

2016 PINNACLE class includes 22 librarians

Georgia Public Library Service has selected 22 Georgia librarians to participate in the 2015-2016 PINNACLE, the agency's comprehensive leadership program. "By providing carefully designed training on numerous important and library-specific topics, PINNACLE is instrumental in our effort to prepare many talented individuals to take the next step in their careers and become our future public library leaders," said State Librarian **Julie Walker**.

Working with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, another unit of the University System of Georgia, GPLS designed and held the first Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education in 2007. More than half of PINNACLE's graduates have gone on to serve as library system directors.

Members of the 2015-2016 class include **Pauline Abbide**, director of the Dougherty County Public Library; **Alexandra Beswick**, central region manager for the Cobb County Public Library System; **Elaine Black**, director of youth services for GPLS; **Katie Burnett**, branch manager of Chattahoochee Valley Libraries' North Columbus branch; **Leslie Clark**, branch manager for the Gwinnett County Public Library; **Kristin Eberhart**, outreach services manager for the Augusta-Richmond

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Staff



529 finale

Thanks to his participation in this year's Path2College 529 Plan Sweepstakes, Joshua Cornett won \$5,529 for his future education, and his home library — the Gwinnett County Public Library's (GCPL) Duluth branch — received \$1,529 to support its children's materials and programming. Mitch Seabaugh, director of the state's Path2College 529 Plan, presented checks to this year's library sweepstakes grand-prize winners at Sept. 1 ceremonies at Chattahoochee Elementary School in Duluth. From left are Seabaugh; Joshua with mother Amy, sister Kylie and father Bryan; Orlando Jordan, Duluth branch manager; and Liz Forster, GCPL deputy director. This year's regional \$1,529 winners were Kendall Harris of Conyers, Katelyn Atkins of Richmond Hill, Tayshaun Dunning of Sparks and Jaedyn Bryant of Loganville.

Staff



Home Run 'Read-In'

Much fun was had before the Atlanta Braves' Sept. 20 game as team members, Homer the mascot, and State Librarian Julie Walker joined to help more than 200 children celebrate the Home Run Readers program with a game-filled "Read-In" on the Turner Field patio. "H-O-M-E-R" bingo and raffle prizes included Braves bobbleheads, caps and t-shirts, along with photos, caps and baseballs autographed by several Braves players, including all-star first baseman and Home Run Readers spokesman Freddie Freeman. In a pregame interview on the stadium's jumbotron, Walker and catcher Ryan Lavarway talked about the benefits of reading before the Braves' 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. Front row (from left) are Kerry Wingate of Ludowici with children Brady, Gracie and Trip; and Pharoah Glenn of Atlanta. Back row are Jennifer Cross of Perry; Lavarway; Justin McCord of Hampton; Levi Holland and Ben Gleason of Rome; Braves pitcher Andrew McKirhan; and Walker.

PINNACLE

Continued from page 1

County Library System; **Denise Funk**, principal librarian for DeKalb County Public library; **Oscar Gittemeier**, librarian for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System; **Richard Groves**, director of the Catoosa County Library System; **Machelle Hill**, library manager for the Coweta County Public Library; and **Stephen Houser**, director of

the Milledgeville-based Twin Lakes Library System.

Also participating in this year's class are **Adrienne Junius**, youth services director for the Hall County Library System; **Cynthia Kilby**, director of the Manchester-based Pine Mountain Regional Library System; **Jennifer Lautzenheiser**, director of the Macon-based Middle Georgia Regional Library System; **Jean Mead**, assistant director of the Hart County Library System; **Micah Newsome**, young adult librarian for Evans-based Greater Clarks Hill Regional Libraries; **Leslie Partridge**, assistant director of the Lee County Library; **Martha Powers-Jones**, director of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library; **Julia Simpson**, branch manager for the Jefferson-based Piedmont Regional Library

System; **Angela Stanley**, Heritage Room librarian for the Athens Regional Library System; **Miguel Vicente**, director of the Valdosta-based South Georgia Regional Library System; and **Teneka Williams**, manager of the GLASS Distribution Center in Morrow.

