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On the COVER
The Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) 2008 Convention, to be held Oct. 15-17 at the Classic Center in Athens, will be the site of a graduation ceremony for the 20-member inaugural class of PINNACLE, the Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education, sponsored by Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS). The inaugural PINNACLE class and mentors include (from left): Mentor Kathryn Ames of the Athens Regional Library System (ARLS); Mentor Susan Cooley of the Sara Hightower Regional Library System; Lyn Hopper of GPLS; Ashley Moore of the Dougherty County Public Library; Mentor Stella Cone of the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS); Mentor Dusty Gres of the Ohoopee Regional Library System; Lisa MacKinney of the Hall County Library System; Beverly Williams of GLASS; Jill Prouty of the Flint River Regional Library System; Trudi Green of ARLS; Jimmy Bass of the Coweta County Public Library; Lecia Eubanks of the Cherokee Regional Library; Susan Stephens of the Chattooga County Library System; Ted Bazemore of the Clayton County Library System (CCLS); Colleen Knight of the Bartow County Library System; Beata Mengel of CCLS; Karen Odom of Houston County Public Libraries; Anne Bowen of the Ocmulgee Regional Library System; Jeff Tomlinson of the Uncle Remus Regional Library System; Sarah Boyd of the West Georgia Regional Library; Gina Jenkins of the DeKalb County Public Library; Brijin Boddy of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries; Leigh Wiley of the Worth County Library System; Julie Walker of GPLS; Sandy Hester of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library; Jo Lahmon of the Cobb County Public Library; Instructor Walt McBride of the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government; Guest Instructor Kate Nevins of SOLINET; Mentor Lois Roberts of the Statesboro Regional Library System; and former Deputy State Librarian David Singleton. Not pictured is Mentor Pat Carterette of GPLS. (Photo by David Baker)
This column is being written one month before the COMO conference. I hope you are participating on the GLMA-sponsored Ning, the social network where members can share conference information and discuss program topics. COMO offers a wide variety of programs, exhibits of products, services and technologies for all types of libraries and time to network. Carolyn Fuller, chair of the Public Library Division, is doing a tremendous job in planning the Authors’ Reception and book signing that will have over 40 authors in attendance.

In July the GLA board approved the Award Committee’s recommendation to establish the Library Support Services Award. This award recognizes someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library services or an employee of an individual institution. The individual must not be a practicing librarian, and GLA membership is not required. The first recipient of this award will be recognized at the 2008 COMO conference during the GLA Awards Banquet.

The Beard and Hubbard Scholarship winners are also recognized at the Awards Banquet. The Scholarship Committee members and other volunteers work tirelessly during the conference setting up raffle tables, selling tickets and sponsoring the raffle drawing that is enjoyed by everyone. The record number of raffle donations and ticket sales, in addition to contributions made directly to the association, make it possible to award a $3,000 Hubbard Scholarship and a $1,000 Beard Scholarship. Thank you to all who contribute in so many different ways in making these two scholarships possible.

There are many opportunities to serve in GLA. Plans are already being made for the GLA Mid-Winter Conference. This is the time members meet with their divisions, interest groups and committees to begin planning activities for 2009. GLA needs all members including our new members to attend this meeting. Be thinking about how you can serve GLA and plan to volunteer for a committee and attend the division and interest group planning meetings. After COMO, Jim Cooper, the incoming president of GLA, will be sending information about the Mid-Winter Conference.

This is the last column I will write as president. I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as the GLA president and recognize the GLA board members for their support, commitment and contribution throughout the year. GLA is extremely fortunate to have the administrative service responsibilities carried out by two dedicated members, Gordon Baker and Bob Fox. Their knowledge of the association and guidance make the GLA operations run smoothly. Another group of tremendously dedicated individuals includes Susan Cooley, GLQ editor, and the editorial board members. Take the time to read the page listing the GLQ editorial staff. Each one commits countless hours to our association producing a journal of the highest quality.

There are many opportunities to serve in GLA. I challenge each one of you to take an active role in 2009.

— Betty D. Paulk
President
Georgia Library Association

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A peek inside the personal library of a librarian

by Carol Waggoner-Angleton

I celebrated a personal milestone last February. Every single book in our house had a place on a shelf. There were no books in bags. There were no books in boxes. There were no “Leaning Tower of Pisa” piles of books in the bedrooms, the living room, the kitchen, the music room or the bathroom. I even had three empty shelves waiting for occupants. I could find the dictionary. I could find our Book of Common Prayer. I could find the telephone book. This was a rare and cherished moment of home organizational bliss.

My personal library is a family library that until last February belonged to a five-member active duty Air Force family. It has been boxed up and moved through seven states, one U.S. Pacific territory and Britain. It has accounted for at least a third and possibly one half of our household weight allowance of 10,000 pounds. We kept our household furniture to a minimum: no end tables, no coffee tables, no armchairs and no decorative pictures. The kids’ clothes and toys, which could have been saved as mementos, were ruthlessly sacrificed on the yard-sale altar to lower the weight allowance and keep the books. I have just shredded the last household inventory provided by Uncle Sam. Line after line reads “1 box — books.”

There are books in the family collection on math, chemistry, physics, computer languages, theology and religion. We have Dickens and Poe and Twain, Austen and Shakespeare and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. My husband is a sci-fi fantasy buff, and I enjoy any mystery with a cat as a character.

The bulk of our books are histories. There is a good representation of American, British, Russian and Middle Eastern history. There are single titles for China and Central America, mainly because I was embarrassed at not being able to help a neighbor kid with a school assignment due to a “collection gap.” Sometimes the family library became the research library for my kids’ middle school and high school friends when we lived in places with less than ideal library services.

The library reflects my career changes. When I planned to teach, I collected social studies and English textbooks to supplement my future lesson plans. I have a dictionary and several storybooks written in Signing Exact English from my two-year stint as a teacher’s aide for hearing impaired students.

