easy)
courtesy of coachart.org

Plan ahead for a windy March, as it’s a great kite flying month. Here are two activities, one for the younger set, and another for older kids:

Materials
bamboo skewer
string
8.5 x 11 paper
pencil, tape, ruler, and hole punch
flagging tape (found in hardware stores)

Directions
1. Begin by folding the paper in the middle of the long edge (hamburger style). Next, measure and mark 3/4” from the fold at the top of the paper, and 3.5” from the fold at the bottom. Using the ruler, draw a straight line between the two marks.
2. Next, fold down the angled side along the marked line. Place tape along the new seam, and fold the other wing to be even with the first.
3. With the taped seam facing the top, lay the kite out flat, and tape a bamboo skewer from corner to corner.
4. Flip the kite over and punch a hole in for the string, approximately 2.25” from the top. Reinforce punched hole with tape. Tie the kite string through the hole, and add about 82” of flagging tape for a kite tail to help it soar and keep it stable. Have fun flying your kite on a windy day!

Tetrahedral Kite
courtesy of kidsactivitiesblog.com

Materials
24 straws
string
tape
 tissue or wrapping paper
scissors

Directions
1. Begin by feeding a string through three straws, and tie a knot after making a triangle.
2. Add two more straws. Tie a knot and cut string, leaving 3 inches. Then, add one more straw, and lift each corner to make a pyramid.
3. Cut tissue paper, wrap around two sides, and tape in place.
4. Make three more pyramids, and tie them all together at the corners to make a two-tier pyramid. It’s ready to fly.

STEAM reads

A Kite for Moon
Yolen, Jane; 978-0310756422
Kite Flying
Lin, Grace; 978-0553112542
Kite Physics: Visually Explained with Questions, Answers, and Experiments
Davison, Glenn; 978-1548052942
Tie-dye Heart

courtesy of raisingdragons.com

This tie-dye heart process art activity uses a simple technique with oil pastels and an eraser to give a super cool tie-dye illusion and is great for building hand strength. It also happens to be a perfect Valentine’s Day activity!

Materials
- oil pastels
- eraser
- white paper

Directions
Start by making a small shape — like a heart — using the pastels. Next, keep adding layers of color around the shape. Finally, take an eraser and move it from the middle of the drawing outward to create a tie-dye effect.
Feb. 4
STEM in After School
How is STEM different in afterschool programs? What does it look like? Does it help? Learn about the latest research regarding STEM in out-of-school settings. (U.S. Dept of Education) [https://edtech.sagepub.com/webcast/Play/6c39edf156b444cc58c358ce968729571]

Mobile Marketing Tips for Every Generation
Mobile marketing is a key component of any comprehensive marketing strategy. And optimizing your website for all devices and screens is crucial for staying relevant with today’s audiences, especially millennials and Gen Xers, but even the more tech-savvy baby boomers. And if you don’t keep up you’ll lag behind, losing online visitors, donors and, ultimately, donations. Join Molly Cole for a webinar that explores mobile marketing and generational marketing. (Firespring) [https://www.firespring.com/resources/webinars/]

New Books, New Worlds: Diverse Titles for Young & Young Adult
Join us as we talk with Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, Lorimer Children & Teen, and Archipelago Books to hear about the latest titles for young readers showcasing diverse authors, characters, and topics! Plus, we’ll talk with author June Hur about her upcoming YA debut, The Silence of Bones! (Booklist) [https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars/]

Grant Writing: What the Pros Know
This seminar gives you a comprehensive introduction to grant writing, outlines what should be included in each grant component, and helps you steer clear of the most common pitfalls. This is a fast-paced online event that will help you with the building block of a strong grant proposal. (DonorSearch) [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8561786496103934477]

Feb. 10
Adoption, Foster Care, and Children’s Well-Being: Resources from the Children’s Bureau
This webinar will provide a guided tour of the resources available on the Children’s Bureau’s website, which include adoption, foster care, guardianship, and child well-being. (Federal Depository Library Program) [https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/fdlp-events/calendar]

