



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

A Summer for the Books - Thank you, Friends of Huntsville Library!

By Baillie Pretzer, Children's Coordinator

As the summer draws to a close, it's only fitting to reflect on all that we have accomplished together as a community. I have immense gratitude for the Friends of the Library for sponsoring five of the eight wonderful programs we were able to bring to you. We began our summer with learning about the history of Pirates from Cap'n Zeph: Who knew democracy was applied on pirate ships whenever decisions had to be made? Next, we experienced exotic animals such as the critically endangered Black and White Ruffed-Lemur of Madagascar, which has the unique ability to pollinate the flowers of the traveler's tree. Although



their habitat in the rainforest of Madagascar is under great threat due to slash-and-burn agriculture, among other threatening human activities, Courtney of Wild Things Zoofari shared with us that there are many conservation efforts in place to help protect the species. We were lucky to host Wild Things Zoofari again one month later when, this time, Courtney brought a baby Wallaby and a baby Kangaroo with her. Everyone loved getting to see and gently pet these special critters. Other animals we had the opportunity to see and learn about were the Fennec Fox, Chocolate Skunk, Keel-Billed Toucan, and North American River Otter!



However, animals weren't the only thing we experienced here at Huntsville Public Library this summer. Dr. Pennington, of the Texas A&M Chemistry Department, put on a fantastic show with

color-changing water, smoke effects, BANGS and BOOMS, and even **FIIIIRE!** The excitement of chemistry crackled through the room in the form of *ooo's* and *aaah's* as well as laughter as Dr. Pennington cracked jokes and shared stories of his chemistry-filled adventures. At the very end, he even coached four brave moms to carefully extend a lit candle on the end of a four-foot pole to a balloon filled with either helium or hydrogen gas. While the former made only a soft **pop**, the latter made a loud **BOOM** that reverberated throughout the Staggs Community Room.



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A Summer for the Books, Continued

Things turned a little swampy as Matthew of Crocodile Encounter ex-sssss-itedly welcomed our patrons into the Staggs Community Room with some Lady GaGa blasting and a big smile to match the energy. An Alumnus of SHSU (Eat em' up, Kats!), Matthew was very hands-on with the audience and brought the reptiles around to each audience member, encouraging them to hold and/or pet them. Though some audience members were squeamish, Matthew motivated them to overcome their fears and get hands-on with these amazing creatures. Even our IT Coordinators, Josh and Jalpa, bravely participated! Matthew not only treated us to a plethora of reptiles but also educated the

audience on properly identifying a turtle from a tortoise and a crocodile from an alligator. For instance, while turtles are better adapted for a more water-centric lifestyle, tortoises are better adapted for life on land. How can you tell the difference? Simply look at their feet! Turtles will have webbed feet to aid in swimming whereas tortoises have stronger, more 'elephantine' legs. Like all wonderful performers, Matthew stayed after to pose for pictures and answer any additional questions.

As all things must come to an end, our summer drew to a close with a Reading Magic Show hosted by the enthusiastic Magician, John O'Bryant. By sharing stories of how he first began performing magic tricks, John highlighted the magic to be found in reading and how, by merely opening a book, your



opportunities become endless! Throughout his show, John called on audience members to assist him with tricks that had the uncanny tendency to not go right on the first try. From a wonky American flag to a half-zebra half-giraffe stuffed animal and a floating table, the audience was captivated with John's sleight of hand, mesmerizing illusions, and witty remarks. While this summer was unique in how events and programs were organized, the Friends of Huntsville Library helped make this summer one that we won't soon forget.



Try some of these friendly chemistry experiments* at home!

- **Cabbage chemistry**
- **Bath bombs**
- **Rubber egg**
- **Sugar crystals**
- **Slime**

