



Moon Lake Community Library

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2020 Events

January

Community Library Clean-up

Author Talk

"It Came Like a Cyclone:
Alabama and the 1918
Influenza"

Book Club

The Kite Runner

Discussion

"Circle of Service"

Ukulele Classes

Community Seed Swap

Community Game Nights

February

Moon Lake Logophiles

Book Club

*The Book Woman of
Troublesome Creek*

Wool Felting Class

Ukulele Classes

Community Game Nights

July

Online Book Club

Midnight at the Blackbird Café

August

Online Author Talk

Heather Webber

Online Discussion

"All About Bears" with
Hannah Leeper

Online Book Club

Memoir + Autobiography

September

Online Book Club

My Year with Eleanor

October

Online Discussion

"The Social Dilemma"

Online Book Club

The Nightingale

November

Virtual Escape Room

Online Author Talk

Chervis Isom

Dear Friends of the Moon Lake Community Library:

Someone, somewhere once wrote, "Books are a uniquely portable magic." As a friend of the library, you already know that books are windows to the world, inspiration for the soul, and holders of our world's knowledge and experience. Thanks to the hard work and foresight of those who founded our library more than two decades ago, our children, residents and visitors have had access to books, DVDs, lectures, the internet, and special events that have enhanced the rich cultural life of this little mountain village. Can you name another small town with less than 400 residents which has such a facility? Go ahead. I'm waiting...

We are fortunate, but without the support of you and others, we simply couldn't keep the doors open! More about that later. There is a lot going on at the library. Here are some of the major activities of the last year. Happily, it's a long list, but as a Friend, I'm sure you'll want to review it:

We started the year off with a bang, when, in observance of the MLK Day of Service, over 30 volunteers spent a Saturday cleaning the library from stem to stern. Books and shelves were thoroughly dusted, floorboards were cleaned and oiled, DVDs were labeled with their ratings, and stray books were re-alphabetized. Our first event of the year was a well-attended presentation by Jim Baggett about the 1918 Influenza. This discussion proved to be fortuitous, as those who were present have commented that they felt a bit more prepared for the current pandemic.

As the coronavirus took hold in Alabama, the board voted on March 12 to close the library, thinking it would be a short-term closure. When it became clear we couldn't safely reopen as soon as we'd hoped, our librarian, Kelly Leavitt, began offering curbside service in April, with patrons searching our catalog and reserving books on our web site and then picking them up at designated appointment times.

We also started a virtual book sale. Book buyers can see photos on our web site of the books on our fiction sale shelves and reserve them for pick up. This "virtual book sale" even captured the attention of a couple of other libraries around the country who reached out for guidance and feedback. Private browsing has also been available, with patrons arranging a time with our librarian to come into the library and browse the shelves, with masks on, of course.

With so many people spending time this year clearing their book shelves at home, donations have been way up, so we have an abundance of books for sale. This is great news, because our book sales generate a good bit of our income. But it also presents a challenge, as we haven't been able to hold the book sales we usually have at our town's festivals in May and October, both of which were cancelled.

The Little Free Libraries which the library sponsors at the Mentone Post Office and DeSoto State Park have proven to be very popular this year. The community is welcomed to take or leave books. Thanks to those who help tidy up the shelves and sometimes replenish the collection with books from their own collection.

While most of us had never heard of Zoom last spring, this online meeting option has

proven to be a saving grace for library activities to be able to continue. The Moon Lake Book Club resumed meeting in July using Zoom, and we have also offered author talks, discussions, and even a virtual escape room. Our board of directors is currently “meeting” via Zoom.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters have particularly missed meeting in the library on their regular Tuesday afternoons, and they have recently begun gathering outside on the MERF walking trail next door to the library.

We are grateful that the library has been able to remain accessible to our patrons through curbside service. One patron told us getting books at the library was “the only thing keeping him sane during this time.” A high service indeed.

We miss our volunteers and look forward to being able to reopen in the near future. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please let us know. Volunteers offer their time once per month to help out in a myriad of ways, including checking books in and out, re-shelving and alphabetizing books and movies, and vacuuming and dusting.

We have suspended most book buying, since our income has been impacted by the lack of book sales and financial donations—the main ways the library keeps financially afloat. Moon Lake School pays the power bill, but we traditionally pay the summer bills when school is out of session. Other expenses this year have been an ongoing Zoom subscription, insurance, books, supplies, and our librarian’s salary. We are approaching reopening the library with caution and hope the day will soon arrive when we can operate on a regular basis. Your financial support and book donations are critical!

Lastly, here is a challenge. Did you know that the library has been providing a computer and access to the internet for those who need them? It’s a great, but costly, service that we will try to continue offering. We need twelve monthly sponsors. If you’d like to sponsor a month, at \$75, contact our librarian, who can give you the details. You can make a great holiday present to Mentone by supporting one month of internet service. I’ll start the ball rolling with my own contribution. Will you match me?

Our thanks go to Jerome Stephens, who has served as chairman of our board for many years. Jerome stepped down from this position in October, and I am now serving as our chairman. And a special thanks to our librarian, Kelly Leavitt. Her energy and fountain of good ideas have helped move our library forward, and we are fortunate to have her.

Best of the holidays to you all, and thanks again for your support.

Holley Midgley, Chair

Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors

Holley Midgley, Chair • Annette Peteck, Vice Chair • Dianne Kuehl, Treasurer • Bill Berry, PhD, Secretary
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Count me in! I’d like to be a Friend of Moon Lake Community Library.

Please select the amount you’d like to donate, or choose your own amount.

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 other \$ _____

Donations may be made at the library, by mail, and at moonlakelibrary.org.

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Moon Lake Library
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Mentone, AL 35984

THANK YOU for your support!

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