Now that I’ve finally settled on a career in libraries, my professional reading has a dedicated bookcase. Ironically, now that I can no longer claim the professional collections weight allowance separately from the household goods allowance, I have books that would qualify.

Getting all the books up on the shelves brought back a lot of memories. How can I forget my grandmother who gave me my first “serious book,” The History of the Horse Through the Ages? My aunt is memorialized by a beautiful edition of Benet’s John Brown’s Body. Thanks to her, I found out that it was wonderful to give beautiful books as well as to get them. To say, “Here, you are important enough to read this book I love.” The children’s books on the shelves run internal movies of bedtimes and
I only bought the second volume of Robert Caro's biography of Lyndon Johnson to complete the set. But I will, one day, read the biography on Margaret Thatcher that I snaffled from a bargain bin and the books on William the Marshall and Eleanor of Aquitaine from my son's British history class. He took the class, but I claim the books by right of MasterCard (by virtue of having paid the book bill).

After 24 years, my library has become a professional resource and a teaching tool, my memento box, my photograph album and my walk down memory lane.

My library is proof of the wisdom of saving the books and selling the washer and dryer.

My shelving project also pointed out that I have books I haven't read yet. To be honest, there are a few I have no intention of reading. I had no idea I had so many vanity cookbooks. Thanks to these, my library reflects empirical evidence for important questions on social interaction. I can give you at least 35 recipes for a green bean casserole. Apparently, it's an unwritten rule that no cookbook put out by a PTA, spouses club or church can be published without a green bean casserole recipe.

My middle daughter's favorite book for a while was *Is Your Mama a Llama?*. We added a copy after she checked it out from the library for the 25th time. I could lose our copy of *Sheep in a Jeep*. All five of us know it by heart, but I'd have to replace it anyway. Books are the only old friends you can replace if necessary rather than regret and mourn the loss.

*Carol Waggoner-Angleton is special collections assistant at the Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta.*
Welcome to a new feature in GLQ, written for — and by — library trustees, Friends and advocates, i.e., those who love libraries! And what better person to kick off this new column than Dr. Gordon Baker, chair of the Henry County Library System board of trustees and of the Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association. Dr. Baker was a school media specialist at the elementary, middle school and high school levels, concluding his 30-year career at Henry County Schools as coordinator of Media Services & Instructional Technology. He currently serves as director of libraries at Clayton State University.

In the coming issues, we will offer resources, success stories, best practices and counsel for library trustees, Friends and advocates for all types of libraries: academic, school, special and public. I hope you’ll consider joining the organizations that support the development and networking of Georgia Friends and trustees. Friends of Georgia Libraries, or FOGL, offers high-quality workshops on Friends groups, advocacy and related topics, as well as other events throughout the year. For more information and a membership form, visit the FOGL Web site at www.georgia-friends.org. The Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association is a division of the Georgia Library Association. For more information on GLA, see http://gla.georgialibraries.org/.

We want to hear from you. If you are interested in being a guest author or submitting your stories, please contact me at lhopper@georgialibraries.org or 404-235-7134. I look forward to facilitating our communication in the service of strengthening Georgia’s libraries and helping them become more visible and viable now and for the future.

— Lyn Hopper
Assistant State Librarian for Library Development
Georgia Public Library Service

You’re a trustee — now what?
by Dr. Gordon N. Baker

Each year new trustees are appointed to library boards across Georgia. All public library trustees are appointed by local funding agencies of the library system. For our system in Henry County, these funding agencies are the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. Although in many systems, funding agencies appoint library board members at large, regardless of district, in our case each district commissioner appoints one board member. The chair of the commission is responsible for another appointment, and the Board of Education has one appointee.

As a new trustee, you have some important responsibilities, but you also have a wealth of information at your fingertips.

First, you have a library director who has an advanced degree in library science and who has participated in ongoing staff development activities to learn new tricks and trends.

Second, you have your fellow board members, many of whom have served for several years on the board. Third, you have the state library agency, Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS). GPLS has created a very helpful training manual for Georgia public library trustees. Your library director will provide you with a copy. It is your responsibility to study this resource and then ask questions.

Finally, you have professional associations to assist you in becoming
a better trustee. The Georgia Library Association (GLA), the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) and the American Library Association (ALA), all have trustee divisions to help you.

As a trustee, it is your responsibility to attend the regular meetings of your board of trustees. You cannot be an effective member if you are absent. It is also your responsibility to become familiar with your local library system and its workings.

Important things to remember:

- The director of the library is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the library and/or library system. The library director reports to the library board of trustees and keeps the board informed of what is happening in the library or system. The library board of trustees must not micro-manage the library system.

- Trustees are responsible not only to the constituents in the districts they are appointed to represent, but also to all the constituents in the county or region. You must also be able to see the "big picture," and consider how a decision will affect not only your own district, but the entire library system.

- Library Day at the Capitol each year is an exciting time when you will have the opportunity to meet with your legislators and network with trustees from other areas of the state. Be sure to attend this important event, which will be held next on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009.

Serving as a member of your board of trustees will be a very rewarding opportunity for you. I have had the privilege of serving on my local board of trustees for almost eight years, the last four as chair. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at gordonbaker@clayton.edu.
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Delighting in the written word and sharing a love of learning
by Fay Verburg

One of my earliest memories is of my father reading to me at bedtime. I looked forward with anticipation to the next installment of a tale from my copy of *Uncle Wiggily’s Story Book*. The “hooks” the author, Howard R. Garis, used at the end of each chapter never failed to make me laugh. “And in the story after this, if the milkman doesn’t leave us sour cream for our lemonade, I’ll tell you about Uncle Wiggily and the black crow.”

It didn’t really matter that I couldn’t fully appreciate the concept of a milkman. In suburban Connecticut in the early ’60s, the milkman had long been supplanted by the neighborhood grocery store. No, it was the anticipatory spirit of the sentence and the richness of the language that enchanted me.

