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## Chattahoochee Valley News and Notes

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## Athens Regional Library news and notes

The Public Library Association Awards Committee has selected the Athens-Clarke County Library for its 2007 Highsmith Award for Innovation. The Athens Library was selected for its Pinewoods Program and the partnerships the library has formed throughout the Athens community. The award and a \$2,000 check will be presented to Kathryn Ames, Director, at the President's Dinner during ALA. The Athens Library opened a branch facility in a Latino mobile home park. The branch includes 12 public computers, a large bilingual collection of materials, an art program and adult education programs — including ESL and Plaza Comunitaria — and provides a wide range of public programming. Partnerships include such diverse groups as the Lyndon House Arts Center, the Mexican Consulate, the College of Education at UGA, volunteer tutors from the community, International Public Service and Outreach, the local hospitals and medical services and local churches. The program has been a model for replication for several other library systems in the Southeast and was funded with an IMLS grant and local funding. ►►

## Chattahoochee Valley news and notes

On Thursday, December 7, Lyn Seaman and Patty Chamberlain hosted the MCSD Pre-K coordinators and families at an interactive movie night at the Columbus Public Library. Debbie Perkins, Muscogee County School District Pre-K coordinator, worked with other Pre-K coordinators to get the publicity to families and provided popcorn and drinks for all participants. The hope was to get about 40 families to participate in this new event, but as it turned out, the auditorium was overflowing with over 150 people in attendance. The evening was filled with stories, 10-minute short movies of Arthur, questions about the movie to engage parents and children, songs and door prizes.

"Arthur Gets Lost" and "Arthur Cleans Up" were the two short movies chosen. They led into a question-and-answer time for the audience. One answer had the entire auditorium in applause. The question was "What do you think you can do to keep from getting lost in places?" A 4-year-old little boy proudly stood up and spoke in a loud and clear voice and said, "Always stay with your parents, they love you enough to keep you safe." Lyn and Patty structured the evening to include movement, singing, play acting and interactive storytelling to make the experience worthwhile for the children and parents. Amid puppets, popcorn and Pepsi, short movies, and give-a-ways of books and READ posters, the library's auditorium

was full of laughter and connections between parents and children. Other similar events are being planned, including a program on fitness and nutrition.

On January 4, the Columbus Public Library began a 12-month series based on the topic of Worldviews. This series was the creation of Muscogee County Library board member Sherrod Taylor, based on an article in the *Review of General Psychology*, 2004, Vol. 8 no. 1, 3-58, "The Psychology of Worldviews" by Mark E. Koltko-Rivera. According to Koltko-Rivera, "Worldviews are sets of beliefs and assumptions about physical and social reality that may have powerful effects on cognition and behavior." This statement is the foundation for the series, intended to promote understanding and compassion. Each session of the series will be held the first Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. ►►

## Chestatee Regional Library news and notes

On Saturday, February 3, 2007, 50 aspiring children's book authors from across the state gathered at Dawson County Library for a free workshop on writing and marketing children's books. The workshop was presented by Lola Schaefer, author of more than 200 children's books. Ms. Schaefer shared her invaluable knowledge on how to break into the children's book industry, how to submit a manuscript, how to determine if your idea is marketable, the craft of writing, revision, and how to manage a writer's life.

Because of her background as an elementary classroom teacher for 18 years, Lola authors early-reader biographies and books about the natural world for the school/ library market. She visits many elementary and middle school classrooms each year, both as an author-in-residence and as a writing consultant. Lola has been an impassioned presenter for more than 20 years. Today she combines the understandings of current educational research with sound writing techniques so that teachers and students can immediately experience the benefits of successful writing communities in their classrooms (from <http://www.lolaschaefer.com/visits.html>).



Schaefer

Response was so overwhelming that a "second chance" workshop was scheduled for Saturday, March 10. ►►