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Carnegie Branch Library
Live Oak Public Libraries

The Carnegie Branch Library in Savannah, Georgia celebrated its centennial anniversary with a Georgia Historical Marker dedication ceremony held on August 13, 2014. Nestled majestically amongst a tree line belt on East Henry Street, the Carnegie Branch Library is part of Live Oak Public Libraries.

Carnegie Library has rich roots embedded in the African American community of Savannah. Today it remains a focal point for educational programs and a community meeting space. The historical marker acknowledges the significance African American Savannahians and others placed on education and scholarly research one hundred years ago.

Since 1903, the African American community of Savannah spiritedly debated the need for a public library of their own. In 1906, black community leaders founded the Colored Library Association of Savannah. The twelve original founders were: A.L. Tucker, Julian Smith, J.W. Armstrong, E.E. Desverney, J.T. Burton, Henry Pearson, Dr. F. S. Belcher, H.H. McBeth, G.W. Jacobs, L.S. Reed, R.W. Gadson, and C.A.R. McDowell. In 1913, a petition was sent forth to the Carnegie Corporation for funding, and construction began in 1914. The building was dedicated later that year on August 14.

The building is the only example of Prairie Style architecture within the city. The regal staircase leading to the main entrance on the second floor is framed by two enormous piers with sandstone orbs on small pedestals. Narrow vertical windows with rectangular transoms are also characteristic of the Prairie Style. The entrance is flanked by two sconces with large glass globes and is ornamented above the doorway with an open book with the inscription "Carnegie Library."

Carnegie has a warm familiar feel. While small and quaint, it also offers a full array of services, programs, and technology resources many library users of the twenty-first century have come to expect. It also houses an extensive African American reference collection and remains a beloved structure within the community. Among famous visitors are James Alan McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning short story writer and essayist, and Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The library is seeing renewed interest from students, tourists, and visitors as well as the wider community of residents. New generations of users often encounter many local senior residents who freely share their stories of growing up in the Carnegie Library. They also remind younger generations how important the library was to their education and encourage younger users to appreciate the importance of libraries.
Foundation Center
Atlanta Library/Learning Center

For more than twenty years, Foundation Center’s Atlanta library/learning center has been connecting those who want to change the world with the resources they need to succeed. The Atlanta office is one of five library/learning centers in the United States operated by Foundation Center, all offering access to vital resources for nonprofit organizations and individual grantseekers. Each regional office is open to the public and provides access to databases of private funders, classes, and workshops related to grantseeking, and a collection of print materials covering topics related to fundraising and nonprofit management.

Established in 1956, Foundation Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Many librarians will recognize the organization from its print publication, The Foundation Directory, and its comprehensive database of private grantmakers, Foundation Directory Online. Foundation Center opened its Atlanta office in 1994 to serve Georgia and the Southeast.

The Atlanta office recently relocated within the downtown district to the Georgia-Pacific Center. This new location features a contemporary design with open space, high ceilings, and bright and comfortable seating. Movable chairs and tables allow for the training room to be used for large classes, hands-on workshops, or small group meetings. The new space follows the learning commons concept and is designed to promote knowledge sharing and partnership among the center’s nonprofit patrons. This spirit of collaboration is carried through to the space itself, as the Atlanta office shares its facilities with the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and InwardBound Center for Nonprofit Leadership, both of which provide coaching services and leadership training for nonprofits.

The library collections contain over 4,000 published items related to philanthropy, including books, periodicals, and reports. Items range from funding directories to academic and legal treatises to practical guides on starting a nonprofit or cultivating individual donors. Many of the library’s books are available for loan, and members of the public can register to borrow items from the Atlanta office. Foundation Center’s collections are searchable online in the Catalog of Nonprofit Literature (http://catalog.foundationcenter.org/).

Foundation Center maintains a robust suite of online resources as well. GrantSpace (http://grantspace.org) is the center’s online community for grantseekers and provides answers to frequently-asked questions about nonprofits and philanthropy, current listings of Foundation Center training opportunities, and a
collection of sample grant proposals. Staff also provide chat and email reference service for the public through GrantSpace five days a week.

Foundation Center provides support for many under-resourced nonprofits through its Funding Information Network (http://foundationcenter.org/fin/). This network consists of libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers in the United States and more than ten other countries. Network partners provide free, public access to Foundation Center databases and a core collection of publications. Funding Information Network locations in Georgia include the Atlanta-Fulton Central Library, Hall County Public Library in Gainesville, Gwinnett County Public Library’s Lawrenceville Branch, Athens-Clarke County Library, Columbus Public Library, Clayton State University Library, Mary Vinson Memorial Library in Milledgeville, and the Thomas County Public Library.

Visit foundationcenter.org/atlanta to learn more about Foundation Center’s Atlanta office and its programs and services.
Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library
West Georgia Regional Library System

The Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library in Bremen, Georgia was founded in 1973. Today, the library is a member of the West Georgia Regional Library system and the PINES consortium.

The library came a long way from humble origins. In the late 1980s, the original 3,500 square foot building expanded to 7,500 square feet. Most recently, the library went through a massive renovation and expansion project that finished up in 2012. This added 5,000 square feet that allowed for new study room spaces, a teen area, and a sort of "community front porch" that is one of the staff's favorite parts of the library. Additionally, most of the furniture and shelving in the main part of the library is mobile (leading a former director to call it "the library on wheels"). This mobility lets the staff transform space as needed for events, programs, and daily library work.

One of the things that employees are proudest of at the Bremen Library is the close relationship with the library’s funding agency, the city of Bremen. While libraries across the country have struggled over the years with support, Bremen Library has been incredibly lucky to receive consistent support from the city for its services, expansion efforts, and the many projects and programs that the library puts out into the city.

The library offers a wide variety of programming for the citizens of Bremen. In addition to pre-k story times, weekly movie nights, author readings, movie presentations to area special needs groups, and other events, the library offers a strong teen program that meets weekly. Library employees are very proud of their work with teens because this age group can be difficult to reach and can fall through the library programming cracks between children and adults. So whether it is painting book ends for the young adult (YA) section, the monthly YA movie, classes on Internet safety, or the teen book club, library employees put a lot of effort into ensuring that the teens of Bremen have a fun, engaging, and safe place for them to come after school.

Another program that makes the library a bit unique in the library world are the weekly fitness classes. Bremen Library is building strong bodies and minds with free weekly yoga and Zumba classes. Additionally, the library has a group that gets together to walk on Monday nights. Not a lot of libraries do this, but Bremen Library has experienced remarkable success in engaging the community and pulling a consistent audience.

