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Georgia Center for the Book Celebrates 10th Anniversary

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Center for the Book celebrates 10th anniversary

The Georgia Center for the Book is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. And the center, hosted and supported by the DeKalb County Public Library since its creation in 1998, is observing the occasion with numerous special events in May and an exciting, new online presence.

During the past five years, the center's free public programming has brought more than 400 national and regional authors to the Atlanta metropolitan area and the state of Georgia. These author programs have drawn hundreds of thousands of people and helped establish the state as a major stop for writers on tour.

"I am extremely pleased that our Georgia Center for the Book program has achieved the potential envisioned for it when we founded it 10 years ago," said Darro Willey, director of the DeKalb County Public Library. "That it is now having such a wide and enduring impact in the Georgia literary and library communities is a great source of satisfaction."

For the month of May, the center is bringing to Atlanta some of the best-known literary and public figures in America to talk about their new books. The partial schedule includes:

■ Sarah Dessen, *New York Times*

bestselling young adult author (7 p.m., Thursday, May 1, Decatur Library)

■ Carl Hiaasen, popular Florida author of bestsellers *Strip Tease* and *Tourist Season* (7 p.m., Monday, May 12, Decatur Library)

■ Mary Tillman, mother of former NFL star Pat Tillman, slain in Iraq (7 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, Jimmy Carter Library)

■ Chris Bohjalian, acclaimed literary author and Oprah Book Club honoree (7:15 p.m., Friday, May 16, Decatur Library)

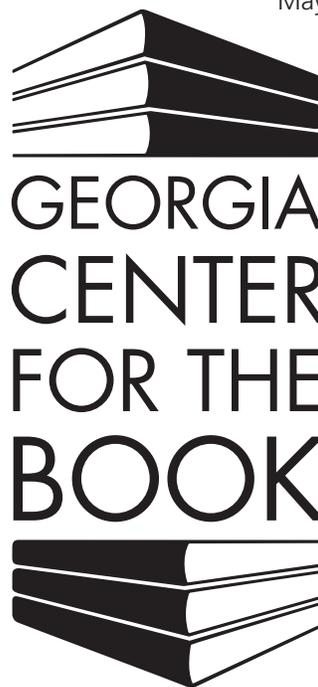
■ Barbara Walters, the most famous woman in American television journalism history (7 p.m., Monday, May 19, Agnes Scott College)

■ Mike Farrell, star of TV sitcom "M*A*S*H" (7:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, Decatur Library)

■ Dr. Sanjay Gupta, popular CNN chief medical correspondent (2 p.m., Saturday, May 24, Decatur Library)

■ Alison Weir, distinguished English historical biographer of Henry VIII and his wives (7:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, Decatur Library)

■ Elizabeth Berg, honored author of a dozen novels and short story collections (7:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, Decatur Library)



The Center for the Book also will soon go online with a colorful, new, data-driven Web home designed for the organization by Lenz Marketing of Decatur, said Bill Starr, executive director of the center since 2003.

As part of the new Web presence, he added, the center also will soon unveil the first-ever electronic literary map of Georgia.

In addition, the center will shortly announce its 2008 list of "25 Books All Georgians Should Read." With the help of a grant from Georgia Humanities Council, the center will attempt to escort authors on the list to free reading appearances around the state throughout 2008-2009. ►►