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Cobb County News and Notes

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Bartram Trail Regional news and notes

Sisters in Crime Inc. has announced that the Bartram Trail Regional Library, headquartered in Washington, Ga., has won a "We Love Libraries" \$1,000 grant award for 2010. Sisters in Crime consists of 3,600 members in 48 chapters worldwide, offering

networking, advice and support to mystery authors. From the group's website: "We are authors, readers, publishers, agents, booksellers and librarians bound by our affection for the mystery genre and

our support of women who write mysteries. Sisters in Crime was founded by Sara Paretsky and a group of women at the 1986 Bouchercon in Baltimore." Jim Veatch, Bartram Trail Regional Library technical services manager, traveled to Atlanta for the presentation of the check.



From left: Karen Kennedy, Jim Veatch, Sharon Marchisello (program chair for the Atlanta Chapter) and Celia Coker. (Photo by Justine Veatch)

Even though it was not a requirement for the award, Bartram Trail has used the funds to purchase books by Sisters in Crime authors. "We first concentrated on Georgia and South Carolina authors," said Lillie Crowe, director of the Bartram Trail Regional Library System, "and then we added books by other 'S in C' members who have been especially supportive of libraries." Sisters in Crime authors consistently make appearances at both annual and midwinter meetings of the American Library Association. ►►



Dan Crawford of Marietta (left) and Larry Brydon of Austell view military artifacts in a display at the Cobb County Central Library in Marietta on Nov. 9. The event was part of "Let's Read Cobb," a community campaign held to promote books and encourage literacy. The mini-museum was sponsored by Preserving U.S. Military History for the Future. (Photo by Erika Ruthman/CCPLS)

Cobb County news and notes

International students from the ELS Language Centers at Southern Polytechnic State University visited the Cobb County Public Library System on Oct. 7, during a research workshop that took place at the Central Library in Marietta.

"Coming here opens a window for the students," said Ann Willis, director of ELS Language Center Atlanta. "Even someone in the local community [would] be surprised by how much is here at the library."

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses range from the beginner's level of English for travelers to the master's level for college-bound students and executives. The students received a tutorial on several computer-based research tools including ProQuest, EBSCOhost and NetLibrary databases. They also received a preview on the Gale Virtual Reference Library, a collection that has thousands of online reference books.

The information is vital, according to Suzanne Kincer-Weaver, head of adult services at the Cobb Central Library, because these tools are key to a starting point for researchers. "Library staff lay the foundation on which the patrons gather information," she said.

Kincer-Weaver added that, once staff show people the tools available at the library and how to get started, the library patrons can build on that base.

Outside of her school, Cobb Central Library is the first public library in the United States that Isabel Lameda, an ELS student from Venezuela, has visited. "It's very good because we have a lot of options for research and because the people here want to help us," Lameda said. "I like the



An ELS/Southern Polytechnic State University student from Saudi Arabia, Saleh Alqahtani, (front, right) participated in a virtual tour at the Central Library in Marietta, Oct. 7. He and a group of about 15 students received an overview of free library research tools. Reference librarian Suzanne Kincer-Weaver (left) guided the group through computer databases available through the Cobb County Public Library System. (Article and photo by Erika Ruthman)

fact that we can access the Net so we can get the information quickly.”

While the ELS Language Center staff usually use the university library to introduce the availability of research materials to the students, they were required to look for an alternative this fall.

“It occurred to us that the Cobb Central Library would be a possible means of doing the same thing,” Willis wrote in an e-mail. “The extent of research, resources and the outstanding support we received when we approached the Cobb Central Library came as a wonderful surprise to us.”

Saleh Alqahtani, an ELS student from Saudi Arabia, said the library tour was a helpful experience. “This part of class helps to improve our skills, and it taught me how to research,” Alqahtani said. “The next step for me is college.”

Willis added, “Not only were we able to offer our students an alternative place to do research, but [the tour] showed them how much is available from a county library system. We plan to make regular visits [to the Central Library] to show each new group of our international students what a wonderful resource it is to residents and visitors alike.” ▶▶

DeKalb County news and notes

The DeKalb County Public Library board of trustees has appointed Alison Weissinger as acting director for the system. Weissinger took over from Darro Willey, who retired in October after 15 years as director. Weissinger



Weissinger

began her career in the DeKalb system in 1997 as a youth services librarian. Since then, she has served as a branch manager at several branches, including the Decatur Library, the main branch. Mostly recently, Weissinger has worked as the system’s adult services coordinator, overseeing adult programming, literacy and outreach services and the library’s website. ▶▶

Troup-Harris Regional news and notes

“The Peace Tree,” a Troup Arts Project (TAP) done by students this past summer, was dedicated on Nov. 6. The tree was placed in the courtyard of the LaGrange Memorial Library, which was chosen as a central location in the community. Each of the leaves on the tree was designed and drawn by students as representations of

peace symbols. Inspiration for the tree is based on the model and award-winning film on the beauty of diversity through unity by Mitra Sen. The program has spread throughout the world.

Award-winning author Ted Dunagan autographed books at the Troup Resource Expo on Oct. 19. Dunagan’s book, *A Yellow Watermelon*, was recently named one of the Georgia Center for the Book’s “25 Books All Young Georgians Should Read.” Dunagan’s appearance was sponsored by the Friends of the LaGrange Memorial Library. ▶▶



From left: board member Kay Durand; her husband, Fred; and TAP Director Rebecca Mitchell in front of the Peace Tree. Kay was the driving force in having the library recognized as the “heart” of LaGrange.