



Flannery O'Connor
Childhood Home
Savannah, Ga.

Newsletter

- FALL 2019 -

From the President



Happy Anniversary to us!

Thirty years ago, a group of Armstrong State University professors formed the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation and purchased Flannery's childhood home, restored it to Depression-era condition, and opened the house for tours and other literary events. Please join us on October 11 as we officially celebrate this milestone at the annual Peacock Party to be held at the Beach Institute.

Thanks to our board members and the vision of our founders—and our extraordinary Foundation Manager, Cody Shelley—last year the Home welcomed Flannery fans from across the U.S. and as far away as Australia, and garnered top recognition in Trip Advisor. We hosted our free lecture series to standing-room-only crowds and introduced literary icon Charles Frazier to Savannahians in a lively conversation about his new book with Dr. Beth Howells.

From sponsoring a Flannery-inspired writing contest for Chatham County high schoolers to partnering with the Savannah Book Festival to embarking on our Oral History project, the year was filled with a number of firsts. The coming year is equally rich with offerings, and we look forward to seeing you and your friends!

We're entering year two of our five-year strategic plan, and fundraising is at the top of our agenda as

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)**

For more information, or
special membership
opportunities for
students and teachers,
please call
912.233.6014 or email
us at
flanneryoconnorhom
e@gmail.com.

we plan for the long-term viability of Flannery's home. And for that we need your help.

Opportunities for giving are available at all levels. Become a **Friend of Flannery** or **sponsor the Peacock Party**. Remember us in your estate planning or add us now to your list of end-of-year donations.


Anniversaries are natural times for assessing how far we've come and where we're headed. They also provide an opportunity for us to pause and reflect deeply on our mission as stewards of Flannery's legacy. It is an honor to serve as incoming President, and I welcome any thoughts you may have.

Flannery's writings are as timeless as the personal example she left us of how to harness strength and endure with good humor in the midst of our own present-day trials. May we recognize not only the grace that is continually bestowed upon us, but readily extend goodwill to others.

Cheers,
Beverly Willett
Board President

[DONATE NOW](#)

ALL
WRITERS
are local
somewhere.



-Flannery O'Connor

Happy 10th Anniversary Peacock Guild Writers Salon!

The Guild was started by former board member Adrienn Mendonca-Jones as a gathering place for Savannah's literary community, both writers and book lovers. Sixty people attended the first meeting in Flannery's parlor. Today the Guild hosts bi-monthly workshops.

Email
peacockguildsalon@gmail.com to learn more.

2019 FALL LECTURE SERIES

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home's 2019 Fall Lecture Series includes three exceptional author events followed by our annual Christmas reading. All lectures are free and open to the public. All events 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, Sept. 8,
4 p.m.**
Tena Clark

Clark will speak about her memoir *Southern Discomfort*, about growing up in the South. Her childhood was permeated by many of the themes

**SUNDAY, Dec. 8, 4
p.m.**
Janisse Ray

Ray is a writer, activist, and naturalist who has authored five books of literary nonfiction and a collection of eco-poetry. She was a 2015 inductee



of O'Connor's own life and work.

into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.



**SUNDAY, Nov. 3,
4 p.m.**

**James E. McTeer
II**

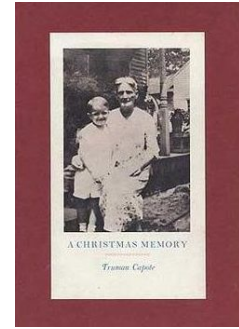
South Carolina First
Prize Novel Winner
McTeer will discuss

his Beaufort-set novel *Minnow*. Topics will include area history--including stories of his grandfather, who served as High Sheriff of the Lowcountry (and local witchdoctor) for 37 years, and the influences of other southern writers on its Gothic style.

**SUNDAY, Dec. 15,
4 p.m.**

**Robert Strozier
Memorial
Christmas
Reading, with
Laura Lawton**

Laura Lawton will deliver the annual holiday reading of Truman Capote's short story, "A Christmas Memory." Don't miss this popular tradition. The event is held in memory of Dr. Robert Strozier, who used to read this story each year. He passed away on April 28, 2019.



About the Fall Lecture Series

PEACOCK PARTY AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OCTOBER 11



This year's Peacock Party will be held **Friday, October 11, 6 p.m., at the Beach Institute, 502 E. Harris Street.**

This lively annual fundraiser will feature libations, heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, a silent auction and more.

This year we are celebrating the **30th anniversary of the formation of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Foundation** and the purchase of her childhood home. We are also excited to honor one of the founding members, Gillian Brown.

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 and sponsorships are [available online](https://flanneryoconnorhome.org). Don't miss all the fun! To learn more, visit flanneryoconnorhome.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Mary Villeponteaux is a professor at Georgia Southern University's Statesboro campus, where she teaches English. A native of Charleston, S.C., she has lived in Savannah for thirteen years. She is the author of *The Queen's Mercy* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014) and various essays about English Renaissance literature and culture. Along with her interest in the Renaissance, she also has an abiding love of Southern literature, particularly the stories of Flannery O'Connor.



Sara Beth Merrick is an active member of the Peacock Guild Writer's Salon. A SCAD graduate parent, she lives and writes out of a historic home within walking distance of Flannery O'Connor's childhood home. During her philanthropic career, Sara Beth helped non-profit teams raise millions primarily for medical centers in the San Francisco Bay area. Sara Beth completed her development career as Chief Development Officer and Vice President of Alumni Affairs for the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC).

OUR NEW ADVISORY BOARD

Bishop Emeritus Kevin Boland | Hellen Borrello | Gillian Brown | Linda Bruckheimer | Bill Dawers | Mary Lawrence Kennickell | Joni Saxon-Giusti

FROM THE FLANNERY ARCHIVES

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home has launched an effort to categorize and preserve archival materials. Found among the boxes was Mary Flannery O'Connor's original baptismal certificate. She was baptized on April 12, 1925, at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, across the square from her home.



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.



FLANNERY O'CONNOR CHILDHOOD HOME | www.flanneryoconnorhome.org