PINNACLE 2015-16 begins the last week of this month and will include six three-day sessions during the coming year. ■



Abbide



Beswick



Mead



Newsome



Black



Burnett



Groves



Hill



Partridge



Powers-Jones



Clark



Eberhart



Houser



Junius



Simpson



Stanley



Funk



Gittemeier



Kilby



Lautzenheiser



Vicente



Williams

Center announces 2015 Books All Georgians Should Read

The Georgia Center for the Book has selected the works of 24 prize-winning authors and illustrators with Georgia connections for its 2015 lists of Books All Georgians Should Read and Books All Young Georgians Should Read. The authors and illustrators were recognized Aug. 13 at a public ceremony in the Decatur Library's auditorium.



Davich

"These lists are a wonderful way for us to honor the extraordinary talent we have right here in Georgia," said **Joe Davich**, director of the center. "They give us the opportunity to inform readers across our state about the diverse body of work being produced that celebrates Georgia's literary heritage, and they are valuable assets for parents, teachers, librarians and readers of all ages."

The 2015 Books All Georgians Should Read are:

- *A Clear View of the Southern Sky: Stories* by **Mary Hood**
- *A Prayer Journal* by **Flannery O'Connor**, edited by **W.A. Sessions**
- *Welcome to Braggsville* by **T. Geronimo Johnson**
- *Suffer & Grow Strong: The Life of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas, 1834-1907* by **Carolyn Newton Curry**
- *Blood Ties & Brown Liquor* by **Sean Hill**
- *The Cherokee Rose: A Novel of Gardens and Ghosts* by **Tiya Miles**

- *Breaking Ground: My Life in Medicine* by **Dr. Louis W. Sullivan**
- *The Southern Poetry Anthology Volume V: Georgia*, edited by **William Wright**
- *Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island* by **Will Harlan**
- *Those Bones Are Not My Child* by **Toni Cade Bambara**

The 2015 Books All Young Georgians Should Read are:

- *I Got the Rhythm* by **Connie Schofield-Morrison**, illustrated by **Frank Morrison**
- *Philip Reid Saves the Statue of Freedom*, illustrated by **R. Gregory Christie**
- *Circle, Square, Moose* by **Kelly Bingham**
- *Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe: Class Pets* by **Susan Nees**
- *Revolution: The Sixties Trilogy* by **Deborah Wiles**
- *Bigger Than a Bread Box* by **Laurel Snyder**
- *A Bird on Water Street* by **Elizabeth Dulemba**
- *Being Friends With Boys* by **Terra Elan McVoy**
- *All Those Broken Angels* by **Peter Adam Salomon**
- *March: Book Two* by **John Lewis** and **Andrew Aydin**, illustrated by **Nate Powell**

Both 2015 lists are the result of months of discussions by the center's advisory council, which considered more than 100 books in making their final selections. ■

Nominations sought for outstanding library service awards

GPLS is now accepting nominations for its inaugural awards honoring the outstanding service and achievements of Georgia's public libraries, librarians and library champions during 2015.

Georgia Public Library of the Year will be presented to an individual facility whose staff best exemplifies the qualities needed to positively impact the lives of residents in the communities it serves.

Georgia Public Librarian of the Year will be presented to a full-time and professionally licensed practicing

or retired public librarian whose innovative and creative talents are instrumental in the delivery of outstanding library service to his or her library and the communities it serves, as well as dedication and commitment to the state and to the profession as a whole.

Georgia Public Library Champion of the Year will be presented to an outstanding advocate whose support significantly raised the profile of libraries and improved services during the award year. Honorees may include, but are not limited to, elected officials, authors, library

board members or members of Friends of Georgia Libraries or local Friends groups who were not employed in any capacity by a library during the award year.

Nominations may be submitted from public library directors, trustees, members of recognized Friends groups and GPLS staff members.

Please send submissions to **Wendy Cornelisen** (wcornelisen@georgialibraries.org), assistant state librarian for library innovation and collaboration. Nominations must be received no later than Oct. 31. ■

Sequoyah library patrons coloring outside the lines

Growing up and letting go of childhood activities are not mutually exclusive. Patrons of the Canton-based Sequoyah Regional Library System are a definitive case in point.