Bremen Library also acts as part community and cultural arts center. The library typically has a
featured artist of the month and a featured collector. According to Lisa Walton-Cagle, branch manager of the Bremen Library: "Our goal was to be a community and to have that feeling. We wanted everyone in the community to feel like they belong." Bremen Library has a strong and welcoming staff. So next time you're in the area, stop by the Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library in Bremen!

For more information, visit the website at [http://www.bremenga.gov/library.html](http://www.bremenga.gov/library.html).
The saying is, you never forget your first love. Most people never forget their first library either.

Growing up, you either loved your hometown library or not. The librarian was either the most wonderful person in town or really, really mean. You walked, rode your bike, or got a ride to the library. Maybe you read the most wonderful books and had the best adventures or spent your allowance on overdue fines because you just had to finish that last chapter.

Everyone has a library story.

My first hometown library, was the Seneca Library of the Oconee County Library System in Seneca, South Carolina. The library was within walking distance of my grandparent’s house and back then you could walk all over town and not worry about anything bad happening to you. Every week during the summer I would walk to the library and come home with a new pile of books to read.

I come from a family of readers. Everyone loved or loves to read, my grandparents, parents, brother, son, nieces, sister-in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins... so going to the library for us was like going to the grocery store. When you came back someone always wanted to know “what did you get?” One summer I was desperate to find something new to read. I had read all the books in the juvenile section that looked interesting, and the librarian suggested that I look in the adult fiction section instead. I like mysteries and after looking around for a while, I happened to stumble upon The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.
After about three chapters, I was hooked; I read every Sherlock Holmes title I could get my hands on. Anything they did not have at the library, I looked for in the local book store. By the end of that summer, I had read every Sherlock Holmes story written by Arthur Conan Doyle.

During that summer I became a lifelong Sherlock Holmes fan and found that I really loved doing research, just like Sherlock Holmes.

The library story I always tell, is that I became a reference librarian because I could not become a consulting detective.

At this time of the year, librarians around the country are getting ready for summer reading programs, setting the stage to help create library memories for children all across the nation.

We always hope that it will make a difference in a child’s life, help them become lifelong readers, and that they, too, will never forget their first library.

Lace Keaton
President, Georgia Library Association 2015
lkeaton@newtonlibrary.org
As any book collector can tell you, looking at someone’s personal library can be very revealing. Bibliophiles tend to be obsessive, building their collections around the subjects they love. Anyone looking at the roughly two hundred books in my own collection would certainly be able to guess a few things about me. First, I really love art, especially European modern art and American abstract expressionism. Second, I like pulp fiction, mystery writers, and true crime, particularly the work of Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy. Third, I like jazz music. And fourth, I like vintage Americana from the Depression era up to the late 1950s, especially diners and diner history.

My tastes were not always so specific. It took years for me to hone my interests down to a select few things, but then, time and experience tend to do that. In my case, there were two formative life experiences that served as catalysts to ignite my current obsessions and, not incidentally, make my library what it is today. One was art school. The other was working as a bookseller.

I’ve always known I wanted to be an artist, even before I knew what being an “artist” meant. I began drawing when I was about three years old, and my first obsession was born. Family members watching me work with my ever-present pencils, paper, crayons, and coloring books would inevitably remark, “Are you going to be an artist when you grow up?” I would always nod: if it meant I could draw all the time, then that sounded good to me. It was about this time that my parents took me to the library to get my first library card. I remember my sense of astonishment and wonder at being able to borrow whatever books I wanted, look at them, and then go back for more. Thus began obsession number two.

By the time I reached art school, libraries and bookstores were my favorite haunts. Libraries were quiet places of retreat. Bookstores were places where I could find new favorites to add to my own growing collection. Art school meant, among other things, studying art history. While other students may have dreaded research, I loved it. I spent hours in the stacks of my undergraduate library, mostly in the art section. They had a wonderful collection of monographs, biographies, and exhibit catalogs. I loved poring over books on the work of Pablo Picasso, Willem de Kooning, Paul Cezanne, Claude Monet, and many others.

Fast forward a few years. I graduated from art school. I painted and drew as much as I could—I still do, actually. I was lucky enough to land a job at my favorite local bookstore. As if that weren’t good fortune enough, I was put in charge of the art section. I was like a kid let loose in a candy store.
Bookstore work does not pay well. Fortunately, there are other compensations. Most of my coworkers were like me: creative types—writers, artists, musicians—who loved books and loved working with fellow book addicts. It was like living in an arts colony. Better yet, all of us received employee discounts. Best of all—and hardest to believe (the owner told us he was able to write it off his taxes every year)—every employee received a monthly thirty-dollar book credit. It was like winning the lottery. Consequently, my book collection, which had numbered around fifty volumes, eventually grew to be about five hundred. It took twelve years’ worth of monthly book credits to get there, but eventually I had a collection of books on art, photography, film, and pop culture to rival that of a small arts college.

Over the years, moving such a large—and very heavy—collection proved to be a formidable task. Consequently, each move has seen my library dwindle in size, if not quality. I’ve sold off books here and there, but only the ones that, for whatever reason, I never looked at. My personal library is now pared down to the essentials, the ones I need around me. Books on modern art and artists still form the bulk of my collection. Pablo Picasso and Willem de Kooning are my two biggest influences; consequently, I own more books about them than any other artists. Other European modernists such as Henri Matisse, Alberto Giacometti, and Max Beckmann also hold pride of place, as do some of de Kooning’s fellow abstract expressionists: Jackson Pollock, Robert Motherwell, and Philip Guston.

My most treasured volume isn’t about a visual artist, though; it is a book of photographs. When I was a bookseller, Beat poet Allen Ginsberg came to town to do a reading at the local Unitarian church. For my colleagues and me, Ginsberg’s visit was like meeting literary history. Calls were made, and the poet agreed to appear for a signing at the bookstore. Weeks before, I had bought a copy of Twelvetrees Press’s new release, *Photographs: Allen Ginsberg*. The night of the signing, I brought it with me, along with my copy of *Kaddish*. I waited nervously in line with everyone else.

When it was my turn, I handed over my books. He opened *Kaddish* to the title page, asked if he was signing for me, and then asked my name. “Tom Ganzevoort,” I said. “Ah—Dutch,” he said. He started to write, “To Tom Ganzevoort,” which is the more common spelling. I had to interrupt him to say, “Actually, I, ah, spell it with a ‘Z.’” He looked bemused. “I see—very Dutch,” he said, before correcting it and dating the inscription. Then he took *Photographs* and proceeded to draw large sunflowers on the title page before signing and dating it too. In the center of each sunflower, he wrote the word “AH” in capital letters, signifying the wonder and sense of delight expressed in his poem, “Sunflower Sutra.” When I look at my books, I feel the same sense of wonder and delight in the words, ideas, and images contained therein.