After I learned to read and reached an age when my mother allowed me to venture further than the end of our tree-lined street, I would walk “downtown” to the public library. Built in 1904, the exterior of the building was constructed of white Vermont marble and featured eight Ionic columns. The interior was no less impressive — the vestibule was lined with Formosa marble, and stained oak glistened warmly throughout. I later learned that the Latin inscription over the main desk, *Ex hoc fonte illa quae summam haurimus*, translates to “We draw the greatest things from this source.”

The library became one of my prime destinations — along with the movie theater, Woolworth’s and the W. T. Grant department store. It was a place of quiet and sanctitude to me, much like the Congregational Church I attended a few doors away. I spent many an hour wandering through the stacks, fingerling the impressive tomes and drinking in the atmosphere. And it was around that time that I realized there were people who actually got paid to be a part of that environment on a daily basis — the librarians!

At home, my father had amassed a rather eclectic library of his own. By day he worked as a publicist for the Connecticut State Labor Department. After work and on the weekends, he ran a business out of our cellar — the Lyon Hobby Mart. He bought and sold what was termed “paper Americana.” I used to venture down into the cellar often, and he would delight in showing me newspapers, lacy Victorian valentines, patent medicine cards, greeting cards, postcards, advertising cards, die-cuts and calendars from days long ago. The collections spilled from boxes that were stacked on shelves and in every corner of the room.

The books my father owned reflected his interests. There were the obvious books on advertising and greeting cards, but he also collected books on, among many other topics, antique dolls and glassware (my mother’s passions), history (especially the Civil War), the Pilgrims and early New England (his heritage), movies, circus life, and literature (his favorite poet was Edna St. Vincent Millay).

When I had to write papers for school, I often used the books we had at home supplemented with a select few from the public library. I still have a term paper I wrote in high school English class on the “History of Advertising Cards” that lists a bibliography replete with books from my father’s library.
When it came time for me to think about college and my life’s pursuit, I reflected on my academic strengths and weaknesses and my likes and dislikes. I excelled in reading, composition and literature and struggled with math and science. Having grown up in a Victorian house populated with antiques and collectibles, in an old mill town, I learned to love history as well. I decided therefore to major in English and minor in history in college.

I was enough of a pragmatist, however, to realize that the attainment of a degree in English alone would not guarantee someone gainful employment. I thought about becoming a teacher like my oldest brother and my elder aunt, but at the time, the thought of being confined in a room with 25 children was not appealing.

So, I harked back to those librarians working in the quiet of that marble edifice. I thought about how empowering it would be to connect people with books and information. I wanted to be the person someone would seek out to help solve those nagging research riddles. I would become — a reference librarian!

Now, three decades after obtaining my library degree, I continue to delight in the written word and in sharing my love of learning with our students, faculty and community. Some of the tools of the trade have changed (e.g., card catalog vs. online catalog), but the principles of librarianship remain the same today as that June day in 1904 when my hometown library opened in its splendid, new building.

The American Library Association’s statement entitled “Libraries: An American Value” (adopted Feb. 3, 1999) expresses these principles. Paramount among them is the idea that libraries and librarians “celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners — informed, literate, educated and culturally enriched.”

Thank you, Dad, for instilling in me the love of reading and learning. It has served me well. “And now, if the front door mat doesn’t chase the milkman around the clothes post and make him churn the cream into sour milk, I’ll tell you next about Uncle Wiggily and Dottie Flufftail.”

Fay Verburg is assistant professor and coordinator of Reference Services at Reese Library, Augusta State University, where she has been employed for 13 years.

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Georgia Council of Media Organizations 2008 Convention

Presented by
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Georgia Library Association
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October 15-17
The Classic Center
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For information, exhibition and registration materials, visit www.georgiacomo.org!
Coweta Public Library partners with University of West Georgia

The Coweta Public Library – Central Library has formed a partnership with the Carrollton-based University of West Georgia’s Ingram Library and Newnan Campus to enhance educational services within the community.

The University of West Georgia’s Ingram Library held its annual Faculty and Staff Development Day in August at Coweta County’s new Central Library. Cathy Wright, director of the Newnan Campus; Lorene Flanders, director of University Libraries; Dr. Donna Harkins, director of the Early Childhood Education; and Carol Goodson, head of Access & Instructional Services, had previously visited the library to discuss collaborations between the public library and the university in support of UWG’s Newnan Center. The visit was productive — all parties in attendance agreeing to forge a relationship for the benefit of the community.

The Ingram Library Staff Development Day
“We were extraordinarily impressed with the new building, but more importantly with the approach to designing a library facility to meet specific community goals. The new Central Library reflects the importance of educating children and of providing access to materials and programs to people of all ages in support of lifelong learning. Coweta County has recognized that a facility that supports citizens’ interaction around literature, art, culture and issues of concern such as health and well-being builds a strong community that attracts new residents, retains longtime residents and attracts commerce,” said Flanders. The university library is planning a renovation of its facility to better meet the needs of a growing population of 21st century students.

Their visit provided a valuable overview of another library’s approach to planning a facility to meet specific service goals. The purpose of UWG’s visit was to learn how a library could be functional and have a customer oriented purpose simultaneously. Unlike the Central Library, Ingram Library does not have the resources to build a new building and face a challenge incorporating a customer oriented philosophy; however there was a lot that they could learn and apply to future renovations.

“We came away newly energized for our work with our planning architects,” said Flanders.

One critical aspect highlighted during their visit was that the library services philosophy came before the architectural design and facilitated the customer-focused orientation. Several questions from the Ingram staff focused on the specifics of placement of the collection, building element design, and use of technology.

Why are the classics in this area?
We focused on the natural movement of customers. When one walks into a building, it is an autonomic response to turn right. By having the classics in this area, both parents (who may be searching for titles for older children and themselves) and new visitors will be made aware of this part of our collection. In addition, you’ll notice that we have the traditional classic collection such as Jane Austen and Dante Alighieri, as well as newer classics by Robert Heinlein and Muriel Sparks.

