



CYBERATTACKS

# Ted Koppel asks: Are we prepared?

COURTESY MARCUS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF ATLANTA

Story by **ANDY JOHNSTON**

**T**he November Book Festival at Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta concludes with an appearance by longtime newsman Ted Koppel.

His latest book, "Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath," details

how such an event would devastate daily life.

Koppel was at ABC News for 42 years and was the anchor of "Nightline" from 1980-2005.

**Living Northside: Was the information you gathered while working on this book an eye-opener for you?**

**Koppel:** I mean I had heard about it

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TED KOPPEL

before, and you know, all of us should think about it. I don't think I'm telling people very much that they haven't been warned about. I'm just putting a little bit of meat on the bones, and I really went at it with a view to trying to answer skeptics. And I must tell you at the end of it, I'm totally convinced.

**Are you totally convinced that an attack could happen? Or will in the future?**

No one can be certain that it will. But I think that there is a very good chance that it will. You know what, I put that question to [former Secretary of Homeland Security] Janet Napolitano. She said she is 80-90 percent sure that it will happen.

**What are the conclusions you found while writing "Lights Out?"**

I came to the conclusion that the Department of Homeland Security, first of all, is probably not the most efficient organization out there. I came to the conclusion that the senior management, from the secretary of the department on down, is not taking this threat seriously enough. And I came to the conclusion that the American public is not well served by that.

*Ted Koppel closes the annual Edition of the Book Festival at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 22. ■*