



Flannery O'Connor
Childhood Home
Savannah, Ga.

Newsletter

SPRING 2018

From the President

The Flannery O'Connor Home Foundation, Inc. first came into existence in June 1989. For the past 29 years, the Board of Directors has met the challenges outlined in the Articles of Incorporation: To preserve the childhood residence of the great novelist, restore the residence to its former condition, make the home accessible to the public, to use the residence to sponsor literary workshops, etc.

One major challenge is to provide the necessary funding so that these goals can be accomplished. Recently, for example, a new roof was needed for the Home, which cost \$12,395.

Fortunately, Maurice Adelman, a retired lawyer from New York who decided to settle in Savannah, had the foresight to include the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in his will. He contacted the Catholic Diocese of Savannah and volunteered his services. Maurice traveled extensively in South Georgia and verified that all Church property was recorded correctly with the local civic authorities and attended services at the Cathedral. He had a great interest in literature and held the late John Cardinal Wright, former Bishop of Pittsburgh, in high admiration.

When Maurice died at the age of 68, following a brief illness on March 17, 1999, his last will and testament established The John Cardinal

DID YOU KNOW?

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home welcomed nearly 4,000 visitors in 2017 and sold more than \$15,000 in books.

House-related income for 2017 was up \$8,000 (or 25%) over the previous calendar year.

SAVE THE DATE: SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

The "Southern Discomfort" art exhibit will be held on Friday, May 18, 5-8 p.m., Location Gallery, 417 Whitaker St. This biannual exhibition will include original art inspired by Flannery O'Connor. A portion of the proceeds from every sale will benefit the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in

Wright Fund. The two beneficiaries are the Live Oak Public Library and Flannery Home Foundation, Inc. By mutual agreement, the Library and the Flannery Home Foundation agreed to divide the bequest equally.

Because of the generosity of Maurice Adelman, the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home is now the beneficiary of a permanent endowment of approximately \$200,000, as of December 31, 2017. By commercial standards, this is a relatively small amount of money, but future gifts and bequests will contribute to its growth. Maurice indicated that the fund must be used exclusively for capital expenditures, which was prophetic thinking. As a historic building, the financial needs for upkeep are substantial.

Friends of Flannery, in your "gift giving," please remember to add to the corpus of this endowment. Your gift will increase in value over time.

At the end of June, I will hand over the mantle of leadership to Michael Schroeder, the incoming President. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and admiration to the board members, staff and docents of the Flannery Home Foundation. Your dedication, commitment and support are truly exceptional. The spirit of Flannery lives on because of your efforts.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin Boland
Board President

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 special membership opportunities for students and teachers, please call 912.233.6014 or email us at flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com.

[DONATE NOW](#)

SPRING 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, FEBRUARY 25, 4 p.m.

Diane Cantor

“A Writer’s Take: How Flannery O’Connor Chose Words”

Drawing on Flannery O'Connor's letters concerning a writer's ear as well as selections from her short stories, Diane Cantor will provide examples of why O'Connor's precise and surprising use of descriptive words makes her writing authentic, original and enduring. Diane Cantor is the author of *The Poisoned Table* and *When Nighttime Shadows Fall*.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 4 p.m.

Daren Wang

“Driving Mrs. Fitzgerald: My Time with Sally Fitzgerald”

Sally Fitzgerald was one of Flannery O'Connor's closest friends and the editor of *The Habit of Being: Letters of Flannery O'Connor*. Author Daren Wang will share stories of driving Sally Fitzgerald and discuss his own bestselling novel *The Hidden Light of Northern Fires*.

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 4 p.m.

Peacock Guild

“The Power of Storytelling”

Members of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Peacock Guild Writer's Salon, a talented group of local authors, will share original writing, carrying O'Connor's rich tradition of storytelling into the 21st century. Don't miss the chance to hear from some of Savannah's emerging and established writers.

ALL
WRITERS

are local
somewhere.



About the lecture series

FLANNERY O'CONNOR PARADE AND STREET FAIR SET FOR MARCH 25



The 2018 Flannery O'Connor Parade and Street Fair will take place on Sunday, March 25, 1-4 p.m. This lively annual celebration of acclaimed author and Savannah native Flannery O'Connor's birthday will offer family fun, live music and more.

