


**HOOVER**  
**PUBLIC**  
**LIBRARY**

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019



**imagineMORE**

Emily Saliers, Southern Voices 2019

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Recently I read a quote by R. David Lankes, Director of the Library School at the University of South Carolina, where he said, "bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities." Based on his criteria, the Hoover Library is a GREAT library! We are taking more steps each year to expand our mission of being MORE than a library and serving as an essential component to the lives in our community.*

*We started 2019 by hosting Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, as our Southern Voices Keynote Speaker. Mr. Stevenson's candid talk about race relations was eloquent, provocative and a powerful message to our community on what we can do to embrace diversity.*



*Hoping to engage our mature adults and those in the 21-35 age range, respectively, we added several new programs, Vintage Videos featuring classic movies and Top Shelf focusing on cocktail creation. We also offered some great, new one-time events, such as a Downton Abbey Tea Party and a Murder Mystery Party. I am happy to report that all these new events have been well attended and very popular with our members and guests.*

*October saw the installation and opening of all our planned book drops. With the final six locations operational, it now gives us drops at key points across all of Hoover. This is important to our members because it allows us to extend our great service closer to their neighborhoods adding to convenience in using our services.*

*We ended 2019 with the establishment of the Hoover Library Foundation. Thanks to Library Board member Ruth Cole and our new Foundation Board members, we are able to assist those patrons who are interested in helping the Library through private donations and bequests.*

*This report only glimpses all the wonderful things that have happened at the Library this past year. One of my favorites was watching our staff grow together as a team. We invested in staff development and spent a considerable amount of time learning about one another's individual strengths. Through our continued training, development and our open-door policy, we continue to empower our staff to suggest new and better ways to serve our members and build a better community!*

*Amanda*



## MEET OUR STAFF

### **Christine Wells**

*Library Specialist, HPL Kids*

Christine coleads our Sensory Storytime for kids aged 2-12 with autism or other sensory challenges. Below is an excerpt from the Dec/Jan 2020 issue of *Hoover's Magazine*.

"For the first years of his life, I was the only one who could understand what my brother, Will, was trying to say. My parents called me his translator. As a child, Will lived in an elaborate world of Disney characters, Elvis songs and knock-knock jokes. As he has aged, his needs, interests and communication abilities have changed. My brother's multiple diagnoses include Down Syndrome and autism, but those words do not begin to describe him as a person.

Because of his multiple diagnoses, it has always been difficult to find a program or service that could support and include Will and provide him with the basic need of community support. However, he loves to be in the community. We spent many hours at the Hoover Library when we were kids, and I know we checked out every Dr. Seuss book dozens of times.

My experience with my brother, combined with experience as a preschool teacher and case manager at a research-based preschool for kids with autism, have made me passionate about inclusion and respect for the community of children and adults with autism, Down Syndrome and other forms of disabilities or neurodiversity."



### **Carrie Steinmehl**

*Library Manager, Technology*

For the past year, Carrie has served as President of the Alabama Library Association. Here we include key moments during her tenure.

She focused on keeping libraries as a patron's Third Place. "We want our patrons to make their library an essential part of their daily lives. We are more than just a repository of books; we are community leaders, educators, entertainers and servants."

Carrie advocated on behalf of Alabama Libraries by writing our representatives in Congress, encouraging them to support the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) Library Services Technology Act (LSTA). This program is important to her role as our Technology Manager, having secured over \$438,000 in funding since 1999.

At Legislative Days in Montgomery, Carrie accepted a proclamation honoring Alabama Libraries from State Representative Steve McCutcheon.

"As president, I have had many amazing opportunities. One highlight from 2018, was attending a national event which included Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden and former First Lady Michelle Obama."

"I was honored to serve our state as President of the ALLA and represent the Library on a local, state and national level."



## PATRON VOICES

### LADIES BRIDGE CLUB

All the members have been playing together for many years and started meeting at the library two years ago.

“Everyone here is so good to us. Some of us can’t see well or have trouble bending over to retrieve items on the bottom shelf. Staff are always willing to help us no matter what the need.”

