



Flannery O'Connor  
Childhood Home  
*Savannah, Ga.*

# Newsletter

Fall 2018

## From the President

It is my honor to assume the role of President of the Board of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation. Following Bishop Emeritus Kevin Boland in the position, and a long line of other creative and productive Presidents before him, the prospect would be intimidating if not for the knowledge that I am working with a dedicated and energetic Board of Directors.

Our board actively participated in a strategic planning retreat, which resulted in a new strategic plan to guide us as we build on previous achievements. We plan to take advantage of the energy and fresh thinking of our new members and the experience of our more experienced members as we move forward. You can read about the new members and the strategic plan elsewhere in this newsletter.

As we continue to enhance the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home as a museum and focus for our other activities designed to bring further appreciation for O'Connor's thoughts and works, we pursue the larger goal of enhancing the literary and artistic life of Savannah. We are always open for suggestions and assistance from other Friends of Flannery.

I also want to thank our Foundation Manager, Cody Shelley, and the amazing group of

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### BECOME A FRIEND OF FLANNERY!

There are many ways you can help support the work of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home.

Friends of Flannery members receive our newsletters and mailings about other special events, as well as additional benefits at various levels of annual giving:

\$30 (Individual)  
\$50 (Family)  
\$100 (Patron)  
\$500 (Peacock Circle)

Checks can be mailed to:

Flannery O'Connor  
Childhood Home  
207 East Charlton St.  
Savannah, GA 31401

For more information, or

volunteers who welcome visitors, provide tours of the home and maintain the store. If you have not been in to see the new items available for sale, please stop by the home, or visit the online shop on our website.

I hope to see everyone at our Fall Lecture Series, which officially kicks off on September 16. Please also mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2018 Peacock Party on October 12 and "An Evening in Conversation with Charles Frazier" on November 14.

Michael Schroeder  
Board President

special membership opportunities for students and teachers, please call 912.233.6014 or email us at [flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com](mailto:flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com).

DONATE NOW



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home has a wide range of new merchandise, including t-shirts featuring an original design by Panhandle Slim, ball caps, tote bags, bookmarks, postcards, bumper stickers and umbrellas. Stop by the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, or visit the new [online shop](#), to purchase these and other items.

## 2018 FALL LECTURE SERIES

All events are free and open to the public. All lectures take place in the parlor of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, located at 207 E. Charlton Street on Lafayette Square in downtown Savannah.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 3 p.m.**  
**Patrick Samway, S.J.**  
**"Flannery O'Connor and Robert Giroux: A Publishing Partnership"**

Presented in partnership with The Book Lady Bookstore, this lecture by Professor Emeritus Father Patrick Samway, S.J., will shed new light on an important area of Flannery O'Connor's life — her relationship with her editors — that has not been well documented or narrated by critics and biographers.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 4 p.m.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 4 p.m.**  
**Olivia Stiffler**  
**"Poetry: Why Read It? Why Write It? Who Cares?"**

Poet Olivia Stiffler will use her personal journey of becoming a poet to discuss why people tend to shy away from the genre, but nevertheless search it out in times of grief. She will also reflect on what she sees as a renaissance of the modern narrative poem and its incredible power to renew and enlighten through story.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4 p.m.**

## Courtney Hargrave “Burden: A True Story for Our Times”

Courtney Hargrave is the author of *Burden: A Preacher, A Klansman and a True Story of Redemption in the Modern South*, published August 2018. Hargrave has written more than a dozen books, including numerous New York Times bestsellers. Her most recent work, *Burden*, recounts the true story of an unlikely friendship between a former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, Michael Burden, and S.C. African American preacher, Reverend David Kennedy, and has been made into a critically acclaimed film starring Forest Whitaker and Usher.

## Lecture by Bertice Berry, Ph.D.

Sociologist Bertice Berry, PhD., a best-selling author and award winning lecturer, has been named Comedian of the Year, Lecturer of the Year and Entertainer of the Year. She has published 11 best-selling books and has won numerous awards and accolades for both her writing and presentations. Berry has had her own nationally syndicated television show and has hosted, interviewed and made numerous appearances on a variety of venues including *The Tonight Show*, *Oprah Winfrey*, *Between The Lions*, *Crossfire*, 20/20, NPR, PBS, Comedy Central and CNN.

About the lecture series

## PEACOCK PARTY SET FOR OCTOBER 12



The **2018 Peacock Party** will take place on **Friday, October 12** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the garden at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home at 207 E. Charlton Street and in the adjacent courtyard at the Critz home on Lafayette Square. This lively annual fundraiser will feature libations, heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, a silent auction and more.

