



***Alabama Public Radio Newsroom  
Public File  
July 1 through September 30, 2013***

***Issues—***

***The Civil Rights Movement***

***The Disabled***

***Jewish culture***

***The community impact of the UPS plane crash***

***Racial equality***

***High education***

***Public School Education***

***Alabama History***

## ***CURRENT EVENTS***

**July 11-** Certainly the events in 1963 brought the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham to the forefront of the nation's attention, but long before that hard battles were being fought to beat back Jim Crow. Arthur Shores was one of this civil rights leaders and he resided in a neighborhood that became known as Dynamite Hill. Alabama Public Radio's Ryan Vasquez recently talked to Arthur Shores' daughters Judge Helen Shores Lee and Barbara Shores who recently

wrote a book about their father called the "Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill. Judge Lee starts with how they came up with the name. (Aired in ATC at 4:50 Runs: 6:55)

**July 18** - An Alabama woman who has invented a grocery cart designed to help people with special needs is taking her product national. Drew Ann Long is inventor of Caroline's Cart, a grocery cart designed to allow special needs people be a part of the shopping experience. The last time we talked with Long she was on Capitol Hill to promote special needs initiatives. Alabama Public Radio's Ryan Vasquez caught up with Long ahead of Thursday's national launch for Caroline's Cart to talk about what this next step means for special needs individuals. (Aired in ATC at 4:44 Runs: 4:29)

**August 1**—APR's Maggie Martin reports on jailhouse letters from "Dynamite Bob" Chambliss, who was convicted of the 16<sup>th</sup> Baptist Church bombing. 50 years ago, a bomb exploded at the 16th street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Four young girls were killed in the blast. It would take 14 years before the first Klansman was tried and convicted in the bombing. Robert Chambliss was found guilty of his part in the attack. He wound up at the St. Clair County Correctional Facility, about 40 miles northeast of Birmingham. It's here where Chambliss wrote letters to his family during his time in prison. (runs 4:43 at 7:33 am, 4:44 pm)

**August 7**- Being bar mitzvahed is a rite of passage every young Jewish man gets to go through at the age of 13. A mitzvah is a good deed and performing one is paramount to the process. When Elijah Schulman thought about what he would do for his bar mitzvah project he didn't look to his hometown of Bethesda, Maryland. Rather Schulman looked to help out a Selma synagogue that had some old family ties. I talked to Schulman about how he came to help the Mishkan Israel synagogue as part of his bar mitzvah project. (Aired in ATC at 4:44 Runs: 4:27)

**August 15**—APR's Pat Duggins reports on the crash of a UPS cargo jet in Birmingham. 26 members of the National Transportation Safety Board, and an FBI evidence recovery team, will fan out today at the site of Wednesday's crash of a United Parcel Service Airbus A300 aircraft. Both pilots were killed in the accident, which knocked local residents out of bed just before 5 am. "When I saw the big flash in front of the trees, I saw of the flash of the explosion," says eyewitness Peter Torres. "And, the big banging, the big explosion." (runs 3:53 at 7:33 am and 4:44 pm.)

**August 22** - ALL YEAR LONG ON ALABAMA PUBLIC RADIO, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING BACK ON 1963, AND KEY EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THEN DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. PERHAPS THE MOST INFAMOUS IS THE BOMBING OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET BAPTIST CHURCH. IN AN EARLIER REPORT, APR'S MAGGIE MARTIN BROUGHT US LETTERS FROM THE BOMBER CONVICTED IN THE ATTACK THAT KILLED FOUR GIRLS. NOW, APR'S RYAN VASQUEZ REPORTS ON SOMEONE MUCH CLOSER TO THE EVENT... (Aired in Morning Edition 7:33 and ATC 4:50 Runs: 6:21)

**August 30**—APR's Pat Duggins reports on how University of Alabama fraternities and sororities may have violated state law in the recent election for Tuscaloosa School Board. Published reports state that fraternities and sororities on the campus of the University of Alabama offered free drinks to member students who participated in Tuesday's election. The incentive was reportedly a wrist band which entitled the bearer to a free drink at a local restaurant. (Web interview transcript.)

**September 2**-- All year long on Alabama Public Radio, we're looking at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of key moments in the civil rights movement. One of the biggest fights in the movement was the effort to desegregate schools. That included Tuskegee High School. In 1963, a lawsuit was filed to desegregate, and a federal court agreed. Thirteen black students were chosen to integrate the school and anticipated starting classes with their white peers on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. APR's Maggie Martin recently went to Tuskegee to talk with former students as they look back 50 years after the desegregation of the high school. (runs 4:54 at 6:33, 8:33)

**September 3** - Many college freshmen embark on their first years of higher education this week. Wouldn't it be nice if at the end of their journey a job waiting for them? In Alabama, the two year-college system is looking to do just that by private-public partnerships. As Alabama Public Radio's Ryan Vasquez reports these collaborations not only train students in a variety of fields but, help pay for tuition and at the end even guarantee a job. (Aired in Morning Edition at 6:50 Runs: 2:00)

**September 7**—"Memories of Bear Bryant," This Wednesday will be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of legendary Alabama football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. The Center for Public Television and Radio at the University of Alabama will premiere a new documentary titled "Mama Called," on the life and times of "The Bear," Wednesday on WVUA-TV. APR's Pat Duggins produced this sound portrait with some memories of Coach Bryant. (runs 5:00 at 7:33 am and 4:44 pm)

**September 11** - Last week, the Alabama Department of Corrections announced the end of its practice of segregating prisoners with HIV. This came as a result of a successful lawsuit filed by the ACLU. Former inmate Louis Henderson is HIV positive and was one of the lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit. I spoke with him, and asked about his experience in the Alabama prison system and what the end of the segregation policy means to him. (Aired in ATC at 4:44 Runs: 4:48)

**September 13** - As Birmingham is prepares to remember the four little girls killed nearly 50 years ago in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing one woman is searching for answers. Liesa Healy-Miller is a forensic genealogist who is making a final plea for clues to final resting place of the victims, Addie Mae Collins. Collins was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Birmingham but after being abandoned by the owners decades ago no records remain as to where Collin's grave site is. I spoke with Healy-Miller about her two year search and why this may be her last good chance to find Collins. (Aired in ATC at 4:44 Runs: 4:00)

**September 18**—"Alabama Anti Racism Rally." With the sound of Denny Chimes in the background, there were more reporters than students for today's planned anti-racism rally on the large grassy park, known as the "quad" at the University of Alabama--at least at first. A grassroots student campaign was begun shortly after reports surfaced in the campus newspaper "Crimson White" alleging that two African-American sorority candidates were rejected because of their race. APR's Pat Duggins produced this sound portrait of the event. (runs 4:40 at 7:33 am and 4:44 pm)