Being in the library is a home away from home for these ladies. “We have a ball playing here at the library!” One member even confessed, “we do get a little bit loud.”

Mostly, though, they enjoy being together, telling stories, sharing home-made snacks and practicing bridge.

“What’s important about our club is to have a good time. The library lets us do that.”

### HOMESCHOOL BETA CLUB

This past October, the members got together to say thank you to our staff.

“It started with a simple idea...but it exploded into a day of love, service, gratitude, friendship, selflessness, and community.

The Hoover Library has a long history of being fun, energetic, student-centered and community-engaged. They care deeply about serving the public and are passionate about finding different ways to keep kids engaged in learning.

Behind those walls of books are wonderful people who work tirelessly to preserve and enhance a secure environment to learn, flourish and prosper. For everything that they do for us,

THANK YOU!”



2019 saw many wonderful guests and visitors to our library, none bigger than our Southern Voices Keynote Speaker Bryan Stevenson. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery and author of *The New York Times* best seller *Just Mercy*.

Last fall, we were honored to have two true country music stars in Deana Carter and Ricky Skaggs. Ms. Carter, a CMA Award winner and six-time Grammy nominee, is best known for her mega hits “Strawberry Wine” and “Count Me In.”

Mr. Skaggs, a 15-time Grammy Award winner, a 15-time IBMA Award winner and member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, is one of bluegrass’s most dynamic live performers and sought-after icons.



## SPECIAL GUESTS



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



## SCIFI/FANTASY FEST 2019

Joining us this year were special guests John Anderson, Sneak Attack Podcast and for the first time, live music with the Steam Punk Band Abney Park. Each year brings visitors from all around the South.



## SUMMER MEALS

For the second year in a row, we served as the main distribution site for the Summer Meals Program offered by the Hoover City Schools Child Nutrition Program. This year we served 11,591 meals at all locations.



## SOUTHERN VOICES

Our quickest sellout in 27 years, we honored authorst Bryan Stevenson (keynote), Sean Dietrich, Gin Phillips, Patti Callahan Henry, David Joy, Lori Roy, Roger Johns, Melanie Benjamin, and J.T. Ellison.



## BOOK SALES

Under the leadership of president Roberta Atkinson, the Friends held two book sales and raised \$6,667. They also earned funds through the bookstore and a special event in August 2019 featuring Delores Hydock.



## BOOK DROPS

We installed six new book drops in 2019. You can now return materials to the Hoover Met, the Public Safety Center, Hoover YMCA, Greystone & Bluff Park Elementary, and to both Ross Bridge and Inverness Fire Stations.



## SUMMER READING KICKOFF

We kicked off summer reading with a *Star Wars* themed event, "Episode Fun," and 903 kids attended. We had eight performers throughout the summer and registered 6,386 total summer readers.



## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

1,111 kids joined the Ghostbusters, Scooby Doo, the Addams Family and others for one of our most popular programs each year. Over 2,600 kids joined us for Trick or Treat on Halloween.



## TOP SHELF

This new program, an after-hours event for cocktail lovers, was kicked off by U.S. Bartender of the Year Laura Newman. In Sept., we showcased "All Things Rum," with Jeremy Conception of *The Ethanol Review*.

# NEW LEADERSHIP



**Cherinita Ladd-Reese** and **Phil Hutcheson** joined the Hoover Library Board this year, replacing longtime board members Sara Rast and Eloise Martens.

**Mrs. Reese** works full time as the senior director of care at Faith Chapel in Birmingham. She oversees community outreach, volunteerism and assimilation of members. She believes in the Hoover Public Library's values of diversity, integrity, teamwork, community engagement, convenience and accessibility.



**Mr. Hutcheson** serves as the chief legal counsel and chief financial officer for Alabama Public Television. An experienced attorney, Hutcheson brings a wealth of legal knowledge to the position. Hutcheson said he applied for the Library Board seat because he has enjoyed living in Hoover for 27 years and wanted to give back.

## BY THE NUMBERS