Attendees are invited to join the parade, carry handmade signs and sing along. Live music will be provided

by a cavalcade of singer-songwriters and musicians from some of Savannah's finest local bands in honor of O'Connor's 93rd birthday. Music for the parade will be played by an all-star line-up of the Sweet Thunder Strolling Band.

Costumes inspired by Flannery O'Connor characters, settings or the author's life are encouraged but optional. The parade is free and open to the public.

From 1-4 p.m., bring your own picnic and enjoy live music, games, crafts, and contests. Meet Savannah's local authors, get your photo or family portrait taken with a gorilla, make your own parade sign and play bingo with live chickens. Refreshments will be provided by the Sentient Bean.

The parade starts in Lafayette Square at 3 p.m. There will be free birthday cake in Lafayette Square immediately following the parade. Tours of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home will be available throughout the afternoon.

About the parade

PLEASE MEET: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Amy Paige Condon

After an 18-year career as a park planner, Amy Paige Condon switched gears, sold everything and moved to Savannah in 2009, so that she could earn an MFA in writing from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Since then, she has co-authored two cookbooks, served as editor of Savannah magazine and founded The Refinery Writing Studio, where she teaches creative writing classes. As a freelance writer, her work has appeared in HistoryMiami, The Local Palate online, Tasting Table, the Savannah Morning News, This Old House, Renew, Nonstop and Garden & Gun. At work on a biography, Amy lives in Savannah with her husband, three rambunctious dogs and an ornery pig named Gus.



Meaghan Walsh Gerard

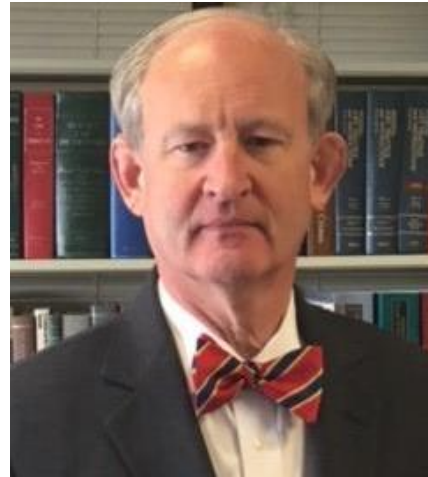
Meaghan Walsh Gerard is a writer, photographer, cinephile, book critic, Anglophile and historic preservationist. In addition to her day job in the marketing department at Savannah State University, she writes book reviews, volunteers with Deep Kids and supports literary culture in Savannah. Meaghan earned her English degree from Saint Anselm College and a master's degree in cinema studies from SCAD. She can often be found watching old movies or reading in her library with a happy



dog at her feet.

Robert L Persse

Robert L. Persse serves as the Circuit Public Defender for the Eastern Judicial Circuit in Savannah. A native of Savannah, Robert attended Benedictine Military School and Armstrong State College before receiving his law degree from the University of South Carolina. He was elected President of the Georgia Association of Circuit Public Defenders in 2010, is a contributing editor to the GACDL's "What's the Decision" and is the editor of Georgia Criminal Law. Robert lives in Savannah with his wife, Tara, and their five children.



Virginia Reitan

Virginia (Ginny) Reitan is a native of Louisville, Kentucky and a resident of Savannah, Ga. since 2010. She's the proud mother of 2 two daughters, with Claire and Elaine both attending colleges out of state. Ginny has 20+ years of print and digital sales and marketing experience. She enjoys reading, golf, cooking and spending time at the beach.



Lisa Yount

Dr. Lisa Yount is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Savannah State University. She recently served as Interim Associate Provost and also directed a five-year university-wide initiative to increase positive attitudes about the activity and value of writing. Lisa is a passionate teacher who loves to inspire students think about the world and their role and responsibility within it. She recently finished serving as board chair for Deep Center, Inc., and looks forward to helping to support the mission of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home as a new board member.



FROM THE FLANNERY ARCHIVES



During the Spring of 1958, Flannery O'Connor undertook a pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Diocese of Savannah, which was her only trip outside the United States. The highlight was an audience with Pope Pius XII at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Flannery received a special blessing from the Pope, on account of her crutches, and later wrote that, "Whatever the special superaliveness that holiness is, it is very apparent in him." In this photo, Flannery can be seen peeking out, to the left of the Pope, in her signature glasses.