The theme of this year's event is **Moonlight in the Garden**. Costumes inspired by Flannery O'Connor characters, settings or the author's life are encouraged but optional. All Peacock Party proceeds benefit programming and outreach initiatives at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in Savannah.

Tickets are \$100 per person (\$85 if purchased online before October 1) and are available online by clicking [HERE](#).

Don't miss all the fun!

## CHARLES FRAZIER ON NOVEMBER 14

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home will present



**“An Evening in Conversation with Charles Frazier”** on **Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.** at Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 225 W. President St. on Telfair Square. A reception and book signing will immediately follow. This event is free and open to the public.

Born in Asheville, N.C., Frazier grew up in the mountains of Western North Carolina. *Cold Mountain*, his highly acclaimed first novel, is an international bestseller that won the National Book Award in 1997 and was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film by Anthony Minghella in 2003.

His second novel, *Thirteen Moons*, is a *New York Times* bestseller that was named a best book of the year by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. His third novel, *Nightwoods*, also a *New York Times* bestseller, is a critically acclaimed literary thriller set in a fictional Western North Carolina town in the early 1960s.

Frazier’s latest novel, *Varina*, released in April of 2018, is a fictional reimagining of the life of Varina Howell Davis, the First Lady of the Confederate States of America, before, during and after the Civil War. *Varina* is included on *Garden & Gun*’s list of the “Best Books of 2018” and has been described as “beautifully rendered” by *The New York Times*.

Frazier received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina, an M.A. from Appalachian State University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina. He taught English at University of Colorado Boulder and at North Carolina State University.

“An Evening in Conversation with Charles Frazier” is part of the Flannery O’Connor Childhood Home’s Ursrey Lecture Series. The series is endowed in memory of Terry and Ashley Ursrey, native Georgians and brothers who, like Flannery O’Connor, were lifelong devotees of all things Southern, particularly the art of storytelling.

The Ursrey Lecture Series officially debuted in 2008 with a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Michael Cunningham and has included illustrious contemporary authors like Roxane Gay, Ann Hood, Robert Olen Butler, Luis Alberto Urrea, Jaimy Gordon and Allan Gurganus.

*[Charles Frazier photo credit: Mark Humphrey]*

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Members of the Flannery O’Connor Childhood Home Board of Directors met in the spring for a strategic planning retreat and collectively identified goals as well as strategies to achieve those goals. Together, board members hope to take the Home to even higher levels of success in the future.

Here are the six key goals that will serve as a focus over the next five years, forming the core of the Flannery O’Connor Childhood Home Foundation Strategic

Plan:

1. Serve as the hub of Savannah's literary community and be the heart and soul of that community.
2. Raise visibility of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, in Savannah and beyond.
3. Strengthen and expand core programming.
4. Develop a financial plan to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Home and the Foundation.
5. Create an Advisory Board to help with fundraising and other important needs, supporting the overall goals of the Foundation.
6. Review and update Foundation bylaws and Board of Directors structure.

If you'd like to get involved and to help support these goals, please contact Board President Michael Schroeder at [mlschroeder66@yahoo.com](mailto:mlschroeder66@yahoo.com).

## PLEASE MEET: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Margaret Brockland-Nease

Margaret Brockland-Nease is a lecturer in writing and linguistics at Georgia Southern University. An alumna of Armstrong State College and the University of Florida, she also studied literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Margaret is a Savannah native and lives on the east side with her husband and two teenage children. In her spare time, she introduces middle-aged people to yoga and relentlessly strives to publish her poetry.



### LeAndrea Mikell

LeAndrea Mikell is the Programs and Marketing Coordinator at World Trade Center Savannah. LeAndrea is currently the Vice President of Communications for the Savannah Jaycees, and she serves on the boards of directors for the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism and Future Minds Literacy and Adult Education. LeAndrea also serves on the Ambassador's Council for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, and was selected as Ambassador of the Year in 2017. She was selected as a GenerationNext 2018 honoree by *Business in Savannah* and currently resides in Rincon, Georgia.



### John Reed

John Otey Reed is the Operations Manager at VisitSavannah's Visitor Information Centers, a

proud U.S. Navy veteran and an accomplished Eagle Scout. A graduate of the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, John earned an A.S. in Military Science from State University of New York at Albany and a B.A. in Urban Planning/Geography from Temple University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He worked for 14 years with the Department of Human Resources, two years with the Department of Natural Resources and nearly two years with Terranext Environmental and Engineering. He loves cats, camping, kayaking, flowers, reading and drinking Scotch.



## FROM THE FLANNERY ARCHIVES



This iconic photo of Mary Flannery O'Connor was taken in 1945 at Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia. After graduating, Flannery went on to attend the University of Iowa's famous Writer's Workshop.