What are the Book Bundles?
The Book Bundles are another aspect of allowing our customers to be independent but provide the library staff an avenue of virtual engagement. The idea originated with one of our library associates, Lesley Williams. Three books that have a similar theme are selected and bound together with a label that
indicates that theme of the bundle. This is virtual reader advisory for the customer short on time.

**Why were these colors chosen?**
The overarching service philosophy was to create the “library as destination.” The colors were chosen to evoke an inviting, soothing, warm environment that could engender browsing, reading, learning and discussion. We wanted an environment where people would want to intentionally gravitate to and linger. The intention was to abandon the traditional institutional feel.

**What has been the response to self-checkouts?**
Our customers love the independence and are impressed with the technology available to them at their local library. Self-checkouts also lend our customers a degree of anonymity (if no one sees me check it out, I didn’t) so customers are more likely to check out potentially embarrassing or sensitive books than before.

They were equally impressed with the staff areas. One of the key areas when designing a customer-oriented facility is not to forget the internal customers. Internal customers are the heart of good customer service. You’ll notice the colors, privacy of cubicles and furniture selection were selected with the needs of the staff in mind.

**University of West Georgia Newnan Center Early Childhood Classes**

“I can’t think of a better place to hold an early childhood education class on children’s literature than in a library, especially in the new county library, which has its own children’s room and is so well-equipped with all the old children’s classics (Newbery and Caldecott Award winners) and the newest things hot off the press. What a wonderful place for future teachers to become acquainted with the children’s books they will need to know and to share with their students!”

“In addition, I have to add that these future teachers are very fortunate to have Barbara Osborne-Harris there as director of the library, with an undergraduate degree in early childhood education. It’s the perfect setup, a marriage meant to be,” said Cathy Wright, director, UWG Newnan Center.

Osborne-Harris said “bringing the students to the library was a natural collaboration between the two entities.”

Wright and Osborne-Harris thought it serendipitous. “If you have to read, use and touch the books — not to have the book is a disservice to our learning educators,” Osborne-Harris said.

The idea to hold the college class at the library came about after Wright approached Osborne-Harris following her presentation at a local civic organization’s luncheon.

The children’s area includes a variety of seating options.
Osborne-Harris, who has a degree in early childhood education, began her librarian career in children and youth services. She studied Georgia Department of Education’s performance standards to build a diverse and retrospective collection of traditional and contemporary children’s titles. She explained she wanted it to be a teaching collection and is encouraged that the college wants to use it for instructional purposes.

“It mirrors what the children are learning in school,” she said. The library system will issue guest and student library cards for UWG students attending the children’s literature course who aren’t Coweta residents.

Osborne-Harris said university officials initially doubted that the Central Library had the resources until after a summer visit and tour were scheduled. The class was then approved to be held at the Coweta Public Library System’s Central Library.

Osborne-Harris added she’s currently in talks with university officials about the Newnan Center’s nursing degree program.

“We’re talking with them about providing bibliographic information exposure and teaching them how to use GALILEO,” she said. (GALILEO, or Georgia Library Learning Online, is the state’s virtual library system.)

UWG’s Newnan Center has doubled its fall semester enrollment this year as a result of developing more degree programs and course offerings. Several renovations and expansions are under way to accommodate the new programs and increased enrollment including the construction of a lecture hall and nursing and biology labs. Earlier this summer, some of the campus’s nonuniversity programs were moved off site to free up the classroom space. For the first time, the satellite campus has started offering classes on Fridays. The Newnan Center’s fall enrollment is 1,358, up from 700 students in fall 2006.

The Coweta Public Library System (CPLS), located 35 miles southwest of Atlanta, is a network of four library facilities within Coweta County serving a population of 125,000 residents. The library facilities are geographically placed to offer residents a primary service area within seven miles of their homes. CPLS cardholders have access to the total holdings of library system through an interlibrary loan book reserve and exchange system.
Fulton County commissioners authorize bond referendum

On Nov. 4, Fulton County voters will vote on a $275 million bond referendum for the construction, expansion and renovation of public libraries.

If approved, the bonds would provide funding for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's master plan, which includes eight new libraries, expansion of two facilities and renovation of 23 more.

The bond issue also includes $84 million for the construction of a new Central Library, with the remaining (approximately $85 million) coming from private funds.

The library's master plan was developed over the course of 24 months and included a series of public input sessions throughout the county. The plan maintains 34 libraries, the current number of libraries in the system, by eliminating leased spaces and its oldest libraries. Fulton County last issued a library bond in 1988.

“I am thrilled that voters will have the opportunity to make this decision affecting the future of our library system,” said Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves, who also serves on the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's board of trustees. “Libraries represent an investment in the future of this county, and there has been a great deal of public interest in improvement to our libraries.”

John Szabo, director of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, said, “This is a great day for libraries and for the Fulton County citizens who value what libraries bring to their community. We are grateful for the leadership of the Board of Commissioners in recognizing the importance of public libraries and to the citizens who continue to voice their support and opinions. We are one step closer to having the world-class library system we know Fulton County residents want and deserve.” A summary of the plan is available online at www.afpls.org.

Eames Scholarship Fund set up at Waycross College

An endowed scholarship has been created for Waycross College students through the generosity of a retired local librarian.

Charles B. Eames Jr., former director of the Okefenokee Regional Library System (ORLS), established the Eames Scholarship Fund to honor the memory of his parents and to benefit students majoring in library science, information studies or related fields. Students experiencing financial difficulties are also eligible to benefit from the scholarship.

“I wanted to give back to the Waycross community in a significant way. I felt the creation of this scholarship was appropriate,” said Eames. “I want to be able to help those that are less fortunate than I am. It’s my hope that...