*Thomas W. Ganzevoort is Instructional Librarian at Columbus State University*
Librarians Transforming Textbooks: The Past, Present, and Future of the Affordable Learning Georgia Initiative

By Jeff Gallant

In July 2014, Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) began its first year as a funded initiative of the University System of Georgia (USG) as a part of its parent GALILEO program. The initiative has focused on providing USG faculty with the support to make textbooks more affordable for their students while encouraging analysis of the effects of affordable learning projects on student retention and progression. Through a new grant program and supporting a zero-cost option for all eCore (Georgia’s online college core-curriculum) courses, ALG will save students over an estimated $9 million in course materials costs in fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and librarians play a crucial role in many of these ALG projects.

Background

For the 2014–2015 academic year, the College Board (2015) estimates that the average cost of books and supplies per year for a college student is over $1,200. The Government Accountability Office (2013) estimates that over four years, students will pay 26 percent of the average accrued student loan debt on textbooks, while textbooks have increased in price from 2002 to 2012 at a rate of over three times the increase of the Consumer Price Index.

In a Florida Virtual Campus study (2012), more than half of the students surveyed did not purchase the required textbook for a course due to the high cost. The cost of textbooks caused thirty-one percent of respondents to decline registering for a course, thirty-five percent of respondents to register for fewer classes, fourteen percent of respondents to drop a course, and ten percent of respondents to withdraw from a course. Going even further into students’ higher education decisions, a study by the college bookstore supplier Nebraska Book Company/Neebo (2014) found that nearly half of students surveyed would choose one university over another if they offered free textbooks for all four years of undergraduate college.

History of Affordable Learning Georgia

The USG has been exploring open educational resources (OER) for over ten years, including the creation of the USG SHARE learning objects repository and an early partnership with a digital learning object initiative, California State University’s MERLOT. In support of open scholarship, the Regents’ Advisory Committee on Libraries (RACL) created a plan for a systemwide approach to connected open-access institutional repositories, which led to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded creation of the Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR). Because libraries are at the core of GKR, the discoverability of open resources has been at the forefront of that service, produced through common metadata element definitions, cross-mapping of collections, and harvesting and norming metadata for inclusion in a discovery tool.

Because of these early open-learning efforts in the USG, many innovative instructors adopted or created OER for their courses, either alongside or in cooperation with these USG projects. When the USG joined Complete College America to create the Complete College Georgia initiative, which focuses on retention, progression, and graduation, the barriers that textbook costs present to students became clear. A USG whitepaper analysis of the textbook market and OER alternatives identified many factors and strategies for consideration (Lasseter 2011). The USG began a project to produce an open United States history textbook.
in collaboration with the University Press of North Georgia. That effort not only produced an open textbook, *History in the Making: A History of the People of the United States of America to 1877*, now available to all USG students and the world, but it also created a development model that leverages the editorial and peer-review processes already in place with the university system presses to ensure a high-quality product.

In June 2013, the USG began to formalize its efforts to address issues surrounding textbook affordability. The libraries were asked to lead this effort through the GALILEO initiative, due not only to the licensed content GALILEO provides that could be leveraged to reduce the costs of learning materials, but also because of GALILEO’s technical and administrative infrastructure for managing content and its history of effective stewardship and collaboration within the USG.

A pilot team of USG librarians set the strategy and goals of the initiative and identified the stakeholders who needed to be engaged. Team members then talked to many stakeholders and others across the country engaged in these efforts. To get started, ALG was fortunate to form a partnership with the California State University System’s Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) initiative, which provided a framework for both communications about and access to open educational resources.

An early outcome was the establishment of a network of advocates of affordable learning at each USG institution, including a Library Coordinator, who would provide support in finding, evaluating, and implementing affordable and open educational resources, and a Campus Champion, who would coordinate awareness efforts and advocate for OER implementation across the campus. These Champions and Coordinators are now central to OER awareness efforts; they often host campus workshops, raise awareness of Textbook Transformation Grants calls for proposals, and meet with organizations such as faculty senates to advocate for affordable learning and OER. Champions and Coordinators meet each month in an ALG web meeting, providing campus updates and collaborating with others involved in ALG.

**Textbook Transformations**

In fiscal year 2015, the State of Georgia provided funding to enhance GALILEO, including support for reducing the costs of textbooks through ALG. With this funding, ALG could build on the pilot project by following through with specific strategies focused on the adoption of affordable and open materials. As part of these new efforts, ALG created a Visiting Program Officer position from within the USG library community to help with community outreach, training, and support of open educational resources.

ALG has created many partnerships in order to ensure large-scale impact and high-quality resources. ALG has continued to work with the University Press of North Georgia and the University of Georgia Press to leverage their expertise for quality outcomes in the development of original materials as well as license materials from their catalogues for open or USG access. ALG has partnered with college stores, supporting their affordability efforts by providing software solutions to broaden students’ commercial textbook options. The initiative has also partnered with Rice University’s OpenStax College, a creator and host of high-quality, peer-reviewed open textbooks for high-impact courses. Many USG instructional faculty have adopted or adapted OpenStax College textbooks, and OpenStax provides support to these faculty individually and also to ALG through participating in-person in OER training sessions.

In a unique and high-impact partnership, Affordable Learning Georgia is working with eCore, the University System of Georgia’s online core curriculum program managed by the University of West Georgia, in order to transform the textbooks for all eCore courses. By 2016, all eCore courses will have a zero-cost textbook solution, effectively bringing down student costs to tuition alone. With over twelve thousand annual enrollments in eCore courses and expansion plans underway, the USG is leading the nation in the scale of its provision of two years of college without the need to purchase any textbooks.

Adopting a new open textbook or affordable resources in a course requires extra time and effort on the part of the faculty instructor, as is the case when adopting a new commercial textbook. Modifying or creating a new open textbook or other open resources takes even more time. ALG addresses this issue through its Textbook Transformation Grants, which provide support to faculty in adopting affordable resources by allowing for course releases or extra-workload compensation for faculty, librarians, and instructional designers.

Textbook Transformation Grants are divided into four categories:

1. **No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials**, which encompass course implementations of OER and other no-cost resources. Librarians assist with this type of project by helping with finding and evaluating resources, providing support for open-access hosting, and sometimes providing open access to a course via LibGuides.

