

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Newsletter

Spring 2014

President's Message

Flannery's Legacy

Throughout the month of February, I had the opportunity to visit elementary schools in Savannah and the rest of Chatham County to talk with students, mostly second graders, about Flannery O'Connor.



In all, several hundred students participated in the presentations. While they weren't yet old enough to read her stories and novels, many subjects piqued their interest about her. We talked about her love of birds, her early interest in drawing and writing, her struggle with disease and her hard work.

These visits to schools were made in connection with Flannery's recognition as the featured figure in Georgia Historical Society's 2014 History Festival. We at the Childhood Home happily assisted in this month long educational event. The Home was made available for special tours, and our longtime supporter Mary Lawrence Kennickell read movingly from Flannery's prayer journal during the GHS-sponsored talk by William Sessions.

My initial concerns about how to connect with such young audiences diminished as soon as the first presentation began. The children were always eager to share and to respond. They were also full of questions. What did Flannery write about when she was young? How long did she work each day? Do her books have superheroes? How could she write if she didn't spell well? Most insistently, they wanted to know more about Flannery's lifelong love of birds. How many chickens and peacocks did she have?

What were their names? And – you guessed it – how did she teach those chickens to walk in reverse?

Part of the mission of the Childhood Home is to encourage "the discovery and exploration of O'Connor's rich body of work and the interpretation of her writing by contemporary readers, authors and artists." It's gratifying to know that our efforts can extend to creative spirits with so much ahead.

Sincerely,
Helen Borrello
President, Board of Directors
Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home

Join the Parade!

Flannery O'Connor Parade & Street Fair Set for March 30

On Sunday, March 30, the **2014 Flannery O'Connor Parade and Street Fair** will celebrate acclaimed author and Savannah native Flannery O'Connor's birthday including family-friendly fun, live music and more. The festivities start in Lafayette Square, located at Abercorn Street and E. Charlton Street in downtown Savannah, at 1 p.m., with the parade beginning at 3 p.m.

Attendees are invited to walk in the parade and to bring handmade signs and un-amplified musical instruments. Live music by Andrew Hartzel, Anna Chandler, Jamison Murphy and other ambling minstrels. Costumes inspired by Flannery O'Connor characters, settings or the author's life are optional. The parade is free and open to the public.

From 1 to 4 p.m., please bring your own picnic and enjoy live music, games and contests. Get your photo or family portrait taken with a poet dressed like a gorilla, make your own parade sign with art materials donated by Blick, and meet live chickens. Shop for vintage items, funky accouterments and parade accessories from local vendors Civvies and Topsy Girl Vintage.

At 3 p.m., the parade starts in Lafayette Square. Please plan to enjoy birthday cake in Lafayette Square immediately following the parade. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please call 912.233.6014 or email flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Nathan Jones

Spring Lecture Series Kicks Off on April 13

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home is pleased to announce the line-up for the

2014 Matt Prickett and Jane Griffin Spring Lecture Series, which is free and open to the public.

All lectures take place at 4 p.m. in the parlor at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, located at 207 E. Charlton Street on Lafayette Square in Savannah.

Sunday, April 13

Zach Powers - "The Lens of the Absurd"

Zach Powers, author, founder of Seersucker Live, Inc. and board member of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, will explore how Flannery and other authors use extreme or unrealistic plot elements to show everyday human experience in a new light.



Zach Powers

Sunday, April 27

Helen Borrello - "Flannery's Heroes in Reverse: They Start at Home Again"

Helen Borrello, SCAD professor of Liberal Arts and president of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, will explore how and to what effect Flannery's stories invert the paradigmatic hero's journey identified by mythologist Joseph Campbell.

Sunday, May 4

Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland - "Flannery at Prayer"

The Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Savannah, will speak about Flannery O'Connor's recently published prayer journal.

We hope to see you there!

Become a Friend of Flannery!

Did you know... 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)

**Donations can be made online
by clicking [HERE](#).**

Checks can be mailed to:
Flannery O'Connor Childhood
Home
207 East Charlton St.
Savannah, GA 31401

For more information, or special
membership opportunities for
students and teachers, please call
912.233.6014 or email us



Flannery O'Connor

at flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com.

Thank you very much for your support!!!

Southern Discomfort 2014" Art Auction and Peacock Party



Southern Discomfort reception

Our **"Southern Discomfort
2014: Art Inspired by
Flannery O'Connor"** art

auction at ThincSavannah was a tremendous success. Held on January 31, the event featured original art by more than 25 local artists. Please click [HERE](#) to check out photos from the reception.

Also, the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home's annual **Peacock Party** attracted some of our biggest supporters on October 12. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler, the latest Ursrey Lecture Series speaker, served as a special guest.

Attendees dressed as their favorite literary luminaries. Please click [HERE](#) to view photos from the soiree.

Meet Our Newest Board Member: Michael Schroeder

Michael Schroeder is a professor and interim department chair of the Department of English, Languages and Cultures at Savannah State University. Originally from Kansas, he studied or worked at Kent State, North Carolina State and the Savannah College of Art and Design before joining Savannah State nearly 22 years ago.

His interest in Flannery O'Connor also goes back more than 20 years. He has delivered several lectures at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, organized or participated in panels on the author at professional conferences and published articles on short stories including "Revelation" and "Everything That Rises Must Converge." Michael lives on Talahi Island and has two grown children who live in Savannah and Atlanta.



Michael Schroeder

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