Charles B. Eames Jr. of Waycross (right) presents a check for $20,000 to Dr. David Palmer, president of Waycross College, to establish the Eames Scholarship Fund.
many future Waycross College students can take advantage of this scholarship.”

James Willis, president of the Waycross College Foundation — which will administer the scholarship each year — is looking forward to seeing many WC students benefit from the scholarship.

“We (the board of trustees) are extremely honored that Mr. Eames has chosen the Waycross College Foundation and its students as recipients of this most charitable gift,” he said. “We thank him not only for his previous service to our community (through) the Okefenokee Regional Library System but for the many more lives he will influence through his most gracious generosity.”

Dr. David Palmer, president of Waycross College, is grateful for Eames’ gift. “Mr. Eames is a marvelous example of a public servant. He’s modest, quiet and takes great delight in serving others,” said Dr. Palmer. “He valued his parents’ education, and he valued his own higher education. We will proudly award scholarship assistance to future generations of students in his family’s name for years and years to come.”

Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, Eames was named reference librarian with the ORLS in Waycross in March 1988. Over the next 15 years with the ORLS, until his retirement in 2003, Eames was promoted to children’s librarian, was named interim director and eventually became full-time director. Although he is no longer employed full time, Eames still enjoys volunteering at the Waycross-Ware County Public Library shelving books. He also reads stories to approximately 240 children at the DAFFODIL Center in Waycross every academic year.

“Reading at DAFFODIL has had a tremendous effect on my life,” Eames said. “I will always give credit to (former ORLS director) Susan Roberts for allowing me to switch from a reference librarian to children’s librarian.”

The principal donation to create the Eames Scholarship Fund, which is held in perpetuity, is being invested and managed by the Waycross College Foundation. Earnings generated from the principal amount will be awarded by the foundation to students who meet the scholarship’s criteria and are approved by Mr. Eames.

The foundation has 49 endowed scholarships and 25 currently active general scholarships.

Waycross College has been a proud member of the University System of Georgia since its founding date in 1976. ♦

University and public libraries receive Connecting to Collections

Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, D.C., has announced that 21 Georgia libraries, museums and archives have been selected to receive the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf. The contents of the bookshelf were selected by a blue-ribbon panel of conservation experts; it includes an essential set of books, online resources and a user’s guide that can profoundly affect the ability of small libraries and museums to care for their collections.

Georgia institutions receiving the bookshelf are Albany State University in Albany; the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center in Atlanta; Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries in Atlanta; the Delta Heritage Museum in Atlanta; the Augusta Museum of History; Historic Augusta, Inc.; the Cherokee County Historical Society; Brenau University in Gainesville; the Kennesaw State University Library’s Bentley Rare Book Room in Kennesaw; the Cherokee Regional Library System in LaFayette; the Lee County Library in Leesburg; the Middle Georgia Archives, which is located in the Macon-Bibb County Library and is part of the Middle Georgia Regional Library System; the Tubman African American Museum in Macon; the Pioneer Arts and Historical Society in McRae; the Midway Museum, the Historic Dorchester Academy/Museum of African American History and Seabrook Village, all in Midway; the McDaniel-Tichenor House in Monroe; Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia in Thomasville; the Odum Library at Valdosta State University; and the Ohoopee Regional Library System in Vidalia.

“The Connecting to Collections Bookshelf provides museums, libraries and archives essential instructions on how to rescue treasures of yesteryear that they hold in trust,” said Radice. “These bookshelves, once they are all distributed, will touch institutions around the nation.”

The IMLS Bookshelf was made possible by a cooperative agreement with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) with support from the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. It is part of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a strategic initiative by IMLS to address the challenges described in A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections.

The report concluded that:

- 190 million objects need conservation treatment,
Agnes Scott library news and notes

The McCain Library at Agnes Scott College welcomed Leslie Porter (soon to be Leslie Mathews) as user education librarian. She is managing instruction, reference and Web services. Her background in graphic design and her skills in collaborating with students on instructional movies and podcasts are great additions to undergraduate library services at the school.

McCain Library also recently implemented a Purple Bike Program. Agnes Scott's college color is purple, and in support of the Scottie Green Team's push to promote alternative transportation, three bikes may be checked out at the library by students, faculty or staff.

They offer students without cars a nice way to bike into Decatur or to a MARTA rail station for a subway ride to other parts of Atlanta.

Valdosta State news and notes

The Master of Library and Information Science Program at Valdosta State University was recently approved to host a chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society. The VSU chapter was installed at the Annual Meeting of the American Library Association in Anaheim, Calif., on June 28. There was a full contingent from VSU attending: Dr. Wallace Koehler and Dr. Elaine Yontz from the MLIS Program, Emily Rogers from Odum Library, MLIS alumni Lori Lester and Ruth Hayden, and current MLIS students Christopher Baker and Jennifer Yontz-Orlando. Dr. George Gaumond accepted the charter for our Beta Beta Mu chapter, the newest chapter in more than 20 years.

Dr. William F. Meehan, III has joined the MLIS faculty at Valdosta State as assistant professor. Meehan comes to Valdosta from New York City, where he worked as a rare book cataloger and collection supervisor for Arader Galleries. He has prior experience teaching at several colleges, most recently in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University. Meehan graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, and holds a master's degree from the University of Delaware and a doctor of arts degree from Middle Tennessee State. His Master of Library Science degree is from Indiana University.

Sonja Sutherland has been appointed instructor of library science and reference librarian at Odum Library, Valdosta State University.

Two talking book centers to merge

The North Georgia Talking Book Center at the Cherokee Regional Library in LaFayette will merge with the Rome Subregional Library, part of the Sara Hightower Regional Library System.

By the end of the year, the North Georgia Talking Book Center will become an outreach center for its current 10-county service area, while the Rome Subregional Library will provide all reader's advisory and customer services. Circulation services will move to the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS) in Atlanta.
The air was heating up and school was letting out. Soon thousands of excited children and teens would be making their way into Georgia’s public libraries. Librarians across the state were gearing up for the 2008 Summer Reading Program, “Catch the Reading Bug.”

