News - Gwinnett County

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Gwinnett County Public Libraries

GCPL in Partnership with the Hudgens Center for the Arts Hosts Altered Book Contest

Gwinnett County Public Library invites area artists to turn their old books into a work of art. Participants may submit an “Altered Book” entry to any of the county’s fifteen branches throughout the month of April.

Judging for the contest will take place in May, and entries will be exhibited at the Hudgens Center for the Arts from June 5th through August 25th. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place on June 9th.

The Gwinnett County Public Library’s partnership with the Hudgens Center for the Arts was recently awarded an Honorable Mention for Arts Partnership by Artworks! Gwinnett for their collaboration on the 2011 Altered Books contest and Pulp Fashion exhibit.

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Gwinnett County Public Library Highlighted for Innovative AskGCPL Reference Service

The Springshare company recently lauded Gwinnett County Public Library, along with Harvard Business School, Baylor University, and Florida International University, for their innovative integration of the LibGuides and LibAnswers systems, making it easy for their community—and staff—to find what they need and get help. In using the same technology as other high-profile learning institutions, Gwinnett County Public Library has improved service by streamlining their remote reference interface, while also centralizing and building upon past inquiries.

Branded as AskGCPL, the new service offers customers a simple, user-friendly way to contact the library by directing them to a customized LibAnswers site from the "AskGCPL" and “Contact Us” links on the library website. Staff members also use it as an on-demand reference tool to ensure that customers receive fast, quality answers. Library management and administration keep an eye on the transactions, staying informed of community trends and requests. Tracking and examining different types of customer questions help with planning and service decisions in the future.

Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam explains, “We are fortunate to have staff who are not only innovative and techno savvy but firmly grounded in their understanding of the needs of our customers and community. The culture of our organization encourages nurturing these talents so that we are maximizing what is available to us now while looking to what we want for libraries in the future.”

The AskGCPL service may be reached online at ask.gwinnettpl.org. Text messages can also be answered by sending questions to (770)-450-5305.
GCPL Wins at Fusion: 1st Annual ArtWorks! Gwinnett Awards

Gwinnett County Public Library received the Community Impact Award for Community Arts Program and an Honorable Mention in the Arts Partnership categories at the Fusion: 1st Annual ArtWorks! Gwinnett Awards.

The library tied for first prize in the Community Arts Program category for its annual Fall Into the Arts program series. Fall Into the Arts is designed to celebrate literary, performing, and visual arts while fostering a sense of community in Gwinnett County. Through jointly sponsored arts programs, and the availability of free or reduced event tickets, Gwinnett County Public Library aims to encourage a lifelong love of the arts, while expanding the reach of the county’s artistic culture to those citizens for whom access to the arts may be limited.

In addition to the prize, the library also received an Honorable Mention for their collaboration with the Hudgens Center for the Arts in the Arts Partnership category. Both organizations worked together on the 2012 Altered Books contest, as well as a “Pulp Fashion” exhibition.

Gwinnett County Public Library Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam says, “It is such an honor for our work in the cultural arts to be recognized in this way. There are so many talented individuals and organizations in Gwinnett. We look forward to continuing this good work.”

ArtWorks! Gwinnett is a non-profit arts consortium that promotes and builds support for arts opportunities that enrich the Gwinnett Community. The Fusion: 1st Annual ArtWorks! Gwinnett Awards ceremony honors contributions being made in the arts in Gwinnett, while supporting the arts development initiatives of ArtWorks! Gwinnett.

Books-A-Million Hosts Fundraiser for the GCPL with Character Appearances, Stories, Crafts and More!

Spend an afternoon with Belle, Clifford the Big Red Dog, and Junie B. Jones at the Gwinnett County Public Library fundraiser hosted by Books-A-Million on Saturday, April 21st from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Discover Mills Mall location will offer family friendly entertainment while you shop. Enjoy free story times featuring appearances by the three beloved characters, along with crafts, treats, and facing painting. A percentage of all store sales during that day will be donated to the library.

**GCPL’s Meet the Author Series Features Landscape Expert Jane Bath at Gwinnett Tech’s Plant Sale**

Gardening enthusiasts are invited to meet Jane Bath, one of Georgia’s premier landscape designers, on Tuesday, April 17th. Jane will share her expertise on new landscaping areas and enlighten those planning renovations. A book signing for her bestseller *The Landscape Design Answer Book* will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by a complimentary lecture and questions from the audience at 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Jane has more than 25 years of landscape design experience at more than 4,000 sites including residential, commercial, and retail sites, as well as public gardens. She owned Land Arts Nursery for 18 years, won Best in Atlanta awards (various categories) by *Atlanta Magazine* twice, and has written articles or been quoted as a resource by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, and *Better Homes and Gardens* Magazine. She has been a guest speaker at The Callaway Gardens Winter Symposium, St. Louis Arboretum, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Georgia State Botanical Garden Symposium, Atlanta Historical Society, Georgia Native Plant Society, Georgia Green Industry Symposium, South Carolina Trade Show, Ohio State Trade Show, Charleston Botanical Society, and many Master Garden and Garden Clubs. In addition, *Southern Living* Magazine included a full spread on her project ‘Jane Bath is a Born Gardener,’ and she has been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* with some of her projects. She has also appeared in videos made for distribution on TV.

This event will take place at Gwinnett Technical College, 5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, building 600, room 104. Books will be available for sale and signing. The plant sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gwinnett Tech Greenhouse, adjacent to the 600 building.

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**Gwinnett County Public Library Proudly Presents Teen Summit 2012**

GCPL is excited to host Teen Summit 2012, a conference-style event that brings together middle and high school aged teens, their parents, mentors, and community organizations to explore social issues and topics of interest to Gwinnett County’s young adults.

This afternoon event will focus on social issues concerning teens with workshops on such diverse topics as online safety, safe driving, self defense, job hunting advice, teens and the law, and more. Organizations such as the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, the Gwinnett County Police Department, World Yoshukai Karate of Norcross, VOX teen magazine, and the Gwinnett Advancement Program at Gwinnett Technical College will lend their expertise to this fun and educational event.
Adding levity and entertainment to the afternoon, Laughing Matters, Atlanta’s leading provider of interactive entertainment, will offer improvisational comedy with audience participation.

Gwinnett County Public Library Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam explains, “Building on last year’s successful summit, we are looking forward to learning even more from our teens. For instance, what challenges are they facing that keep them from being as spectacular as each of them is meant to be? This summit is meant to generate positive empowerment for all youth.”

The summit will take place at Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center, 10 College Street, Norcross, Ga., 30071, April 28th from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about Altered Books, or other library programs, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call (770)-978-5154.