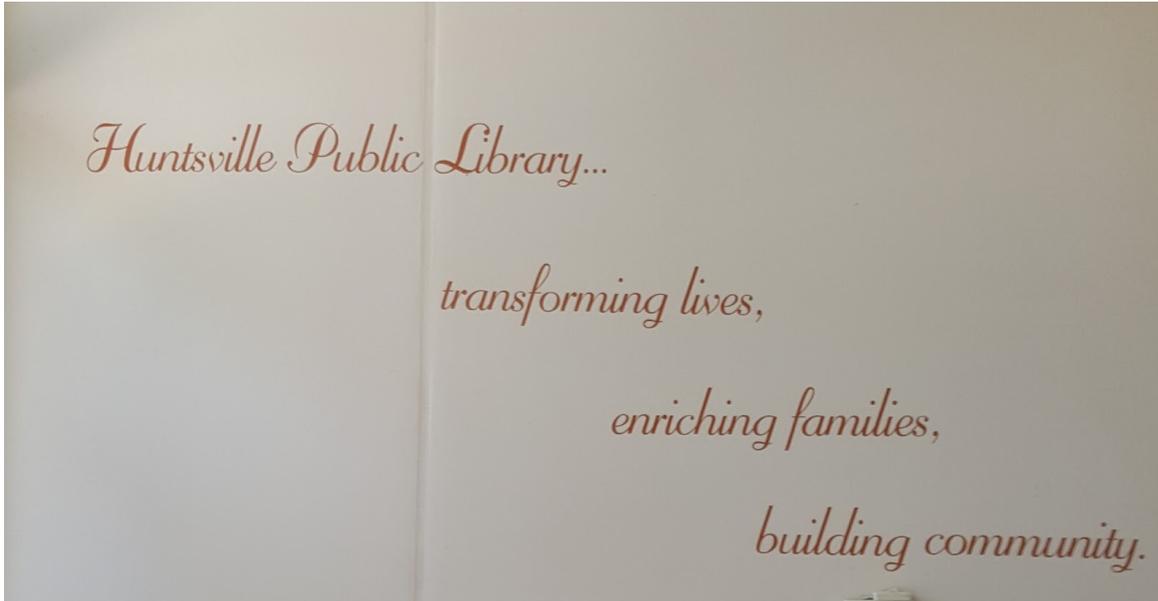
***all experiments should be done with an adult present.**



Come in...it will change your life! By Linda Huff, Resource Coordinator



Sometime during these dog days of August, climb our stairs, pull open that glass door, step inside and take a deep breath of cool air. Then, look to your left and this is what you will see:



Each time you enter your library's doors, your life as well as ours is changed. You are choosing to begin a new book, learn a new hobby, read about the latest diet, solve the world's social problems - or at least attempt to better understand them. Your life is actually transformed by the information with which you fill it.

Recently, a father who has lived here for many years came in with his young son to get a library card. As we filled out his application, he told me how long it had been since he had been to the library.

"I don't know why I stopped coming, really. As a child, the library was one of my favorite places. I want that experience for my son."

So, of course, we made sure his son got his own card as well. As they were leaving, I thought about how that seemingly routine interaction can actually transform a new generation. When we bring our children to a library, we are unleashing their minds and hearts into a world of new experiences and adventures. My own two sons still remember the weekly trips we took to the library. They are now lifelong readers who share that love with their own children.

I like to think when individuals improve their lives, they in turn build up their communities. There are so many opportunities here at the library to work with your neighbors and establish new relationships: join a book club, come to story time with your kids, volunteer to tutor, learn new computer skills, come to monthly events and make new friends. The door is open and stepping in will transform your life.

Interlibrary Loan

By Mary Kokot, Reference and Adult Services

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a service whereby a patron of one library can borrow books that are owned by another library. With over 200 participating libraries in the ILL system, there's always a good chance that the book Huntsville Public Library doesn't have can be found somewhere else.

ILL is user-friendly, making it easier for you to order your book. The library's website has a link dedicated to ILL which has simple instructions to follow and allows you to search, locate, and order the book you want—all from the comfort of your home. If you are in the library, please stop by the self-help kiosk to use the dedicated ILL computer or, if you prefer, complete an ILL form and give it to staff member Mary Kokot, our ILL expert. You will be notified by email or a phone call when your book arrives at the library.

Library cataloger Latina Stroughter says the interlibrary loan process gives her "access to more books than we own" and "familiarizes me with other libraries' collections." Stroughter, like many patrons, likes the fact that ILL helps ensure she is able to read all the books in a series.

No public library can own (or store) every book ever printed! The Interlibrary Loan Service allows us to bridge the gap between what patrons want to read and what library shelves can accommodate. Similarly, if a book in our collection goes missing but is no longer in print, ILL helps us acquire the materials for which our readers are searching.

Most lending libraries will loan their books for a four to six-week period. After allowing for the time the courier service takes to pick up and deliver books, readers usually will have two to three weeks to read their book choice. Please remember entertainment DVDs, current bestsellers, and newly published books are not available through the interlibrary loan system.



KidsScape

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
FOR AGES 7-10

**EVERY THURSDAYS AT 12:00 PM
STARTS ON AUGUST 26**

Staggs Community Room at the Library

- Sign up is not required
- Topics and activities will vary week-to-week
- New fun and crafty activities

KidsScape provides the opportunity to broaden interests, develop skill sets, and build new friendships!

Here's some programs happening this month at the library!



MASTER GARDENERS

**MONDAY, AUGUST 30
10:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.**

Huntsville Public Library, Staggs Community Room
Register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com



For additional information, contact Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471

Presented by the Walker County Master Gardeners

