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## Cobb County Library News and Notes

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## Broderick named director in Catoosa

The Board of Trustees of the Catoosa County Library System in Ringgold has announced that Bridgid Broderick has been appointed library director. Broderick previously served as branch services librarian for the Ocmulgee Regional Library System in Eastman. She also worked with the Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library System as branch manager, youth librarian and reference librarian for 14 years. She began her Catoosa duties Sept. 1. ▶▶



Broderick

## Chattahoochee Valley news and notes

The Columbus Public Library, a branch of the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Libraries, will be hosting "381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story" from Nov. 2 through Jan. 11 as part of its 14-city national tour through 2009. The exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest and the bus boycott that followed and is dedicated to Parks' (1913-2005) enduring spirit and memory. It presents an account of American bravery, honor and idealism. One unyielding individual stood against the power of racism, sparking 50,000 people of color to force a segregated bus system to open its doors to equality, igniting America's civil rights era. The boycott was initially a one-day protest to mark Parks' Dec. 5 court appearance and to register the weariness of those who endured daily assaults on their humanity. African-Americans who rode Montgomery's buses were considered second-class, defenseless against humiliation and undeserving of basic respect from drivers and white passengers. After Parks' arrest, professors, doctors, lawyers and preachers stood alongside students, domestic

workers and blue-collar laborers and refused to board the buses. A volunteer-based transportation system was developed and effectively shut down the public transit system. The boycott, which lasted 381 days, evolved into a strategic act of faith and determination that galvanized a people who refused to give up hope. Photographs, quotes and historical text are combined in a multidimensional collage to convey the enthusiasm behind the civil rights movement. "381 Days" documents a key victory in the use of nonviolent action to empower social and political changes that influenced subsequent powerful events such as the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in in Greensboro, N.C., the Freedom Riders, the Birmingham demonstrations and the eventual passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"381 Days" was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration with the Troy University Rosa Parks Library and Museum. The exhibition has been made possible through the support of AARP, with local support provided by the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries, the Muscogee County Library Foundation, Columbus Bank and Trust Company and a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council. ▶▶

## Cobb County Library news and notes

The Cobb Library Foundation, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization founded in 2003 as the fundraising arm of the Cobb Library System, has been able to grant many of the items on the system's "wish list" as the result of successful spring fundraisers featuring such noted authors as Clyde Edgerton and Pat Conroy. Initially funded with an endowment from the estate of a Cobb resident who loved to read, the foundation is governed by an 18-member board of directors, community and business leaders who believe in helping the library system provide resources to enrich lifelong learning for the diverse Cobb County population. Funds raised are intended to supplement, not supplant, funds from traditional sources such as county tax dollars. The foundation's mission is to increase the presence of the library in the community through advocacy and fundraising. Proceeds from the Conroy benefit went toward the renovation of the Georgia Room, located at the Central (Marietta) Library, which holds a unique collection of local and regional genealogical and historical materials. This year's spring fundraiser, which featured Food Network TV personality Alton Brown, a Marietta resident, netted more than \$41,000. This will be used for a portable laptop computer system that will travel to all library branches in order to train residents in basic computer use. The foundation has also initiated a scholarship program to benefit current library system employees who are pursuing a master's degree in library science. To fund that program, a "Meet the Author" luncheon is held quarterly to bring people



*The bus company lost money every day the boycott continued. Sympathetic white riders also stayed off the buses. (Photo by Dan Weiner/Courtesy Sandra Weiner.)*



*Chef Alton Brown helped bring a huge crowd out for the Cobb Library Foundation's spring fundraiser.*

"up close and personal" with many of their favorite authors. The most recent luncheon, held on Sept. 22, featured former University of Georgia head football coach Vince Dooley. Donna Espy, executive director of the Cobb Library Foundation, has been pleased with how well the community has embraced its events, and she sees the benefits paying off in future generations, as illustrated by one of her favorite quotes, by former newsman Walter Cronkite: "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." ►►

## DeKalb County news and notes

DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones, county commissioners and trustees of DeKalb County Public Library hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tucker – Reid H. Cofer Library on Sept. 19. The ceremony included an unveiling of the designs for the new, 25,000-square-foot library and a discussion about its unique features.

DeKalb County Public Library is offering a fascinating look at Jewish literature and culture this fall with a free, five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination." The series focuses on contemporary and classic books that explore the theme of being torn between two cultures, estrangement and coming home. An orientation session to introduce the theme and books will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The series was developed by Nextbook and the American Library Association, with local support provided by the Georgia Holocaust Commission and Georgia Perimeter College. The books for discussion are *Exodus: The Second Book of Moses*, *Lost in Translation* by Eva Hoffman, *The Centaur in the Garden* by Moacyr Scliar, *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman and *Out of Egypt* by André Aciman. Samira Hotchkiss Mehta, doctoral student at Emory University, will lead the discussions. All programs will be held at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street. For

details or to register, visit [www.dekalblibrary.org/letstalk](http://www.dekalblibrary.org/letstalk) or call 404-370-8450, ext. 2258.

DeKalb County Public Library joined other partners in the AJC Decatur Book Festival Early Learning Program on Aug. 29, hosting special activities highlighting the joys of books and reading for prekindergarten children and their parents. More than 300 4-year-olds from Decatur and DeKalb County schools and child care facilities took part in the event at the Decatur Recreation Center in downtown Decatur. They and their parents enjoyed stories from author Babs Bell and storytellers Jerry and Yolanda White. Library Youth Services Coordinator Sharon Deeds says the special program for pre-K children was the first of its kind sponsored in conjunction with the annual book festival.

"Things went well. The author and storytellers built a festive atmosphere around books and reading, showing the 4-year-olds that reading can be fun. The goal was to build awareness in the community about the importance of introducing books and reading to children early," she said. In addition to stories, the children were treated to lunch and refreshments provided by the Organization of DeKalb Educators (ODE), State Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, Chick-fil-A, Kroger, Starbucks and the Atlanta Bread Company. They also received books, book bags and school supplies provided by Target, Reading Tree, Kroger, the Ferst Foundation for Children's Literacy, Georgia Public Broadcasting, Judge Johnny Panos and ODE. ►►



*Author Babs Bell (center) gets children actively involved in her story at a special event for 4-year-olds at the AJC-Decatur Book Festival Early Learning program.*