Summer reading wrap-up

It is time to celebrate all who participated in the 2024 GLS Summer Reading Program. The June 1-July 31 program was packed with opportunities for readers of all ages to explore their love of books and find community with other readers. We hosted virtual get-togethers and in-person gatherings around the state. Readers tracked the time they spent reading, and together they logged more than 9,000 reading hours during the two-month period.

We kicked off the season June 7 at Washington Memorial Library in Macon, with an interactive program of song and story designed to engage people of all ages and abilities. Evan Michael Bush, Director of Youth Services for Georgia Public Library Service, led a phenomenal experience, inviting audience members to participate with sound and rhythm. While on the premises, guests were encouraged to visit the children’s department at Washington Memorial, where an impressive collection of more than 400 braille books for young readers is shelved. These books are available to PINES library card holders statewide for checkout from their local public libraries.

Evan Bush plays the washboard and sings “Biscuits in the Oven.”

GLS summer readers had access to an array of online events and activities offered nationwide by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). On the schedule were story time with the Librarian of Congress, accessible dance parties for continued on page 2
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kids, and a talk with bestselling author Angeline Boulley. Rounding out the fun were activities that could be enjoyed anytime: a virtual escape room, two choose your reading adventure games, and an audio described tour of the Library of Congress.

Summer Reading will return in June 2025. We look forward to more GLS patrons joining in the fun next year.

Magazine delivery changes

Patrons of GLS who subscribe to magazines and receive their issues on cartridges in the mail may have noticed some recent changes in the delivery packaging.

Magazines on cartridge no longer come in the red containers with the Potomac Maryland return address affixed to the case. This is because magazine services are now being handled locally by the GLS Distribution Center. This change will ensure quicker delivery and turnaround time, as well as easier handling of subscription problems such as lost cartridges. Subscribers will also be able to request certain back issues.

To return a magazine, simply remove the mailing card from the case, insert the cartridge, and drop it in the mail, just as you would with a book.

For the time being, the audio version of Talking Book Topics (TBT) will still be handled by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). However, GLS will eventually take over the delivery of TBT as well.

If you would like to add a magazine subscription, please call GLS at 800-248-6701.

The Macon library has an impressive collection of braille books for youth.
Cheers to the Fabulous Friends of GLS

We are thrilled to announce that the Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) have awarded the Fabulous Friends Award to our very own Friends of GLS for their outstanding contributions and dedication to our library community. This award recognizes Friends of GLS for fundraising, advocacy, and program support, which have greatly enhanced our library’s resources and services.

Through annual membership dues, Friends of GLS supports a wide array of engaging events, such as the popular Ice Cream Social, Bingo, and the GLS Summer Reading Program, which provide enriching experiences for visually impaired and print disabled individuals of all ages.

The Friends group is led by a board, with members serving one- to three-year terms. President Dan Aldridge declares, “It has been an honor to serve as President of Friends of GLS. This is the most inspirational group of volunteers I have ever worked with.”

This award is a testament to the hard work and passion of our Friends of GLS. We extend our deepest gratitude to them for their invaluable support. If you would like to join our fabulous Friends or learn more about their activities, visit https://gls.georgialibraries.org/friends-of-gls/.

Don’t miss our recurring programs on Zoom:
- Tech Talk - Monthly: Second Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12 noon
- Peer Support Group - Monthly: Third Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.
- For Grown Folks Only Book Club - Bimonthly (August, October): Second Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.
Donors’ corner

Your donations are appreciated. Please make checks payable to the USG Foundation and write GLSBPD on the memo line. Mail checks to: GLS Atlanta, One Margaret Mitchell Sq., NW, First Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Visit https://gls.georgialibraries.org/newsletter to subscribe to GLS News and to read current and back issues.

Call 1-800-248-6701 to request this newsletter in alternative formats.

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