2. **OpenStax Textbooks**, which encompass course implementations of OpenStax College textbooks specifically and involve OpenStax as a partner in providing support on these projects. OpenStax Textbook grants may not involve too much finding and evaluating, but librarians can still help provide access to newly-created or adapted materials and help find supplementary materials.

3. **Course Pack Pilots**, which encompass course implementations of library resources primarily and other materials that require copyright clearance to be within a course pack. GALILEO and locally-subscribed electronic resources are crucial to these projects. Librarians are essential to Category Three teams, due to their knowledge not only of how to find, evaluate, and provide access to library resources, but also their understanding of copyright law and copyright clearance.

4. **Transformations-at-scale**, which encompass multiple-course, departmental, and multiple-institution collaborative large-scale implementation projects. Grant proposals are double-blind peer-reviewed through a partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology’s Center for 21st Century Universities (C21U). These projects often involve more people than the other grant...
project teams, and librarians participate in these larger, collaborative efforts as searchers, evaluators, supporters for open access, and points of contact for copyright and open-licensing questions.

Each grant project requires qualitative and quantitative evaluations of the affordable resource implementation, including measures for the sustainability of the new implementation, open access to all instructional materials created as part of the project, student performance measures including retention and progression, and lessons learned from the project. Along with other benefits of the new affordable resources, many faculty have reported that these implementations also allow them to re-think their courses, considering different aspects of the course and looking at how to best engage their students.

Through the first two rounds of Textbook Transformation Grants, along with supporting OER implementation in eCore, ALG estimates over $9 million in savings for students in fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

Symposium on the Future of the Textbook

In December 2014, Affordable Learning Georgia hosted the invitational Symposium on the Future of the Textbook at the Georgia Center at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. The symposium brought together USG administrators, librarians, instructional faculty, instructional designers, and centers for teaching and learning in an educational and inspirational forum for methods of affordable education. Speakers from Georgia and other states discussed textbook costs, affordability, and emerging textbook solutions for the future, and many speakers focused on student learning, success, and experiences as well. At the symposium, David Wiley from Lumen Learning summarized this focus in his keynote speech: “For all the money we ask students to spend on materials, maybe we should ask ourselves what they get out of it.”

The Symposium’s speakers included national leaders in both commercial and open educational resources. Nicole Allen, Director of Open Education at SPARC, outlined the future of library roles in OER alongside Toby Graham, University Librarian and Associate Provost at the University of Georgia. David Ernst, CIO in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota (UMN), shared a measured look at the future of open textbooks and the UMN Open Textbook Library, along with sharing UMN student perspectives. Along with keynote speakers, the Symposium featured presentations by USG Student Government Association presidents, faculty, scholarly presses, and campus bookstore administrators. An awards ceremony was also held for early innovators in textbook transformation. All presentation materials and videos of the keynote speeches are available on the Affordable Learning Georgia website.
Ongoing Efforts

Building on these early efforts, Affordable Learning Georgia continues to reach out to USG faculty, staff, and administrators through participation and dialogue at System conferences and the Regents’ Academic Committee meetings. Events this year include a series of online and in-person professional development activities designed to acquaint faculty with affordable choices and key concepts such as open licensing, adaptation strategies, and more. A new webinar series started on March 12, 2015, with Celebrate Open USG, a celebration of open education efforts throughout the USG, featuring faculty, staff, and administrators involved in OER projects. ALG also hosted an Affordable Learning Institute for librarians on March 23 and a post-conference workshop at the 2015 USG Teaching and Learning Conference on April 9.

With over $9 million estimated in student savings through only one year of funding, Affordable Learning Georgia has grown to be a unique and large-scale effort in the adaptation of affordable resources and OER. USG libraries and librarians are a core part of ALG’s mission, and they are encouraged to share their knowledge and participate in OER projects. Librarians are working with faculty to implement open and no-cost resources from both the open web and from GALILEO and local library collections in their courses. Librarians also assist by creating reading lists, often using Springshare’s LibGuides tool to provide a usable and freely-accessible webpage for a course. In addition to reading lists, librarians at many USG institutions have created LibGuides pages that guide faculty in finding and evaluating OER and affordable resources. Librarians have also been included as part of Textbook Transformation Grants project teams, assisting faculty and instructional designers in ensuring a successful course implementation.

For more information on Affordable Learning Georgia, contact your institution’s ALG Library Coordinator, and visit the ALG website at http://affordablelearninggeorgia.org/ for more information about affordable and open educational resources.

Jeff Gallant is Affordable Learning Georgia Visiting Program Officer for Open Educational Resources at University System of Georgia Board of Regents, Library Services
References


Clayton County Library System
Events

Forest Park Branch:

Cinco De Mayo Craft, Saturday, May 2, 2015, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Come and celebrate Cinco de Mayo early by making sombreros.

Teen Zone Movie Night, Star Wars Trilogy, Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Join our Teens for a celebration of Star Wars Day, which is May the Fourth, because of a famous quote from the hugely popular science fiction series blockbuster is "May the Force (Fourth) be with you."

Teen Zone Craft, Design Your Own Paddleball, Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Just draw and paint your own design on these wooden paddle-ball games and prepare to enjoy it all summer long. Paddleball game and utensils are provided by the library. Just come prepared to use your wildest imagination!!!

DIY Teens: Wood Bug Key Chains, Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Join our teens for a really fun craft as we design our very own Wood Bug Key Chains. Choose a dragonfly, a butterfly, or a lady-bug. Whichever you choose, it will be the perfect keychain for the springtime.

Teen Healthy Eating Class with Gail Kefentse, Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Come out to our Healthy Eating series for teens with expert healthy eating guru Gail Kefentse. Learn how to make quick and delicious meals that anyone can make regardless of their cooking experience. Most importantly, these meals are healthy and will contribute to a Teen Healthy lifestyle.

Super Monday Movie! Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Do you need ideas on how to be a superhero? Join us every Monday for some “superfantastic” movies! These movies are rated G or PG.

Super Fun With Reptile Wrangler (all ages), Wednesday, June 3, 10:00–10:45 a.m. Reptile Wrangler Ken and his son Zach Panse will captivate the audience with a fun and educational animal show for all ages. Kids and parents alike will be amazed at the things they will learn about the creatures during the show.

Superhero Up! (Ages 4–11), Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24, 4:00–5:00 p.m. Join the club at the library and become a superhero. Each week, we will have a different craft at the library that will make you a super awesome superhero.

Baby and Me Time (newborn–20 months), Thursdays June 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:30–10:15 a.m. This is an interactive time of songs, stories, fingerplays, and play time for parents, grandparents, and caregivers, to spend time with the little ones.

