October: the theater season has just started, fall festivals are ending, and the literary extravaganzas continue.

By Lindsay Kofray

All the way up the NC line is the little town of Hiawassee, Georgia. It’s about a two-hour trip; it probably doesn’t belong in “Metro Events,” but I couldn’t resist. It’s the site of the -day Georgia Mountain Fall Festival, held at the fairgrounds, Oct. 12-20. Since opening in 1974, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds has become the premier event venue for the North Georgia region. It serves as host to countless events including arts festivals, music performances, conventions, and dance shows. There are also camping and RV sites that offer modern glamping experiences such as water, electricity, telephone, and cable service, with spectacular views of Lake Chatuge. They probably have these modern hotels, too, not to mention Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa, where you could spend a comfortable three-day.

With its mild temperatures and beautiful scenery there is no better place to be than the North Georgia mountains in the fall. Each October, the festival features musical performances, arts and craft vendors, pioneer village demonstrations, a flower show, and the ever-popular Georgia’s Official State Fiddlers Convention. This year, the festival begins October 19, at 7 p.m. Categories include beginning fiddler, harmonica, banjo, dancing, dulcimer, dobro, and old-time banjo. That same day, the Quebe Sisters from Texas take the stage, and when the triple-threat fiddle champions start playing and singing, you’ll be blown away. The festival’s music lineup also boasts Mickey Gilley, Patsy Collins, Justin Tubb, Modern Vinyl, and the Lovin’ Spoonful. Plus a dozen other bands and solo acts. Admission is $3, a three-day pass is $60. (Children 12 and under free). Free parking, but be sure to bring your own, no pets allowed. georgiamountainfairgrounds.com.

More closer to home, Act3 Productions will present The Graduate, Oct. 12-20, at the ArtPlayhouse in Sandy Springs Plaza. Terry Johnson’s comedy is based on the classic 1967 film, main character Benjamin Bradlock is a recent college graduate, alienated by his parent’s suburban life and uncertain about his future. The play follows Benjamin’s journey toward finding himself—with detours including an affair with an older family friend, Mrs. Robinson and a budding romance with her daughter, Elaine. This is the first play adaptation of the classic novel and cult film. It premiered in April 2000 at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. The performances are scheduled Oct. 12-27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $35-$23 and may be purchased at act3productions.org.

Afternoon shows on limited dates through the 26th at 3 p.m. Group rates are available by calling 770-661-1900. The play contains adult themes, and is not suitable for children.

Act3 Productions was founded over 15 years ago in East Cobb, and they built their home in Sandy Springs as a semi-professional theatre company and arts academy. The ensemble of dedicated artists believe that theater has the power to transform lives. Music and theater options abound. Now on for Booked for the last 20 years, the Book Festival of the MJCCA (Marian Jewish Community Center of Atlanta) has provided our community with a literary extravaganza, featuring an exciting lineup of the year’s most exceptional authors, celebrities, and influencers.

Journal Constitution. Luckovich has gotten used to ruffling feathers—and doesn’t mind one bit. After all, that’s what he’s paid to do. He’s nothing fancy toasts on today’s headlines using his signature wit, satire, and a generous amount of hyperbole.

Mike Luckovich is a Seattle native and has worked for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution since 1983. His cartoons are reprinted in newspapers across the country. He won Pulitzer Prizes in 1966 and 2006 for his editorial cartoons as well as the 2006 Reuben Award, for best cartoonist. His previous books include Let’s Luckovich and Four More Years! Watch him on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 7-7:30 p.m. (Member: $16; Community: $25) MJCCA/Zaban Park, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338, www.mjccatlanta.org.