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Hall County Library News and Notes

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Athens Regional Library news and notes

Trudi Green has joined the Athens-Clarke County Library as manager of the Adult Services Department. She has worked for the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System in Tallahassee, Fla., since 1997 and was the manager of the Adult Services Department there for the past four years.

The Athens-Clarke County Library will be host to the exhibit "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America." This traveling panel exhibit, made possible by a grant from the American Library Association, examines Hamilton's central role during the Revolutionary War and founding period (1774-1804) in creating the economic, constitutional, social, journalistic, political, and foreign policy templates for modern America. The exhibit, which is based on a major exhibition of the same title on display at The New York Historical Society, will be on display through Feb. 16. Three programs in January and February will investigate Hamilton's life and contributions. Nationally acclaimed historical and political writer Buckner Melton Jr. will provide a program on Hamilton's life. Stephen Mihm, University of Georgia assistant professor of history, will lead a discussion on Hamilton and the history of paper currency in the early republic. Finally, Mary Ellen Brooks, director of the Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia, will lead a discussion on Georgia during Hamilton's lifetime.



Meza

The Athens-Clarke County Library recently hosted guest artist Fernando Meza, professor at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico, as part of their "Bridging the Gap" grant. Meza is a celebrated photographer and graphic artist. Born in 1955 and brought up on his father's rancho in the border town of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Meza was influenced in his work by the United States. Programs included a lecture entitled "Modern

Art and Education in Mexico," a photography workshop for families at the Pinewoods Library and Learning Center (a branch of the Athens Regional Library System dedicated to the Hispanic members of the community), a Day of the Dead program and a discussion about the "Life of a Professional Artist in Mexico."

This program series was sponsored by the Athens-Clarke County Library, the Lyndon House Arts Center and Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services, UGA International Public Service and Outreach, the Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library and El Banco de la Oportunidad. The series was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency that grows and sustains a "Nation of Learners," because lifelong learning is critical to success.

Three librarians in the Athens Regional Library System were awarded ALA grants to attend the Guadalajara International Book Fair. Kathryn Ames, Judy Atwood, and Clare Auwarter attended and purchased many items for the system and the Pinewoods Branch Library. Approximately 1,200 publishers were represented at this festival, and one highlight included the reception hosted by the American Consulate in Guadalajara.

Of special interest were the many DVDs of Mexican culture and history. This is the fourth year that Athens representatives have attended the fair. »»

Coastal Plain Regional Library news and notes

The Tifton-Tift County Public Library has a temporary home thanks to a local "angel" and an international corporation. Through the hard work of state Senator Joseph Carter and the generosity of Wal-Mart, the library has moved out of its 1913 historic building and into a former Wal-Mart for the next 18 months.

This move will make the transformation and renovation of the library's home building a safer, faster and more efficient project while still providing library services for the nearly 40,000 Tift County residents. The process of finding a building big enough, empty enough and cheap enough to house nearly 100,000 volumes was a daunting challenge.

Senator Carter, a library friend and former Board member, was able to contact the right people and make the case for the use of an empty Wal-Mart as the library's home away from home. Nearly all of the library's services are available at the "library at the old Wal-Mart" as it is being called, including all of the library's materials, Internet access, staffing and limited programming. »»

Hall County Library news and notes

The Hall County Library System recently hosted several exciting new programs. These include:

Teacher Safety

Recent events have highlighted the problem with violence in schools across our country. On Monday, November 13, Sergeant Kenny Lane from the Hall County Sheriff's Department presented a program on teacher safety at the Murrayville Branch of the Hall County Library System. This timely event instructed educators how to react in case of such an emergency. All educators throughout Hall County were invited to attend.

Doggy Tales

During November and December, the Murrayville Branch of the Hall County Library System began hosting "Doggy Tales." "Doggy Tales" is a unique program during which children read aloud to specially trained therapy dogs. Children were invited to attend four sessions. Each child was given 15 minutes on each day to read with therapy dogs Ginger or Casey. This program is especially effective with children who need reading practice and encouragement. The children were asked to bring a book from home or come to the library a few minutes early to select a title to read. A second series of programs is currently being planned for 2007.

Hunting Safety

The Hall County Library recently collaborated with the Department of Natural Resources to present two programs on hunting safety. The program was presented at the Gainesville Branch Library on November 14 and at the Blackshear Place Branch on December 7. Both programs saw large numbers in attendance and received numerous compliments from attendees. ▶▶

Ohoopsee Regional Library news and notes

Martha Francis Powers has been appointed the Public Services Librarian for the Ohoopsee Regional Library System. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Masters of Library and Information Services from Kent State University. She worked as a Technical Services and Government Documents Assistant in the L.A. Beeghly Library of Ohio Wesleyan and did her practicum work as a



McDonald

Young Adult Librarian at the Delaware County District Library in Delaware, Ohio.

The Ohoopsee Regional Library System has acquired the complete sets of both the "Dear America" and "Royal Diaries" historical fiction series for teens thanks to the work of a young patron. Lauren McDonald, age 12,

chose the library as her service project to win her Bronze Award for Girl Scouts. By writing letters and talking to neighbors, Lauren raised enough money to purchase the entire series. She placed one set in the library and worked with the library to have another set of the books placed in the Family Crisis Center for the children who are living there.

On November 14, Ms. Jackie Bell of Sandersville, Georgia, gave a presentation on the history of the Transylvania Club and the Georgia Historical Plates at the Laurens County Library.



From left: Transylvania Club members Mary Grace Kay, Mary Alice Jordan, Jackie Bell and Dianne Mathis

Through sales of the historical plates and its annual fundraiser, the Transylvania Club's 36 members provide generous financial support for staffing and collection development to the Rosa M. Tarbutton Memorial Library in Sandersville. ▶▶

Troup-Harris-Coweta news and notes

The 11th Annual Azalea Storytelling Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, March 2-4 in the new Callaway Auditorium at LaGrange College. Both LaGrange College and LaGrange Memorial Library are among the sponsors. This year's tellers include Donald Davis, Kathryn Wyndham, Andy Offutt, and Sheila Kay Adams with appearances by Jane Cunningham, Anne Hewett, and Josie Bailey. For additional information, contact Pat Gay at the LaGrange Memorial Library (telephone: 706-882-7784 x21; e-mail: pgay@thclibrary.net).

Frank Lewis, regional library Board of Trustees member, passed away on October 25. Frank had been a longtime library supporter and was director of the Banks Library at LaGrange College for 22 years before his retirement in 1995. Frank was noted throughout the community for his commitment to service including board memberships and service to the 100 Black Men of America, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, and the Troup-Harris-Coweta Regional Library board. He also helped establish the Troup Council of Aging and the Pathways Center. In 2003, the State House of Representatives passed a resolution in his honor. He will be deeply missed by all his friends in the community. ▶▶