Toddler Storytime (21–36 months), Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30–11:15 a.m. Enjoy interactive stories, songs, fingerplays, and an extended activity afterwards. Advance registration is required and it is only necessary to register one time only for the series.

Pre-school Storytime (ages 3–6), Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Join Ms. Jen for a fun-filled story time with interactive stories, songs, fingerplays, and an
extended activity. Groups are welcome, but must register in advance.

**Super Duper Book Club!** (ages 8–11), Fridays, June 5, 19, 2:00–3:00 p.m. We are starting a “Super Duper” book club at the library! Every other Friday, we will have a book discussion with a light snack. This is for grades 3-5. If you have any book suggestions please contact Ms. Jen at the library.

**Super Fun with Winged Ambassadors** (all ages), Wednesday, June 10, 11:00–11:45 a.m. Prepare yourself to see the world through their eyes.

**Super Fun with Todd Key** (all ages), Wednesday, June 17, 10:00–10:45 a.m. Todd Key is a one man juggler, ball spinning, ladder balancing, torch manipulating comedian! He will have you on the edge of your seat with his dare devil stunts. Audience members of all ages will enjoy this show.

**Super Monday Movie!** Mondays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Do you need ideas on how to be a superhero? Join us every Monday for some “Superfantastic” movies! These movies are rated G or PG.

**Superhero Up!** (ages 4–11), Wednesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 4:00–5:00 p.m. Join the club at the library and become a superhero. Each week, we will have a different craft at the library that will make you a super awesome superhero.

**Baby and Me Time** (newborn–20 months), Thursdays July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:30–10:15 a.m. This is an interactive time of songs, stories, fingerplays, and play time for parents, grandparents, and caregivers, to spent time with the little ones.

**Superheroes in the Community Story Time** (ages 3–11), Thursdays, July 2, 16, 23, 30, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Come see our superheroes in the community and enjoy some super fun stories, listen to them talk about what they do, and afterwards do a make-it-take-it craft.

**Clayton County Firefighters Present Storytime at the Library** (ages 3–10), Thursday, July 9, 10:00–11:00 a.m. The Clayton County Fire Department will read some great stories. Weather permitting, the children will have a chance to interact with the firefighters and take a close look at the fire truck. Groups are welcome but must register in advance.

**Storytime with Superhero Director Rosalind Lett** (ages 3–10), Thursday, July 23, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Let’s hear it for Clayton County Library System’s superhero Director Rosalind Lett! She will entertain the kids with interactive stories, songs, and afterwards, there will be a craft activity.

**Super Duper Book Club!** (ages 8–11), Fridays, July 17, 31, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Join our “Super Duper” book club at the library! Every other Friday, we will have a book discussion with a light snack. This is for grades 3-5. If you have any book suggestions, please contact Ms. Jen at the library.

**Headquarters Branch:**

**Sugar Blues: Kick the Sugar and Lose the Weight**, Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m. If you are like most people, you may have some issues with sugar. You crave sugary snacks to give you energy or satisfy that sweet tooth, but you end up more tired after. You also notice that you may not be at your ideal weight, you have poor sleep, or other health concerns like dull skin, headaches, or feeling stressed. If you are ready to have more energy, fewer cravings, and take back control of your life, then you don’t want to miss this workshop.

**Get Fit at the Library (Yoga)**, Saturday, May 23, 2015, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Come out and get fit at your library. Ms. Alia Cooper will offer free Yoga fitness classes here at the branch. Patrons must bring exercise clothes and water. Participants are encouraged to bring a mat or a towel.
Fencing with Anthony Dubose (ages 6 and up), Monday, June 22, 4 p.m.

Magic Night with Ken Scott (all ages), Friday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.

Jonesboro Branch:

Mother’s Day Craft Part 1, Saturday, May 2, 2015, 2:30–3:30 p.m. Can’t think of the perfect gift for Mommy on Mother’s Day? We have just the thing for you. Come to the library and make her a special card that we know she will love.

Mother’s Day Craft Part 2, Friday, May 8, 2015, 4:00–5:00 p.m. If you didn’t get a chance to come to the library and make your mom a special Mother’s Day card on May 2, you have another chance to come by and do so.

Let’s Talk Age Wise Connections, Friday, May 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join representatives from Charlie Grisswell center as they explain and distribute materials on Age Wise Connections.

Mothers Bingo, Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Join us for a special edition of BINGO. Bring your mother/grandmother or special lady to play with you to win prizes with your special guest that will be honored. Please register in advance; light refreshments will be served.

Beware of the Dangers of Blood Pressure, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Beadie Davis from the Clayton County Health Department will be here to check your blood pressure and bring an awareness of the dangers of blood pressure that is not understood by many.

Summer Reading Kick off Festivities, Saturday, May 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Join us for a community festival complete with vendors for a $15 donation to reserve your spot. Mr. Richard, composer, entertainer, and author, will be showcased as well as other local entertainment and much more. If you would like to be a vendor or performer, CONTACT: Sherry Turner at sherry.turner@co.clayton.ga.us or call 770-478-7120.

Big Hero Magic Show with David Floyd (all ages), Wednesday, June 10, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Lovejoy Branch:

Game Night II, Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 3:30–4:30 p.m. Follow the same rule as the last game night; beat Mr. Scott at one of the games in the gameroom and win a prize, lose ... and you’ll go home empty.

It Was Nice Meeting You (Teens), Thursday, May 14, 2015, 3:30–5:00 p.m. Stop by the Lovejoy Branch and tell us three things that we don’t know about you that you would like to share with us. (Did I mention there will be snacks too?)

End of School Movie & Pizza Bash, Into the Woods, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 3:30–6:30 p.m. Celebrate the end of school with pizza and a movie. Join us for this dark movie that puts a twist on some of your favorite fairy tales like Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk!

Lovejoy Branch Summer Reading Program:

Cliff Patton (ventriloquist), June 4, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
Wing Ambassadors, June 9.
The Super Duper Reading Hour with Professor Sillybones, June 12, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Where is my sidekick? June 15, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Phillip Anthony (Magician), June 17, 10:00–10:45 a.m.
Todd Key (entertainer), June 18, 10:00 a.m.
Super Hero Hour, July 2, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Sketch Your Hero Day, July 6, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Superhero Starter Kit, July 9, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
I've Got The Power, July 13, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Super delicious Ice Cream Social, July 16, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
The Super Fun Show feat. The "Incredible Captain X", July 20, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Dauset Trails (animal education), July 22, 10–11:00 a.m.