Census 2020 and Libraries
Census 2020 is the first census to be taken online, and it is just around the corner. Learn what your library can expect when patrons arrive to complete the Census, how your staff can answer their questions (whether they complete the survey while at the library or offsite), and why a complete count is so important to all of Idaho’s libraries. MAY HAVE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO ALL LIBRARIES. (Idaho Commission for Libraries) [https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/info2go/]

Feb. 11
Overcoming Language Barriers: Helping Non-English Speaking Library Customers
This webinar is designed to provide library staff with the tools and skills needed to be able to help library customers who do not speak English. From no-tech to high-tech, it will provide library staff with multiple resource options for when a “language barrier” situation arises at the reference desk, customer service desk, or on the phone. (Public Library Association) [http://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars]

Data Analytics for All
Gone are the days when employees could pitch a new idea, ask for a promotion or even brainstorm a new process without metrics. Metrics make the case but figuring out how to use data can be tricky for employees who aren’t data scientist by trade. Join GovLoop and NextGen online Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 3-3:45 p.m. CT to learn how to use metrics to make your point, communicate more effectively and make your arguments stronger. (GovLoop) [https://www.govloop.com/training/]

Feb. 12
Purpose, Passion, and Pajamas: How to Transform Your Life, Embrace the Human Connection, and Lead with Meaning
Genevieve Piturro was a successful television marketing executive in New York City for twenty years when a little girl’s question changed the course of her life forever. She began delivering pajamas and books to children in shelters after a little girl asked her what pajamas were. In 2001, she founded Pajama Program, a non-profit which has been recognized nationwide for both its success and Genevieve’s story. Genevieve has been interviewed on OPRAH, TODAY, GMA, The Early Show, CNN, Fox & Friends, O Magazine, Forbes, and The Wall Street Journal and she rang the Nasdaq Stock Market Opening Bell in 2016. (Nonprofit Hub) [https://nonprofithub.org/hubinars/]

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Center Resources: Informing and benefitting your community
The United States has a long history of welcoming immigrants from all parts of the world. During the last decade, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) welcomed more than 7.4 million naturalized citizens into the fabric of our nation. Join presenter Vilaysay “Sai” Chang, USCIS, to learn important information for lawful permanent residents and their families. Topics will include settling in the U.S. and petitioning for family members. (Infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar]

Feb. 13
Empathy: The Secret Sauce in Effective Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Empathy is our first point of meaningful connection to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts. We think back to instances when our clients have faced barriers and biases, or times when people close to us have been excluded, or our own experiences of feeling that we didn’t belong, and these narratives became the fuel for driving the work forward. But what if we’re only scratching the surfaces? What if we reconsider empathy as an important skill for effective DEI design, development, and implementation? This webinar explores these questions and shows us different ways of thinking about empathy can help sweeten the sauce, and bring about more impactful DEI. (Charity Village) [https://charityvillage.com/crms/active-learning/webinars]

Fostering Equity in STEM Programming
Pooram Gilt of Girls Who Code will offer suggestions for inspiring and equipping youth in your community with the skills they need to succeed in college and career. This webinar will teach you a) how to foster an inclusive environment within your STEM programs, b) how to increase female role model representation in your curriculum, c) how to create holistic STEM programming that builds important life skills for youth in your community, d) how to access free and customizable Girls Who Code curriculum and resources (like easy mini-grants of $300 per semester) through the no-cost Girls Who Code Clubs program for 3-12th graders of all genders, and e) learn about real stories from Girls Who Code Clubs program to help you build your own programming. (Indiana State Library) [http://indianastatelibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar?hr=ALL]

Developing Gender-Affirming Library Spaces, Systems, Services and Staff
How can we make libraries more inclusive for people who are trans or nonbinary? In this session we will share practical recommendations from VCU Libraries’ 2018 gender-inclusive library workshop report, and our subsequent work to implement the recommendations in the report. The presenters will help attendees brainstorm small to large changes to library spaces, services, systems, and staff training that can create a more affirming environment at their organizations. (Lyraasis) [https://www.lyraasis.org/services/Pages/Classes.aspx]

