

February, 2009

## The Children's Literacy Guild of Alabama

# *Guild Gab*

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOOK DRIVE IS ALMOST HERE

In partnership with The Junior League of Birmingham, members of The Children's Literacy Guild will conduct the "world's largest book drive". Sponsored by Alabama Power and Fox 6, members of the two groups are seeking to collect at least 100,000 children's books to be distributed to needy students in and around the Birmingham area.

The 2-week event seeks to involve members of both groups as well as schools, churches, area businesses, neighborhoods, scout troops, civic groups and individuals.

Books will be collected in specially marked containers at Alabama Power payment centers throughout the area. During the event, Fox 6 will broadcast additional collection locations and feature live remote broadcasts with reporter Jeh Jeh Pruitt.

All donated books will be delivered to the Junior League Building to be counted and sorted before being

delivered to appropriate agencies and schools for distribution.

All CLG members are asked to provide at least one contact for a potential book drive host. Contact information should be sent to **Allison Hallman** (Allison@brunoeventteam) or **Beth Wilder** (bwilder1@charter.net) so they can follow up.

CLG Members will also be asked to work at the Junior League Building during the counting, sorting and distribution process. Specific information about shifts will be available closer to the time of the book drive.

**March 30—April 10, 2009**

*Presented by*

**The Children's Literacy Guild of Alabama &  
The Junior League of Birmingham**

*Sponsored by*

**Alabama Power & Fox 6**

**GOAL: Collect 100,000 books for children in the Birmingham area**

**Mark your calendars and make your plans to be part of this valuable event that will have a HUGE effect on our entire community!!!!**

### **Essay Contest Judges Needed**

It's time for the Better Basics MORE Program Essay contest. This annual event allows 4th grade students involved in the MORE Program an opportunity to share their thoughts and successes from the program while giving them an opportunity to reinforce their writing skills.

We need 8-10 CLG members to volunteer to read and judge essays from participating schools. No experience is necessary and they are truly a joy to read!

**If you are willing to be a judge, contact Sheri Blank at Better Basics (sblank@betterbasics.org)**



*Opening Books to Open Doors*

**The Children's Literacy Guild of Alabama**

Visit us online at <http://www.childrensliteracyguild.org>

PO Box 660543  
Birmingham, AL 35266

## News & Announcements:

- The Alabama Book Festival will be held at Old Alabama Town, Montgomery on April 18, 2009. Volunteers are needed to staff this event. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.alabamabookcenter.org>
- Alabama Center for the Book will be a sponsor for the Southern Literary Trail events in March, 2009. 18 communities in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia will present events to honor renowned authors. Visit <http://www.southernliterarytrail.org> for information and a calendar of events.
- Do you know a child that needs help learning to read? Do you have an iPhone? Pocket Phonics for iPhone is a application that uses touch, graphics, animation and sounds to teach children to recognize letters. Find out more and download a free trial at <http://www.appsinmypocket.com>
- PBS is currently producing an updated version of the 1970's show "The Electric Company". In the new version includes new characters and a totally new style more in line with the rhythmic language of today's music. The new show is set on the streets of New York with vocabulary and phonics embedded in each episode. Currently, "The Electric Company" airs on APT at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. Once enough episodes are produced, the show will air daily as part of the PBS block of shows for older kids. To find out more about the show and its characters, visit <http://www.pbs.org>

*If we could get our parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools.*

*-- Dr. Ruth Love*