Every week, adult patrons and some staff members on break gather for a few hours of quiet conversation and coloring — yes, coloring. They spend hours with crayons, colored pencils, markers and a dizzying array of coloring sheets trying to stay within the lines. “We approach it as a stress reliever and as an opportunity to express a little creativity,” said **Angela Glowcheski**, public services director for the system.

Sue Stephens



Adult coloring classes are growing in popularity at the Woodstock Public Library.

Adult coloring gained worldwide popularity in 2013 with the publication of illustrator Johanna Basford’s *Secret Garden: An Inky Treasure Hunt and Coloring Book*. Since then, programs featuring coloring have steadily sprung up in libraries, institutes of higher education, adult summer camps, mental health facilities and other institutions in near endless iterations.

The program at Sequoyah arose as a possible program idea during conversations between Glowcheski and other library employees last summer. The notion quickly gained momentum and enthusiasm, leading staff members to make plans for just how to pull it off. Scant weeks later, in August, the program debuted at the Woodstock Public Library with 14 adults in attendance. Initial positive response from participants made it obvious that the project was something the system could, and should, explore further.

“A coloring page and crayons equal happiness,” said **Jody Simpson**, adult services coordinator for the Woodstock branch. “It has been fun! Some people come every week, and at each session someone new has joined.”

The Woodstock program features soft background music, tables decorated to inspire creativity

and materials supplied by the library. For three hours once a week, grown-ups can come in, calm their minds, converse, color and get lost in their own imaginations and creativity.

Adult coloring is currently offered at the Woodstock, R.T. Jones Memorial and Hickory Flat libraries. Plans are in place for more of the system’s branches to follow. Said Glowcheski, “As long as the public continues to come out and color, we will continue to offer the program to our communities.” ■

Laura Bradley



A little ‘Help’

Mary Helen McGruder (left), chair of the Forsyth County Public Library board of trustees, welcomes The Help author Kathryn Stockett to the Forsyth Conference Center in Cumming on Sept. 15. Stockett’s appearance and book signing were part of the Forsyth County Public Library’s annual Forsyth Reads Together program. Almost 800 readers attend the event, making it the library’s all-time most popular author event.

Courtesy/ Thomas County Public Library



Enlightenment

For the fourth year, the Thomas County Public Library (TCPL) and Pebble Hill Plantation are collaborating on “Enlightening Bites,” a lecture series that focuses on the cultural heritage of Thomasville. To open this year’s events, author and playwright Bob Rogers (center) presented his one-act play, “Lieutenant Flipper’s Trial,” about the court-martial of the first African-American to graduate from West Point. Rogers is joined by TCPL Director Nancy Tillinghast (left) and Circulation Manager Kathryn Sawyer.

GPLS provides six staff travel grants for conferences

One of the line items hit hardest by library budget constraints is frequently travel, and this, unfortunately, keeps many library employees from attending professional development events that are not local. To combat this, GPLS is providing six travel grants to public library staff around the state, enabling them to attend conferences and training sessions in Georgia.

The travel grants were open to all staff members in Georgia's 400-plus public libraries and service outlets. Applicants vied for the opportunity to attend the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy (GICIL) held in

September in Savannah; and, with the stipulation it be their first time attending, the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) Conference in Athens. Winners receive reimbursement of conference-related expenses, including registration and lodging, for up to \$500.

After months of poring over the applications, **Julie Walker**, state librarian; **Jessica Everingham**, assistant state librarian for library development and support; and **Wendy Cornelisen**, assistant state librarian for library innovation and collaboration, awarded grants to five COMO entries and one for GICIL.

Alisa Claytor, computer specialist with Athens Regional Library System, attended GICIL, and the five COMO first-time attendees are: **Tim York** of the LaFayette-based Cherokee Regional Library; **Kasey Lynn** of the Jesup-based Three Rivers Regional Library System; **Judith Malone** of Houston County Public Libraries; **Sarah Edmonds** of the Clarkesville-based Northeast Georgia Regional Library; and **Ashley Pearson** of the Conyers-Rockdale Library System.