Morrow Branch:

Saturday Crafts Mother’s Day, Saturday, May 9, 2015, 2:30–3:30 p.m. Mother’s Day Craft—Make a Mother’s Day card for your mom.

Hunger Games Pinterest Crafternoon, Saturday May 16, 2015, 2:30–4:00 p.m. Keeping the Hunger Games month celebration going, this month’s Crafternoon will focus on what else? The Hunger Games! Older teens and Adults are invited to attend this monthly craft session where we make a craft straight from Pinterest. Will yours be a Pinterest Success or Pinterest Fail?!

Historical Heroes (all ages), Friday, June 19, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Riverdale Branch:

Encouragement Painting, Friday, May 8, 2015, 4:00–5:00 p.m. It’s time to inspire yourself and others. Come create a beautiful piece of motivational artwork, using canvas and acrylic paints.

May Movie, The Boxtrolls, Saturday, May 9, 2015, 2:30–4:00 p.m. Come enjoy popcorn and a movie.

Yay! Summer Break is Here, May 22, 2015, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Kick off your summer days by coming to make a pinwheel that you can play with all summer.

Have a Cool Summer Whale Art, Friday, May 29, 2015, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Using canvas and acrylic paints. Come make your space cool with this three panel modern and cool whale art.

Clayton County Library System’s Branches’ addresses and phone numbers:
Website: www.claytonpl.org

Forest Park Branch
4812 West Street
Forest Park, GA 30297
Phone: 770.347.0160

Headquarters Branch
865 Battle Creek Road
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
Phone: 770.473.3850

Jonesboro Branch
124 Smith Street
Jonesboro, GA 30236
Phone: 770.478.7120

Lovejoy Branch
1721 McDonough Road
Hampton, GA 30228
Phone: 770.472.8129

Morrow Branch
6225 Maddox Road
Morrow, GA 30260
Phone: 404.366.7749

Riverdale Branch
420 Valley Hill Road SW
Riverdale, GA 30274
Phone: 770.472.8100
Gwinnett County Public Library

Book Discussion with Bestselling Author Charles Martin

Gwinnett County Public Library will host bestselling author Charles Martin for a book discussion and signing on June 3 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Books For Less in Buford.

Martin will discuss *Water from My Heart*, his breathtaking novel of love and redemption.

Charles Martin is a *New York Times* bestselling author of ten previous novels, including his most recent book, *A Life Intercepted*. His works are available in seventeen languages. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida with his wife and their three sons.

Books will be available for purchase and signing. Books For Less is located at 2815 Buford Dr. NE #108, Buford, GA 30519. Event Link: [http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/charles-martin-author-talk](http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/charles-martin-author-talk)

Grammy-Winning Artist Kimberly Schlapman of Little Big Town Vocal Group on National Tour to Promote her New Cookbook!

Gwinnett County Public Library welcomes Grammy award-winning artist of Little Big Town, and host of Kimberly’s Southern Kitchen, Kimberly Schlapman for a cookbook signing on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center.

Titled *Oh Gussie!*, the cookbook features Southern style comfort foods, such as chicken and dumplings, Georgia peach salsa, onion rings with hot ranch dip, and big batch banana pudding. Raised in Georgia, Schlapman draws on her Southern roots to create authentic and delicious recipes.

Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of Eagle Eye Bookshop. The Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center is located at 10 College St., Norcross, GA 30071. Event Link: [http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/kimberly-schlapman-little-big-town-cookbook-signing](http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/kimberly-schlapman-little-big-town-cookbook-signing)

Free Writer’s Workshop at GCPL Featuring Middle Grade and Young Adult Literature

Join bestselling teen and YA authors Vicky Alvear Shecter and Laurel Snyder for a free writer’s workshop on May 2 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Five Forks branch library.
Writers are encouraged to bring their own work for feedback as the workshop offers an opportunity for critique as time allows.

Vicky Alvear Shecter is the award-winning author of *Curses and Smoke*, *Cleopatra’s Moon*, *Hades Speaks! A Guide to the Underworld by the Greek God of the Dead*, and other books about the ancient world and mythology.

Laurel Snyder, a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, is the author of five novels for children including *Bigger than a Bread Box*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Any Which Wall*, *Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains OR The Search for a Suitable Princess*, and *Seven Stories Up*.

The Five Forks branch library is located at 2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd., Lawrenceville, GA 30044. Event Link: [http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/writers-workshop](http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/writers-workshop)

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**Berry Signed Copies of The Patriot Threat**

*New York Times* and #1 internationally bestselling author Steve Berry lead a book discussion and signing for his latest thriller *The Patriot Threat* at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center on April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

*The Patriot Threat* is the tenth adventure in the Cotton Malone series that follows a former Justice Department operative who can’t seem to stay out of trouble.

Berry’s books have been translated into forty languages with nineteen million copies in fifty-one countries. They consistently appear in the top echelon of the *New York Times, USA Today*, and Indie bestseller lists. The program was free and open to the public. Event link: [http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/steve-berry-bestselling-author](http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/steve-berry-bestselling-author)

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**Scottoline Discussed and Signed Copies of Her Latest Thriller Every Fifteen Minutes**

Gwinnett County Public Library welcomed back bestselling author Lisa Scottoline to the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center on April 16 at 7 p.m. for a book discussion and signing for her latest thriller *Every Fifteen Minutes*.

Scottoline is a *New York Times* bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author of twenty-two novels. She has thirty million copies of her books in print in the United States, and she has been published in thirty-five countries. Free and open to the public, books were available for purchase and signing by Books for Less. Event link: [http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/lisa-scottoline-book-signing-and-talk](http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/lisa-scottoline-book-signing-and-talk)
Woods Signed Copies of *Hot Pursuit*

*New York Times* bestselling author Stuart Woods returned to Gwinnett for a book discussion and signing for *Hot Pursuit* on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton Mill branch library.

*Hot Pursuit* features the return of Stone Barrington who is back for a new and exciting adventure.

Stuart is a Georgia native who graduated from UGA and has published over thirty books to the great appreciation of his many fans.

The program was free and open to the public. Books were available for purchase and signing through Eagle Eye Bookshop. The Hamilton Mill branch library is located at 3690 Braselton Highway, Dacula, GA 30019. Event link: [http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/stuart-woods-book-talk-and-signing](http://www.gwinnettpl.org/event/stuart-woods-book-talk-and-signing)

Isabel Wilkerson Discussed Her Award-Winning Book *The Warmth of Other Suns*

Georgia Gwinnett College, in partnership with Gwinnett County Public Library, welcomed National Book Critics Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson to the GGC Student Center on April 2 at 2 p.m.


