

10-1-2008

Chattahoochee Valley News and Notes

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Recommended Citation

(2008) "Chattahoochee Valley News and Notes," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 45: Iss. 3, Article 15.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol45/iss3/15>

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Broderick named director in Catoosa

The Board of Trustees of the Catoosa County Library System in Ringgold has announced that Bridgid Broderick has been appointed library director.

Broderick previously served as branch services librarian for the Ocmulgee Regional Library System in Eastman. She also worked with the Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library System as branch manager, youth librarian and reference librarian for 14 years. She began her Catoosa duties Sept. 1. ▶▶



Broderick

Chattahoochee Valley news and notes

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

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

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

Cobb County Library news and notes

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



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