Here are some highlights from across Georgia’s public libraries:

The Worth County Library System (WCLS) had a wonderful goal and met it. The staff wanted to increase teen participation, and they did — by 94 percent! Leigh Wiley, director of WCLS, commented on how important it is for libraries to get out and go to the public schools to talk about the program. By visiting the lunch periods of local middle schools and handing out program calendars, WCLS was able to have such a successful summer.

WCLS really caught the reading bug by hosting worm races for younger children. The system also hosted Georgia Southern’s Center for Wildlife Education program. Children and parents had a great time at these and other programs this summer.

The Houston County Public Library System (HOUPL) added a new component to its Summer Reading Program: teens. Teens earned book bucks for reading. They saved their book bucks over the summer to use at the Teen Silent Auction. Teens placed bids on several different prizes, such as iPod Shuffle, prepaid cell phone, certificates for movie admissions and Blockbuster gift cards, to name a few. More than 320 teens participated in this first year. HOUPL librarians were overwhelmed with the turnout and are already thinking of how they will top the program next year.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Library System (SWGRLS) offered programs each Tuesday and Thursday in the month of June. One of the coolest programs they held was Didgeridoo Down Under. The program centered on Australian culture, wildlife and a “didg.” Participants were lucky enough to learn how to play their own didgeridoos. More than 640 patrons came to the SWGRLS to see Okefenokee Joe for his program, “Earth Day is As part of the 2008 Summer Reading Program, the Worth County Library served “cups of worms” for a snack after holding a worm race. “The snack consisted of chocolate ice cream, crushed Oreo cookies and gummy worms,” said Library Director Leigh Wiley. “And, believe it or not, all the kids wanted to take home the pond worms that they used in the races.”

Everyday.” Okefenokee Joe brought live snakes that have the freedom to crawl all over tables in the library! Needless to say, there was a lot of squirming by program attendants.

As in the Worth County Library System, Taryn Brown of SWGRLS visited local elementary schools to promote Summer Reading. She and a staff member performed skits for children and school staff to get them excited about the summer’s events.

An innovative approach captured many local teens for Chattahoochee Valley Regional Libraries’ Summer Reading Program. Brijin Boddy, head of the system’s teen department, said Chattahoochee did its entire teen program online this year. “Our goal was to try and reach beyond those teens who walk in the library’s doors,” Body reported. She said it was an interesting experience.

While the number of teens who signed up was lower, the number of teens completing the program was higher. Body calls the experience a success.

Georgia’s public librarians can rest assured that they have once again successfully enticed children, teens and parents with the Summer Reading Program.
Broderick named director in Catoosa County

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.

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 together.

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.)
“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.dekallibrary.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.
Gwinnett County news and notes

The Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) proudly presents the second annual Gwinnett Reading Festival from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. The festival is a free event to encourage the love of reading and to promote literacy in our community. Readers, authors and educational vendors join together in a communitywide celebration of reading for all ages. Activities for children include storytelling, crafts and a special appearance by Spider-Man; activities for teens include sumo wrestling, gaming and artist workshops; and adults will have the chance to meet local, regional and national authors including Rick Bragg, Carmen Deedy and Steve Martini. Every child who attends will receive a free book. For more information, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770-978-5154.

GCPL and the Buford/North Gwinnett County Rotary Club have collaborated again this year to support literacy in Gwinnett County. For many years, the Buford/North Gwinnett Rotary has generously provided financial support and volunteers to assist the library with preparation of the Littlest Reader packets to be distributed to newborns in Gwinnett County. Packets include a Gwinnett County Public Library pouch featuring the library’s mascot, Dewey the Dinosaur; a board book; and a special invitation for the new mother to visit any of the 14 branches to sign up her new baby for his or her very first library card to receive a Dewey the Dinosaur bib. Financial support is provided through a matching Rotary Foundation grant from Rotary International District 6910. “This program is designed to foster a love of reading that we hope will begin at birth and continue throughout a lifetime,” said Nancy Stanbery-Kellam, executive director of Gwinnett County Public Library and member of the Buford/North Gwinnett County Rotary Club.

GCPL is also hosting the program “Let’s Talk!” a free English conversational program for non-native speakers. Registration is not required. “Let’s Talk!” is a 10-week session designed to improve the English conversation skills of non-native speakers. GCPL has created a high-quality program complete with participant resource materials. Other benefits include meeting people from other countries and sharing global perspectives on opportunities and challenges in the United States, world events and culture differences. The main purpose of “Let’s Talk!” is to increase fluency in speaking English, to turn passive knowledge of the English language to active knowledge. Census estimates report that 30 percent of Gwinnett County residents speak a language other than English at home. Of those, approximately half report that they do not speak English well. Groups will meet from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations: Mondays at the Lawrenceville branch, 1001 Lawrenceville Highway; Mondays at the Centerville branch, 3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville; Tuesdays at the Lilburn branch, 788 Hillcrest Road; Wednesdays at the Norcross branch, 6025 Buford Highway; Thursdays at the Suwanee branch, 361 Main Street. Sessions are designed for non-native speakers at the advanced beginner/early intermediate levels. Each week a topic will be explored, focusing on listening and speaking skills. Completion certificates will be granted to those who attend eight or more sessions.

On Saturday, July 12, Charles Frazier, best-selling author of Cold Mountain, appeared at the Gwinnett Center before more than 300 fans of his best-selling books. The crowd noshed on appetizers, enjoyed an interview and reading onstage with a Cherokee translator, and then clutched books for signing in a line that lasted two hours. Frazier agreed to participate in Gwinnett Reads, a program at GCPL, to visit with his readers and share passages from his latest novel, Thirteen Moons. With a record attendance of 320, Frazier’s appearance marks the most successful Gwinnett Reads event to date.