The Future Is Fine Free: How Libraries Are Increasing Equity, Engagement and Access for Their Communities
Join us for a webinar with Pines and Plains Libraries (CO) Director Tim Miller, Perry County Library (TN) Director Gail Spragins, Chicago Public Library (IL) Commissioner Andrea Tell, and Santa Monica Public Library (CA) Director Patty Wong as they engage in a big-picture conversation about becoming and being fine-free libraries. During this conversation, they will identify their libraries’ “why” for being fine-free, discuss how they strategically addressed their communities’ needs and local government priorities by eliminating fines, and describe the impacts of going fine-free on their communities. (Infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar]
Feb. 14
Small Libraries, Big Impact: How the NNLM Can Help Small & Rural Libraries Support the Health Information Needs in Their Communities
This webinar will introduce the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) members to the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), the outreach arm of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Presenters will provide attendees with a step-by-step guide on how they can leverage NNLM to support the health information needs of rural and small communities by introducing several trusted NLM consumer health information resources and showing ARSL Members how they can take advantage of NNLM funding opportunities, training, resources, and partnerships. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) https://nnlm.gov/training/classes-by-availability-scheduled

Feb. 18
Seven Things Your Nonprofit Can Do to Get the Most out of Your Website in 2020
In this webinar, our partners at Tapp Network, a purpose-driven digital agency, will walk you through client case studies and key insights on how to improve your web presence so your marketing efforts don’t go to waste. Following this webinar, you’ll know how to evaluate your website and take seven actionable steps to ensure that your organization is putting its best foot forward in all things digital for 2020. (TechSoup) https://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars/default

Feb. 19
What’s New in Children’s Literature - 2020
Join us for our annual review of what’s new in children’s literature, both new authors and old favorites, that you can recommend to a child – especially when you are busy! This webinar can help you discover new books that you can offer to children who use your library, including books that reflect the diversity of the children we serve. Hear about books published in late 2019 and Spring 2020, that will be popular with children ages 0-12. These include board books, picture books, easy readers, transitional fiction, genre fiction for middle grades, graphic novels, poetry, nonfiction, and more! Hear about books that will be popular with a wide audience of children, including recent award-winners. (Infopeople) https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar

Feb. 20
Introduction to Federal Research and Resources on Rural Education in the U.S.
This webinar will cover findings from some of the IES data collections and studies of rural education in the U.S. and will also point to resources where librarians and other stakeholders can find more information on rural education. (Federal Depository Library Program) https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/fdlp-events-calendar

Feb. 21
Teen Mental Health: In their own words
Teen suicide is on the rise nationally, and Colorado’s statistics are higher than many other states. In this interactive session we will highlight this issue by sharing interview clips from teens who have experienced mental health issues, Colorado specific research, and other stakeholders can find more information on rural education. (edWeb.net) https://home.edweb.net/webinars/

Feb. 22
Finding and Serving Hidden Patrons
How do you serve people in your community who are unable get in to your library? How do you find those people? What kind of programs or services could be offered to them? These questions plague libraries everywhere. Learn how we identified our target patron groups, partnered with community agencies to identify patrons, and why not so young, who would benefit from outreach programming, and how we used materials and staff on hand to add outreach to our service repertoire. (Indiana State Library) https://conduleoged.is.in.gov/find-training/online-training-series/

Feb. 23
Connecting Out-of-School-Time (OST) Activities and Student Interest in STEM
Join us to find out which types of programs and which attributes of these programs are the most successful in increasing STEM interest and the most common reasons students do not participate in these programs. (National Girls Collaborative Project) https://ngcproject.org/events

Feb. 26
Taking Care of Us: Inreach for Library Staff
Join library director, yoga teacher, and physical literacy researcher, Jenn Carson, as she teaches you how to de-stress at your desk, maintain proper posture, avoid injury, and regulate your emotions through breathing, stretching, and other techniques. Participants will learn an easy self-care routine that will help to reduce stress at work and leave you feeling recharged instead of drained. Participants will leave with digital downloads to help them remember what they learned and share with their colleagues. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) https://nnlm.gov/training/classes-by-availability-scheduled