



Flannery O'Connor  
Childhood Home  
Savannah, Ga.

# Newsletter

- SPRING 2020 -

## From the President



### Happy 2020!

I often wonder what Flannery would say or think about certain matters. And so I regularly flip through *The Habit of Being*, a posthumous collection of Flannery's letters, for inspiration. On New Year's Day in 1954, for example, she said in a letter to friends: "I'm not fat yet but I don't have any room to grow." How relatable she is during resolution time nearly 70 years later!

In that same letter, she claimed the novel she was working on was so bad she'd turned her attention elsewhere to avoid looking at it. A decade later, less than three weeks before her death from lupus at 39, Flannery confessed the same self-deprecation, noting her reticence to edit a story slated for inclusion in her next short story collection for fear she'd "make it worse than it is."

Clearly she had no inkling of the literary legacy she was about to leave behind.

So too the growing importance of her contribution to the Catholic faith that steered her from cradle to grave. Bishop Robert Barron recently called her one of the most significant of 20th century Catholics. She's also the subject of the latest installment in his best-selling Pivotal Players video series. In another recent video, he recounts novelist Mary McCarthy's remark at a dinner party concerning the symbolic value of the Eucharist and Flannery's retort. In true

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### THE FLANNERY HOME NEEDS YOUR HELP!

There are many ways you can support The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home.

Designate the home as a beneficiary in your planned giving.

Become a volunteer docent and lead tours or assist in the gift shop.

Become a Friend 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,

speaking your mind fashion, Flannery quipped, “Well, if it’s a symbol, to hell with it.” Barron says, “Nowhere in the literature of theology are you going to find a more eloquent defense of what the church means by the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.” Considering the depth and breadth of theological literature that’s quite an endorsement.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the generous contributions of your time, talents, and donations in 2019. They are vital in helping to preserve the legacy of our beloved muse. Read on to learn about the exciting events on tap at the house as we enter the next decade. And please join us. You never know how Flannery’s inspiration will surprise us next.

Cheers,

Beverly Willett  
Board President

please call 912.233.6014  
or email us at  
cody@flanneryoconnor  
home.org.

[DONATE NOW](#)

The Flannery O'Connor  
Childhood Home will  
participate in

[SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY](#)

on Sunday, Feb. 9. Dozens  
of museums in Savannah  
will have free entry.

## 2020 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Unless otherwise noted, the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home's 2020 Spring Lecture Series take place in the parlor of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, located at 207 E. Charlton Street on Lafayette Square in downtown Savannah. ALL events are free and open to the public.

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

**Jonathan Haupt**

The executive director of the Pat Conroy Literary Center, and guest authors will discuss *Our Prince of Scribes*, a collection of remembrances by 67 writers who were mentored, inspired, befriended, and championed by the late Pat Conroy.



**SUNDAY, Apr. 26, 4 p.m.**

**Angela Alaimo O'Donnell**

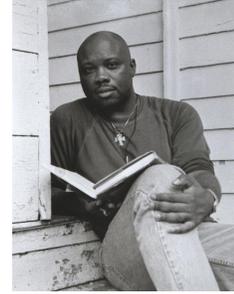
O'Donnell's latest books focus on O'Connor. *Andalusian Hours: Poems from the Porch of Flannery O'Connor*, is a collection of 101 poems that channel the voice of fiction writer Flannery O'Connor. *Radical Ambivalence: Race in Flannery O'Connor* is a study of O'Connor's writings on race.

**SUNDAY, May 17, 4 p.m.**

**Aberjhani**

Aberjhani is an author, poet, author and visual artist whose most recent book is *Dreams of the Immortal City Savannah*.

His forthcoming literary memoir *Greeting Flannery O'Connor at the Back Door of My Mind* is scheduled for spring 2020 release. (1998 photo by Kathleen Thomas)



## BIRTHDAY PARTY AND LOCAL AUTHOR DAY SUNDAY, MARCH 22



The 2020 Flannery O'Connor **Birth**day **Parade and Street Fair** will take place on Saturday, March 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Lafayette Square.

This lively annual birthday celebration of acclaimed author and Savannah native Flannery O'Connor will offer family fun, live music and more. All 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 birthday. Music for the parade will be performed by the Sweet Thunder Strolling Band.

Local authors will be on hand with copies of their publications and information.

Costumes inspired by Flannery O'Connor's characters and settings or by the author's life are encouraged, but not required. The event is free and open to the public. The rain date is Sunday, March 29.

## FROM THE FLANNERY ARCHIVES

A review of Flannery's second novel, *The Violent Bear It Away*, from the "New Yorker" in 1960. After praying for this novel on her pilgrimage to Lourdes and Rome in 1958, Flannery found herself re-inspired and completed the work with great speed.

From the New Yorker of March 19, 1960

A review of *The Violent Bear It Away*

A dark, ingrown Gothic tale about a monosyllabic teenage boy from the Tennessee backwoods who, inspired by his 'majestic' half-mad great uncle sets out to become a religious prophet. Miss O'Connor's writing, which is packed with 'trembling' pink moons and people who have 'crushed' shadows, fits her material perfectly.

# STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ABOUT THE BIENNIAL SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT ART SHOW

APRIL 24 - MAY 8



## A Good Fan Is Hard To Find

This Flannery O'Connor face fan is the work of the fabulous Betsy Cain. They are available in our shop and online for \$4, 3/\$10.

Stop by the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, or visit the new **online shop**, to purchase this and other items.



FLANNERY O'CONNOR CHILDHOOD HOME | [www.flanneryoconnorhome.org](http://www.flanneryoconnorhome.org)