On Friday, Aug. 22, GCPL invited the community to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Lilburn Branch in its present location.

For more information on any of the previously mentioned events and programs, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770-978-5154. ▶

Former Smyrna director passes away

Former Smyrna Public Library director Doris Morris passed away on Aug. 4 at age 86. Morris began working in the library in 1972. There she shared her love of reading with thousands of children, eventually serving as director of the library from 1982-1987. During that time, she established the classic antique book collection and oversaw the feasibility study that resulted in a new library facility on the Village Green. In 1995, she came out of retirement to serve as interim director until the current director, Michael Seigler, was hired. In 2007, a meeting room in the library was named in her honor and city of Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon issued a proclamation honoring her work. ▶

Seigler congratulates Morris at the 2007 dedication ceremony.
Bonnie Boatright retired from her position of assistant director with the Jefferson County Library in Louisville on Aug. 31. Friends and coworkers gathered to congratulate her at a retirement reception on Aug. 25th.

Janice Daniel is the new assistant director for the Jefferson County Library System. She comes to the system from the Okefenokee Regional Library in Waycross, where she served as children's services coordinator and interim director.

Coweta encourages ‘Reading Olympians’

The 29th Summer Olympiad was a cultural, artistic and educational success — not only for Beijing and its Bird’s Nest Stadium but also for the Coweta County Library system. During the games, Coweta’s Central Library presented two multicultural programs to stimulate interest in cultural diversity, the Olympics and sportsmanship.

From Aug. 8-23, the library encouraged students to “go for the reading gold,” said Library Manager Machelle Hill. Using the Olympic rings as a guide, the participants read books in each of five categories: China, food and art, nature and outdoors, sports and hobbies, and history and geography. Reading one book from each category earned a bronze medal, two a silver medal, and three a gold medal. On Sept. 4, the library sponsored a medal presentation ceremony for the more than 125 Reading Olympians who earned them.

The library’s other Olympics-themed event was the premiere of its new virtual travel program, “Globetrotting at the Library,” which kicked off with a virtual visit to China on Aug. 16. The presentation, led by retired professor Lois Manning, allowed guests to learn about Chinese culture, sample authentic cuisine and peruse the library’s collection of Chinese literature. In November, “Globetrotting at the Library” will spotlight India.

“Our goal,” Hill explained “is to embrace the diversity of our community through books, programs and activities that help us to understand our differences and celebrate our similarities. The virtual landscape of our world is getting smaller and smaller, and we owe it to ourselves and our children to reawaken our sense of discovery.”

For more information about “Globetrotting at the Library” and other Coweta events and programs, visit www.cowetapubliclibrary.org.

Uncle Remus news and notes

At a retirement party in his honor, Steve Schaefer received an impressive gift from Carol McElheney, chair of the Jasper County Library board of trustees. McElheney spent part of her summer making a stained-glass wall hanging featuring Brer Rabbit, the Uncle Remus Regional Library System’s symbol and mascot, to thank Schaefer for his 27 years of service as library director. “Carol and I became friends and spent a lot of time chewing the fat over the years,” Schaefer said. “The stained glass is already hung up and in a place of honor.” Schaefer’s retirement party was held on Aug. 29 at the Morgan County Library in Madison. More than 130 attended. Uncle Remus serves citizens in Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam and Walton counties.

Jeff Tomlinson, who previously served as the Uncle Remus system’s assistant director, succeeded Schaefer as director in July.
Fiction


This was my first foray into the world of Christian fiction, and I had no idea what to expect. I admit that I anticipated some preaching, at least a little bit, but I was happy to discover that this was not the case. Healing Stones is the story the Costanas family as they deal with the aftermath of infidelity. Demitria Costanas, a theology professor, is married to Rich, a New York firefighter who was caught up in the hell of 9/11, and they have two teenage children. To try to help Rich heal from the emotional trauma of the World Trade Center disaster, Demitria moves the family to Washington state and takes a job as a theology professor at a Christian college. She begins an affair with a colleague, and when a hidden photographer snaps photos of them together, her world falls apart. Fired by her college and rejected by her family, she becomes a modern-day Hester Prynne, wearing the badge of adultery. At the request of a friend, she agrees to meet with Sullivan Crisp, an unorthodox psychologist who comes with his own set of emotional baggage. They work together as Sully helps Demitria sort through all the issues in her life, leading her to an understanding of why she behaved as she did and a realization that God loves her and wants her to have a fulfilling life. Healing Stones is a story of redemption with a bit of mystery thrown in. It grabs you from page one and doesn’t let up, with two subplots woven in throughout the story. The characters are real and believable, and the situations don’t feel contrived. The authors deal with difficult issues of sin, forgiveness and healing, and all without coming off as preachy. This is the first novel in the Sullivan Crisp series, and I look forward to future installments. Recommended for public libraries. —Reviewed by Pat Borck

Macon State College Library

Juvenile


Baseball figures prominently in this multilayered book set in 1947 in New York City, the year Jackie Robinson, the grandson of a slave and the first black man to play in Major League Baseball, begins his Brooklyn Dodger career. However, this story is just as much the sentimental and insightful story of a boy and his relationship with his deaf father, with whom he learns about discrimination and tolerance within the framework of a shared love of baseball. While the story is fictional, much of it is based in truth, as the author’s father was deaf, and the story is
Cynthia's Attic: The Magic Medallion by Mary Cunningham

Good children's stories are usually enjoyable and thought-provoking for adults as well as children. This time-travel adventure by Villa Rica, Ga., author Mary Cunningham includes plenty of excitement for young readers: a sinister clown, a helpful Gypsy family who can read magic, a treasure hidden in a cave, a forest fire and work magic, a season of 1947 was over. But while the season was over, the memories linger, as do the lessons. Highly recommended for grades two-five. »

— Reviewed by Candace Craig
Walton/Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Head Librarian