Wilkerson won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for her reporting as Chicago bureau chief of the *New York Times*. The award made her the first African American woman in the history of American journalism to win a Pulitzer Prize and the first African American to win for individual reporting. Books were available for purchase and signing.

Coben Discussed and Signed Copies of His Latest Thriller *The Stranger*

Gwinnett County Public Library, in partnership with Books For Less of Buford, welcomed internationally bestselling author Harlan Coben to Books for Less on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. for a book discussion and signing for his latest thriller *The Stranger*. 
With over sixty million books in print worldwide, Coben’s last seven novels have debuted #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Coben is also a winner of the Edgar, Shamus, and Anthony Awards, respectively. Free and open to the public, books were available for purchase and signing. Event link: [http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/harlan-coben-author-visit-and-signing](http://www.gwinnetpl.org/event/harlan-coben-author-visit-and-signing)

For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library, visit the website at [http://www.gwinnetpl.org/](http://www.gwinnetpl.org/)
Kennesaw State University

The Sturgis Library had Kennesaw State University (KSU) Professor Albert Slomovitz as the guest speaker for Black History Month.

Dr. Slomovitz’s lecture was “Words of Hate and Words of Love.” He challenged the audience to discover and process the words or ideologies that shape our lives.

The Johnson Library helped to celebrate “Geek Week,” March 10-14. Aaron Wimer, Head of Reference and Outreach, did a talk on “The History of MMOs” (Massively multiplayer online games).

Professor Julia Brock of the KSU Department of Museums, Archives, and Rare Books was the guest speaker at the Sturgis Library Women’s History Month event. Dr. Brock’s topic was “Beyond Rosie: A Documentary History of Women and World War II.”

Chris Sharpe, Sturgis Library Government Documents Librarian, was accepted into the Teacher Track of the 2015 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Immersion Program to be held at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington from August 2–7, 2015.
Oglethorpe University

Oglethorpe University received a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council to fund a collaborative program involving the library, museum, and science faculty entitled Time is an Illusion: Revisiting Einstein’s Theories of Relativity.

The program celebrates the one hundredth anniversary of Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Featured in the semester long series of events is a museum exhibit of an original document—The Experimental Confirmation of the General Theory of Relativity—written by Einstein. Programs all focus on linking sciences and the liberal arts and include a keynote lecture by Dr. Mark Bauerlein of Emory University, a film series featuring Einstein with Oglethorpe faculty Dr. Mike Rulison and Dr. John Cramer leading a post film discussion, an astronomy evening with April Whitt of Fernbank Science Center, and a breakfast with lecture on the nature of time. The book discussion series used Dr. Alan Lightman’s Einstein’s Dreams as the focus. This collaborative project among three divisions of the university has been well attended, making the planning and execution of the events even more rewarding.
University of North Georgia

University of North Georgia (UNG) Special Collections and Archives is now the home to the Bella Lynn Collection. Isabella Lynn moved to Dahlonega in the late 1970s after retiring from the United States Air Force. During her years in Dahlonega, she worked alongside Madeleine Anthony, researching the buildings in downtown Dahlonega. Bella’s research was instrumental in Dahlonega’s listing with the National Register of Historic Places. Her collection showcases her research for the National Register. The collection includes handwritten index cards detailing the history of the lots surrounding Dahlonega’s public square, files on the buildings around the square used for writing walking tours of downtown, and materials related to the preservation of buildings, such as the Holly Theater. The collection is approximately six linear feet of materials and is slated to open for research this summer.

UNG Special Collections and Archives include university archives, rare and special books, and manuscript collections related to Northeast Georgia, Appalachia, the military, Asian and Latin American studies, local manufacturing, and the poultry industry. The collections are located in the libraries on the Dahlonega and Gainesville campuses. Collections are available for research Monday through Thursday by appointment only. Collections include the J.C. Barnes collection, the Oconee Historical Society Collection, the Alumni collection, and student publications from Gainesville State College and North Georgia College and State University.

In addition to a growing Special Collections and Archives, the University of North Georgia’s Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository (NOIR) is now a part of the Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR). The Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository is a central exchange for scholarship and creative work contributed by the students, faculty, and staff of the university. Included in NOIR are journals, special collections materials, electronic theses and dissertations, as well as articles published by faculty, staff, and students at UNG. The Georgia Knowledge Repository is a GALILEO initiative that features the scholarship of participating institutions and make it accessible. You can access NOIR at http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/.

For more information about UNG Libraries go to http://www.ung.edu/libraries/.
University of West Georgia

The Special Collections and Interlibrary Loan departments at the University of West Georgia’s Ingram Library are pleased to announce a new resource sharing initiative between the two departments. Select printed materials from Special Collections are now available for loan to institutions who can meet our borrowing specifications.

Named for the college’s first librarian, the Annie Belle Weaver Special Collections holds nearly 5,000 linear feet of archival materials and over 6,000 printed items dating from the sixteenth century to present. The majority of the printed materials in Special Collections were donated as gifts, including several personal libraries. Notable holdings include the David Hooks collection, a 1,600-volume library from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries covering subjects such as life after death, extra sensory perception, out-of-body experiences, and altered states of consciousness; the approximately 1,700-volume collection of Ingo Swann, a New York artist and psychic who both wrote and collected works in parapsychology; the library of the university’s first president, Irvine S. Ingram, containing 123 volumes; and the 83-volume library from Anne G. Ingram of nineteenth and twentieth century American and English children’s literature.

Blynne Olivieri, Head of Special Collections, Angela Mehaffey, Interlibrary Loan Manager, and Margot Davis, Document Delivery Assistant, are pleased to have the opportunity to expand resource sharing between our institution and others. More information on Special Collections may be found at http://westga.edu/special, and our lending policy is available at http://libguides.westga.edu/interlibraryloan.

Atlanta’s Oakland Cemetery: An Illustrated History and Guide, co-authored by Ren and Helen Davis, offers a well researched look at Atlanta’s most historical cemetery. Ren Davis is a native of Atlanta and his knowledge of Atlanta history as well as its culture is evident throughout. Equally evident is the authors’ past experience with writing travel books as this volume can be read as a travel book, complete with nicely mapped walking tours. With its large numbers of beautifully done photographs, this volume would make for a nice coffee table book as well.

