

Lifesty

MONDAY ♦ SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

BOOK FAIR BONANZA TO HIT MARIETTA SQUARE

From staff reports

Bookmark the dates of Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 for the first Book Fair on the Square in Marietta, featuring nearly two dozen national authors, book discussions, book signings and a children's character parade.

The book fair will open Oct. 3 with a \$100 dinner with featured speaker **Roy Richard Grinker**, author of "Unstrange Minds." Grinker has a daughter with autism. In his book, he combines the story of his family's journey through autism with comparisons of autism awareness, treatment and struggles of families in other countries around the world.

More than 20 authors will be featured on the Marietta Square on Oct. 4, with readings, discussions and book signings on two stages near the Square.

A parade featuring characters from favorite children's books will thrill the kids, who get to vote for their favorites online. Books from the featured authors will be on sale on-site through Barnes and Noble.

Kids of all ages will have fun at the 10:30 a.m. 'Parade of Characters,' storytelling programs and live musical performances. Renowned author **Rachel Simon** will also host two creative writing classes during the afternoon, one for families and one for writers. Also, enjoy an art show along with food and book vendors in a festive atmosphere. The Book Fair on the Square runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 4.

The event is sponsored by the Cobb County Community Services Board, the local service agency that provides mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services to more than 13,000 residents annually, with its foundation, The Center for Community Based Partnerships Inc. The book fair is a community literary event to raise awareness and promote inclusion of people with disabilities.

"Almost all great novels, especially from Southern writers, have a character who is addicted, has some developmental disability or mental health issue," said **Doug Crandell**, an award-winning author and director of the CSB's Supported Employment Program.

The Book Fair is a part of Mental Illness Awareness week and proceeds will be used to support programs for people with mental health, substance abuse or developmental disabilities in the local community, according to **Tod Citron**, executive director of the Cobb and Douglas CSBs.

For more information, visit www.bookfaironthesquare.com.