Keturah and Lord Death by Martine Leavitt

Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers Nominee

Sixteen-year-old Keturah follows a hart into the woods of medieval England, becomes lost, and after three days, Lord Death arrives to whisk her away. Putting her storytelling skills to use, Keturah bargains with Lord Death, promising to finish her story of a young woman seeking true love if he will grant her one more day of life. In addition, Lord Death responds to her terms and granting the extra boon, much to Keturah's surprise and dismay, Lord Death states that he plans to make her his bride and shares the startling news that her one more day of life. In addition, Lord Death responds to her terms and granting the extra boon, much to Keturah's surprise and dismay, Lord Death states that he plans to make her his bride and shares the startling news that

— Reviewed by Rebecca Ziegler
Georgia Southern University

In Keturah and Lord Death, Leavitt crafts an enchanting and intriguing story about a young woman's search for true love. Through her clever negotiations with Lord Death, Keturah is granted an extra day of life, allowing her to rewrite her story and find her true love. This novel is recommended for readers who enjoy fantasy and storytelling.

Cynthia's Attic: Curse of the Bayou by Martine Leavitt

This is the second book in the Cynthia's Attic series. It is recommended for grades two-five. »

— Reviewed by Candace Craig
Walton/Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Head Librarian

In Cynthia's Attic: Curse of the Bayou, Leavitt continues the enchanting story of Cynthia and Gus, two best friends who time-travel to their grandparents' childhood from the attic of Cynthia's family home by putting on their ancestors' clothes. Another theme is the desire to know what our parents and grandparents were like before we were born when they were young. Yet a third is dreams, with their combination of eerie familiarity and strangeness — a topic that has fascinated human beings throughout history. Mary Cunningham got the idea for the Cynthia's Attic books when she had recurring dreams about the attic of her childhood best friend. When she began writing this series, the dreams stopped. Cynthia's Attic: The Magic Medallion is the second book in the series. This 50-something reader is sufficiently intrigued to go back and look up the first book, Cynthia's Attic: The Missing Locket, and to eagerly await the appearance of the third, Cynthia's Attic: Curse of the Bayou. »

— Reviewed by Rebecca Ziegler
Georgia Southern University

In Cynthia's Attic: Curse of the Bayou, Leavitt explores the theme of dreams and their connection to our ancestors. Through the time-travel adventures of Cynthia and Gus, readers are taken on a journey to understand their family's past and the stories that have been passed down through generations. This novel is highly recommended for grades two-five.
the way through the novel, culminating in an ending that makes the book a good candidate for a discussion. Recommended for public and high school libraries.  

— Reviewed by Carol Malcolm  
Riverside Military Academy

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer (Harcourt Children's Books, October 2006; ISBN 0-1520-5-8265, $17.00).  
Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers Nominee

The moon. It's beautiful, romantic and mysterious. But never before has it been terrifying. In Life As We Knew It, a meteor knocks the moon out of its orbit and that much closer to earth. This has a profound effect on the climate and the tides, and the globe is plunged into a stage of unexpected emergency. Through the eyes of one family's struggle, we see a catastrophe of global proportions unfold. In Miranda's diary, we see a 16-year-old girl whose high school worries quickly get overshadowed in the battle for survival. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of this story is the example set by Miranda that ordinary people are capable of extraordinary sacrifice, courage and heroism in times of need. The fact that global warming and subsequent climate change are part of our everyday political and social dialogue puts Life As We Knew It very close to the realm of possibility. This eerie realism makes the story that much more suspenseful and terrifying. After reading Life As We Knew It, you’ll never look at the moon the same way again.

— Reviewed by Jessica De Maria  
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System


Pete the Cat, the iconic creation of artist Dean and subject of dozens of paintings, debuts as a children’s picture book hero in this rollicking, rhyming ditty (music CD included). Children's musical entertainer Litwin outfits his hero in spanning new white shoes. Proud of these sparkling treads, Pete strides along until he steps in a large pile of something colorful (strawberries), transforming the shining sneakers. Poor Pete the Cat! But Pete doesn’t let his shoes’ new hues get him down: “Did Pete cry? Goodness, no!” Pete repeats his cheerful refrain through several colorful if unlikely fashion mishaps and concludes, “It’s all good.” The illustrations, in vibrant primary colors, pace the story in much the same way as Litwin's musical telling does. Part color concept book, part tribute to optimism, part sing-along, I Love My White Shoes is recommended for ages 3 to 7 and for library story programs. Count on an even wider age range of appeal if pairing the book with musical storytelling.

— Reviewed by Vanessa Cowie  
Forsyth County Public Library


What's the best thing about Saturdays? According to the main character in Saturdays and Teacakes, the best thing is going to see Mawmaw who is always waiting, just for him. Lester L. Laminack's story is a summertime account of one young boy’s weekly ritual — bicycling to his grandmother’s house to spend the day with her. The reader watches his trip, including his stop at the traffic light near the gasoline station where he remembers his mother's stricture “You stop and look both ways … I don't care if the light is green. I'll hear about it if you don’t.” Once he gets to Mawmaw's, tomatoes are picked, grass is cut so that the clippings cling to bare legs and lunch is made of juicy tomato sandwiches. Then he and Mawmaw make the teacakes of the title, enjoying their time together before he returns home with a basket of teacakes and vegetables. Lester Laminack's words draw a picture of the special relationship between a grandmother and grandson as well as childhood in a small Southern town. Chris Soentpiet's paintings are a charming visual telling of the story. The incredible details of the paintings, from the cars at the gasoline station to the inside of Mawmaw's house, draw the reader further into the story and help to create an enjoyable reading experience. Grandparents will enjoy reading this story to grandchildren for the story itself and its illustrations. Children will enjoy the use of repetitive words such as pedal and criiick-craaack as well as following the story through the pictures. Recommended for most children's collections.

— Reviewed by Beth Pye  
Gordon College
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