The selection process was a difficult one, said Cornelisen. "Our goal was to select the most deserving candidate based on their written responses to an essay question," she said, "and we were hoping for winners from a broad spectrum of places in Georgia, from single- to multicounty and urban to rural."

Those goals were reached, and the grant recipients do not lack for enthusiasm. "I am very excited and grateful to have been chosen; COMO has been on my professional 'to-do' list from the moment I started working at Nancy Guinn

Memorial Library," said Pearson. "My game plan is to do absolutely everything!"

Malone mirrors her sentiments. "I'm excited to have this opportunity," she said. "I plan to take in as much information as possible. I'm sure the events will educate and provide me with new ideas."



Edmonds

The attendees all have their respective library's best interests at heart with a shared

purpose of bringing back home and sharing what knowledge they gain to make a positive impact on as many people as possible. "I'm looking forward to all of the workshops," said Edmonds. "I hope to contribute to our library's purpose by expanding my knowledge at COMO!"

York also expressed his goals: "I'm interested in how we, as a small-town library, can take advantage of today's evolving technology and help bridge our community with the rest of the state's library community; I want to hear how other libraries network and support each other's efforts."

Cornelisen noted she has high hopes that GPLS will be able to offer this type of grant again in the coming years, and possibly on a regular basis. "There is so much to be gained from hands-on education, but lack of funds can be a legitimate obstacle for library staff to attend professional development events," she said. "We are committed to providing as much assistance as we can." ■

Holly Phillips



Story Time in the Park

The Moultrie-Colquitt County Library is using a community impact grant from the United Way to bring library activities outdoors to nearby parks. "It's really about forming these partnerships and bringing these library services out in the community so that people realize the library can offer so much," said Michele Croft, children and youth librarian. As part of the "Story Time in the Park" outreach program, local children have been able to listen to stories, sing songs, learn rhymes and participate in arts and crafts in public parks. Upcoming programs will feature professional puppeteers, ventriloquists and storytellers. "Creepy Critters," which is scheduled for late October, will include animals such as an Egyptian fruit bat, an emperor scorpion, a Brazilian salmon pink birdeater tarantula and a Madagascar hissing cockroach.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The board of trustees of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library has named **Martha Powers-Jones** to the position of director, effective Nov. 1. Powers-Jones currently serves as director of the Vidalia-based Ochoopee Regional Library System. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Ohio Wesleyan University and a master's degree in library and information science from Kent State University. She has worked in libraries since 2001.

Matthew Stembridge has joined the Ochoopee Regional Library System as librarian for the Tattnall County Library. Originally from Fitzgerald, he earned an associate degree in business administration from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Georgia State University and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Valdosta State University. Previously, he served as librarian and interim dean for library services at Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro.



Stembridge

Daphne Register has joined the Middle Georgia Regional Library System in Macon as marketing coordinator. She previously served as a communications professor at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville. Register earned a bachelor's degree in mass



Register

communication from the University of West Georgia and a master's degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of Georgia.

Elizabeth McKinney, PINES program director for GPLS, has been elected vice president/president-elect of the Georgia Library Association (GLA). GLA co-sponsors the annual Georgia COMO conference and provides librarians with resources for professional development, training, networking and advocacy. McKinney joined GPLS in November 2001.



McKinney

The science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) organization Women in Technology has named **Emily Almond**, director of information technology for GPLS, among the finalists for its Women of the Year Awards. Sponsored by Cox Automotive, the awards honor the accomplishments of Georgia's top female leaders in STEM and the impact they have made in Georgia communities. Winners from each of three categories will be announced Nov. 19 in Atlanta. Almond has been with GPLS since October 2008.