Although the book is not meant to be a comprehensive history of the cemetery, it provides a well-rounded discussion of the cemetery from its founding in 1850, a history of Oakland’s place in the rural garden cemetery movement, and introduces the reader to its funerary art and architecture. The authors do a good job of illustrating how the layout of the cemetery mirrors in many ways the history of Atlanta both as a southern and formerly segregated city and as a city that has risen from the destruction of civil war. There are detailed discussions of the separate sections of the cemetery set aside for African Americans, confederate soldiers, and for the Jewish population of Atlanta.

The book is divided into four chapters. The first two chapters cover the cemetery’s history and the rural garden cemetery movement. The third chapter makes up the bulk of the book and includes walking tours of each of the nine sections of cemetery from the original six acres to Potters’ Field, to the area referred to as Hogpen Corner and Greenhouse Valley. Each walking tour provides a very brief history of the section of the cemetery covered as well as a map of, photos of, and descriptions of notable inhabitants and structures within each section. Photos, both archival and contemporary, are interspersed throughout the book highlighting funerary symbolism, epitaphs, the people of historical importance buried within the cemetery, and funerary art and architecture in Oakland. The fourth and final chapter attempts to explain the importance of the cemetery as a gathering place more akin to a public park than a cemetery to the population of Atlanta with descriptions of some of the events, festivals, and races that are held in the cemetery every year. The book is finished with three appendices on funerary symbols found in the cemetery, a map of the cemetery broken down by numerical sections for burial records research, and, finally, a list of state and city leaders buried in the cemetery.

This book is recommended for both public and academic libraries or for anyone interested in funerary art or architecture, the history of rural garden cemeteries, and the history of Atlanta and the neighborhoods surrounding Oakland cemetery.

Kimberly M. Boyd is Research & Instruction Librarian at Brenau University
A Church, a School: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Civil Rights Editorials from the Atlanta Constitution

The University of South Carolina offers the contemporary reader more than a simple reissue of Ralph McGill’s 1959 Pulitzer Prize-winning A Church, a School in its current Southern Classic Series imprint.

McGill’s role in the American Civil Rights Movement is unique but often forgotten. Rather than participating in marches or offering fiery speeches, McGill wrote for southern whites about a glut of issues in which he would sprinkle anti-segregation and pro-integration rhetoric. Already influential locally as a reporter and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, his reach expanded nationally once his column entered syndication. McGill was able to affect more whites (whom he believed to be largely sympathetic to the Civil Rights struggle, even if for self-serving reasons) than any other white writer, and he supplemented African American leaders who spoke to African American audiences and more liberal whites.

Dr. Angie Maxwell, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Diane D. Blair, Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Arkansas, begins the reprint of A Church, a School with a succinct but highly detailed and well-researched introduction to McGill and his writing. Even more importantly for the reader, she incorporates annotations of the collected essays, intertwining them into her biography of McGill.

The only drawback of the expanded and reprinted A Church, a School is the lack of context for contemporary readers of McGill’s essays. Notes on the actual essays would have proved very useful, similar to the value of Maxwell’s introduction. Even those readers who are very familiar with the individual tragedies of the American Civil Rights Movement, such as the 1958 Atlanta synagogue bombing, would benefit from notes providing a clearer context. Basic notes simply identifying court cases, events, and persons would be very welcome. The collection, existing as a time capsule of Civil Rights commentary of the day, loses some of its impact with the lack of context that McGill’s original readers would have had in 1959.

As a collection of readings to supplement other texts (perhaps in a high school or college course), A Church, a School proves most useful. Reading straight through the essays is difficult not only due to the lack of context but also because they were not originally planned as a single volume. Although they were compiled in 1959 after McGill’s Pulitzer win, they first appeared as newspaper columns and were thus a series of individual works that one would have read over the course of a year.

For those libraries that already own a copy of the 1959 A Church, a School, the current reprint is well worth the low list price—truly, the
introductory essay alone is worth the purchase. For those institutions (academic, school or public) that never purchased the original—especially those in Atlanta or the American South—this small, pleasantly-printed volume will be a great addition. As an introduction to Ralph McGill and his role in the American Civil Rights Movement, it also succeeds.

Eli Arnold is Reference Librarian at Oglethorpe University
In 1875, Anna Dickinson, a popular speaker in the North on Abolition and women’s rights, made her first speaking tour of the South. With the speaking circuit dwindling in the North, this tour afforded her a new audience and source of income, along with material for possible future speeches and writings.

During her travels, Dickinson visited penitentiaries, former prison camps, state capitols, and schools, observed the simple homes of many of the people, and occasionally visited the homes of well-to-do white people. She recorded her impressions in four letters home to her mother, published here for the first time.

These letters offer fascinating insights into how the South was rebuilding after the war, and how it was navigating a new world where blacks and whites were, in theory, to be treated equally in public life. Dickinson describes uproar when federal law is obeyed and black people are offered theatre tickets or hotel rooms. She is very impressed by Savannah, with its “exhaustless beauty of trees in double rows,” but on her way to the cemetery, notes that “the negroes have got themselves little truck patches and put up for themselves cabins and bits of houses” because it is harder for them to have their own land in Georgia than in South Carolina or Virginia, due to the effort to keep large properties intact.

Blacks were still living in terrible poverty, and many whites were also struggling. Dickinson generally regards the white southerners she encounters on her travels with disdain, even disgust. She presents them as generally ignorant, lacking ambition, and unwilling to take any responsibility for the war. Of rural North Carolina, Dickinson writes that the people “were the most utterly helpless, ignorant, “lousy” degraded, nerveless, limp, slimpsy….yet in many cases vicious” people she had ever seen. However, she is also condescending about black southerners. Indeed, the book reveals a great deal about racial attitudes in 1875. Though a lifelong abolitionist, even Dickinson has a patronizing view of the freed slaves, calling them “darkies” and, in trying to convey their speech patterns, she sometimes drifts into what now seems like insulting parody.

Of course, as an ardent supporter of the Union, Dickinson brought her own feelings about the Civil War to her writing. Some of her most poignant descriptions are of the Civil War sites she toured, such as the horrific prisoner of war camp at Salisbury, NC: “...for all my life to come...I shall see those awful long lines of [burial] trenches that epitomize so much of the satanic cruelty...on the one side, so much of super human faithfulness...on the other.”

The lengthy introduction to the book is invaluable. It provides a biography of Dickinson, background information, and historical context, so the reader encounters the letters with a clear
understanding of their place in history. The editor, Matthew J. Gallman, also offers insight into the work of a historian, and discusses how the letters can be used.

Recommended for high school students and older, and general readers, this engrossing and educational book would be a good entry point into discussions of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Deborah Stanley is Libraries Web Editor, German/Slavic Studies Bibliographer, and Reference Librarian at University of Georgia Libraries.