

PRESS RELEASE:

September 24, 2008

For immediate release:

Through October 31, 2008

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman 770/949-2787

**BIG READ EXHIBITS FOCUS ON “TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD”
CONTEMPORARY & HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AT FIVE VENUES IN DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents two exhibitions of photographs – “Harper Lee’s South” and “Depression Era Douglasville” -- in conjunction with the 10th annual Atlanta Celebrates Photography festival during October as part of its Big Read initiative supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. CAC has participated in Atlanta Celebrates Photography for the past five years; this month-long metro-wide festival now includes more than 300 exhibits, lectures and other events on the art of photography. Featuring recent works by members of the Sweetwater Camera Club, “Harper Lee’s South” opens on Thursday, October 2nd, and will be on view at the Cultural Arts Center through October 26th. Hosted by the Douglas County Writers Group, the opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 2nd, from 6 until 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the general public.

Four thematic shows of historical photographs of Douglasville, dating from 1929 until 1941, curated by City Main Street Manager Stephanie Aylworth, will be displayed at the Douglas County Library in Douglasville (“Education and Culture”), Lithia Springs Library (“Domestic and Spiritual Life”), WellStar Douglas Hospital (“Industry and Agriculture”), and the Old Courthouse (“Politics and Governance”) from October 9th until October 31st. A candidate for a master’s degree in Public History at the University of West Georgia, Aylworth developed her presentations depicting “Depression Era Douglasville” with the assistance of local historian Earl Albertson. She has also worked with the various collections of the Old Courthouse Museum for several months. In addition to fascinating images from a bygone era, these small exhibits include historical artifacts to illustrate many aspects of life in our community during the Depression. Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, was set in the mid-1930s in a small Southern town.



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DOUGLASVILLE CELEBRATES PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE BIG READ*

“There is a lot of interest in photography in our community,” noted CAC Executive Director Laura Lieberman. “The Sweetwater Camera Club is one of CAC’s most active satellite organizations, and our Douglasville Celebrates Photography show last October which also showcased its members’ fine photographs, was very popular, drawing many gallery visitors to the Cultural Arts Center.”

One member of the Camera Club, Diane Yancey, actually made a pilgrimage to Harper Lee’s hometown in southwestern Alabama, Monroeville, the model for the fictional Macon, Alabama. Yancey photographed several sites during her visit including the Monroe County courthouse which has been preserved exactly as it was during the Depression Era. Other local photographers roamed closer to home, capturing images of buildings from the same time period as they are today in Douglas County; James Gardner who teaches photography at the Cultural Arts Center depicted the ruins of the Stockmar goldmine in Villa Rica. Still other members of Sweetwater Camera Club considered the larger themes of the novel to illustrate their continued relevance – father and daughter affection, black and white relationships, small town America, and social justice – in photographs, selected by Robbie Bible, President of the Sweetwater Camera Club.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups including the Sweetwater Camera Club which hosts monthly photography lectures, critiques and presentations for more than 60 members.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, located about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Commission, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art. For detailed directions and more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134
Phone 770/949-2787 Fax 770-949-5788
www.artsdouglas.org



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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLES: Harper Lee's South
Contemporary photographs by the Sweetwater Camera Club

PLACE: The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County
8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

DATES: October 2 – 26, 2008

RECEPTION: Thursday, October 2nd, 6 – 8 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLES: Depression Era Douglasville
Historical photographs and artifacts (1929-1941) presented in
conjunction with THE BIG READ

PLACE: “Education and Culture”
Douglas County Library in Douglasville
6810 Selman Drive
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

“Domestic and Spiritual Life”
Lithia Springs Library
7100 Junior High Drive
Lithia Springs, Georgia 30122

“Industry and Agriculture”
WellStar Douglas Hospital
8954 Hospital Dr
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

“Politics and Governance”
Old Courthouse Inc.
6754 Broad St
Douglasville, GA 30134

DATES: October 9 – 31, 2008

RECEPTION: Thursday, October 9th, 6 – 8 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787