The Georgia Center for the Book and the Georgia Humanities Council will sponsor the 2015 Georgia Literary Festival Nov. 6-8 at Georgia Regents University in Augusta. The festival will honor hometown authors **Frank Yerby** and **Berry Fleming**, along with Tobacco Road author **Erskine Caldwell**. The festival will also feature readings and panel discussions by various authors from around the state. ■

Missy Braden



First steps to reading

First Steps volunteer and Newton County Library System (NCLS) board member Lee Aldridge (right) delivers the library's first Every Child Ready to Read/B4 early literacy kit to 1-day old Ariyana Lashawn Kelley and mom Jamie Tarpkins on Aug. 5. As part of a new partnership with Newton Medical Center, First Steps presents first-time mothers with a goody bag containing first-year calendar, growth chart, tub tester and several other items to make a their jobs a little easier.

Jessica Wilson



Wall of fame

Children's librarian Ann Dickinson of the Roddenbery Memorial Library in Cairo shows off the Wall of Fame she helped organize for the library's Hometown Heroes events this summer. In addition to autographed photos and memorabilia from notables such as baseball great Jackie Robinson and Starship vocalist Mickey Thomas, visitors had the opportunity to view more than 100 additional photos of Cairo's local heroes.



Check mates

On Sept. 17 in Decatur, Nathan Rall (top left), GPLS's director of library planning and construction, and State Librarian Julie Walker (top right) presented ceremonial checks of \$2 million each to representatives of four public library systems that received state funding for construction projects this year. Accepting the checks are (from left) Keith Schuermann, director of the Troup-Harris Regional Library; Anna Lyle, assistant director of the Forsyth County Public Library; Mary Lin Maner, director of the Evans-based Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System; and Roni Tewksbury, director of the West Georgia Regional Library System.



Golden effort

A crowd including city leaders and staff from West Georgia Regional Library (WGRL) System came together on Aug. 5 for a groundbreaking ceremony for a new, 16,370-square-foot Villa Rica library. From left are: Martha Goodson, WGRL assistant director; Vicki Anderson, Carroll County commissioner; Brenda Gray, chair of the Villa Rica Public Library advisory board; Kelley Springer, Villa Rica Public Library branch manager; Matt Brass, field representative for U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland; Tom Worthan, Douglas County Commission chair; Rep. Micah Gravley; Danny England, Rutledge-Alcock Architects; Mike Williamson, Villa Rica City Council; Mayor J. Allen Collins; Clint Chance, WGRL board chair; Larry Wood, former Villa Rica city manager; Rep. Dusty Hightower; Verland Best and Leslie McPherson of the Villa Rica City Council; Bonnie Boles, Tanner Medical Center of Villa Rica administrator; Theresa Fisher of Sugar Foods Corporation; Nathan Rall, GPLS's director of library planning and construction; and Susan Wright of BB&T Corporation.



Triple header

Three of eight new Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (AFPL) System branches that voters supported when they approved a \$275 million library construction bond in 2008 opened this summer. "We are thrilled to have opened Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing, Milton Library and Alpharetta Library in the same month," said Gayle Holloman, AFPL's interim director of Library, Arts and Culture. "Each is unique, based on what its community wanted, and patron response has been overwhelming."

Top photo: Welcoming residents to the Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing on July 17 are (from left): Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves, Fulton County Commissioner Joan Garner, AFPL board Chair Stephanie Moody, AFPL trustee John Thomas, Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell and Atlanta City Council member Felicia Moore.

Center photo: Fulton County District 2 Commissioner Bob Ellis (fourth from right) and Moody (center) welcomed numerous other dignitaries and an overflow crowd to the July 16 grand opening of the new 25,000-square-foot Milton Library, which is providing service to an area of the county that previously had no branch library.

Bottom photo: Eaves, Moody and Holloman (second from right) also led the July 30 ribbon-cutting event at the Alpharetta Library, which drew nearly 300 local residents.



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Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats on request. For more information about Georgia's libraries and literary events, or to post an event, visit our online calendar at www.georgialibraries.org

Tameca White



Friends in Fayette

In late August, the Fayette County Board of County Commissioners officially recognized the advocacy efforts of the Friends of the Fayette County Public Library and the library's board members, including Jean White (seated), the senior member of the board. White, a retired media specialist with Fayette County schools, was presented with a plaque for her 19 years of service. The Friends group held its annual book sale on Sept. 18. The Fayette County Public Library is part of the Griffin-based Flint River Regional Library.