

"Anybody who has survived his childhood has enough information about life to last him the rest of his days."

-- Flannery O'Connor

## Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Newsletter Fall 2016

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### President's Message

Happy Labor Day! On September 6, scaffolding will be evident on the west wall of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home. Due to cumulative damage from the elements, this external wall has to be re-stuccoed from top to bottom.

Thankfully, a recent bequest from Maurice Adelman will be used to offset this undertaking. What a blessing!

Maintenance is an essential element in taking care of historical property. The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home's primary sources of income over the years have consisted of visitor admission, sale of books and memorabilia, and annual fundraisers, including the Peacock Party. These projects generate the funds to cover the cost of a Foundation Manager, utilities and ongoing general maintenance.

I would like to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to Maurice Adelman, whose bequest has made this special project possible. His generosity and foresight are much appreciated.

I would also like to take a moment to reflect up on the passing of William "Bill" Sessions, the editor of Flannery O'Connor's *A Prayer Journal*. This powerful collection of Flannery's spiritual writing underscores her deep faith. We are grateful to this gifted editor for making Flannery's insights and meditations available to the public in this inspiring collection of deeply personal essays.

We are also grateful to all of you who support the various undertakings of the Home's board of directors. Together, you enable our community to have full access to the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, a cultural treasure in the heart of Savannah.

Peace & Blessings,  
Bishop Emeritus J. Kevin Boland  
President, Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation



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### Mark Your Calendar! Annual Peacock Party Set for Oct. 8

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home will host the **2016 Peacock Party**, celebrating the 27th anniversary of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home

Foundation, Inc. and the ongoing effort to preserve this award-winning author's legacy on Saturday, October 8 from 5 to 8 p.m.

This annual soiree will take place at 508 E. Taylor Street, at the home of Andrew and Ann Hartzell, and will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, vintage cocktails, a silent auction and live music. All proceeds will support ongoing programs, building maintenance and outreach initiatives at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in Savannah.



A \$100 donation per person is requested. Period-appropriate dress is optional. Please RSVP by calling **912.233.6014**, emailing [flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com](mailto:flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com), or purchasing tickets online via [PayPal by clicking here](#). Sponsorships are also available.

We hope to see you there!

[Learn more!](#)

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## Fall Lecture Series To Kick Off on Sept. 18

The [Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home](#) is pleased to announce the line-up for the 2016 Fall Lecture Series. All events are free and open to the public.

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

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

#### **Michael Freeman - "Savannah: The City that Defines Southern Gothic"**

Many other Southern cities have emphasized antebellum or multicultural heritages, but Savannah has established itself as Southern gothic city. Michael Freeman is a longtime Savannah resident and author of *Savannah's Monuments: The Untold Stories*. He has a B.A. in History and Religion from Samford University and a M.Div. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

#### **T.D. (Tim) Johnston - "Short Fiction as Commentary: Flannery O'Connor and the Power of Poe's Singular Effect"**

Most modern writers who see short fiction as far more than one-sitting entertainment point to Flannery O'Connor as the most prolific influence upon writers who have something to say to all of us. Beaufort-based T.D. (Tim) Johnston is the author of a new short-story collection *Friday Afternoon and Other Stories*. His stories have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *Hobart*, *PineStraw Magazine*, *Mulberry Fork Review*, *Literary Juice*, *Civil War Camp Chest*, Rod Serling Books' inaugural anthology *Submitted for Your Approval*, and the acclaimed *Short Story America* anthology series, where he serves as publisher and editor.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

#### **Sarah Domet - "Spanning the Mason-Dixon: Who Can Write About the South?"**

In literature, place orients a reader, puts a story in context, and alerts one to language and dialect. But it also conveys culture and cultural meaning, including the values and psychologies of those who have been formed there. This lecture will explore the literature and anxiety of place and the

idea of "home" in fiction. What makes a work "Southern" and, more importantly, who can write about the South? Sarah Domet has a Ph.D. in literature and creative writing from the University of Cincinnati and is the author of *90 Days to Your Novel* and the forthcoming debut novel, *The Guineveres*.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

### Dr. Robert Strozier - Reading of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory"

Retired Armstrong State University English professor Dr. Robert Strozier will deliver the 27<sup>th</sup> annual holiday reading of Truman Capote's short story, "A Christmas Memory." Come early, as seating is limited!

[Learn more!](#)

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## Meet Our New Foundation Manager

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home recently hired Cody Shelley as foundation manager. In her new position, Cody is responsible for managing the historic site's daily operations and working with the nonprofit organization's board of directors, staff, volunteers and the community.

Before joining the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, Cody served as the communications director at the Tybee Island Marine Science Center, where she managed communications as well as media and social media outreach. She also organized community outreach, special events and annual fundraisers, in addition to overseeing educational programming for 50,000 visitors annually.

Cody has an impressive legacy of service to a wide range of nonprofit organizations. Over the years, she has served as a match support specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Savannah, Ga.; a case manager at Project Woman in Springfield, Ohio; and a program assistant and volunteer coordinator at the Harvey Milk Institute/ SFLGBT Community Center in San Francisco, Calif.

Originally from Atlanta, Cody attended Antioch University and Georgia Perimeter College. She is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and an active community volunteer who currently resides in Savannah.

Please stop by the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home to meet Cody in person!

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## From the Flannery Archives

One of the responsibilities of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home is to create a digital archive of the Foundation's historic materials, including rare letters, photos and other items.

This photo of Mary Flannery as a young girl was shot during the time when she lived at her family's home at 207 E. Charlton Street in Savannah.

As described on tours of the Flannery O'Connor



Childhood Home, Mary Flannery decided she was an adult at the age of six and stopped playing with toys, so it is rare to see her with one in a photograph.

We hope you enjoy a glimpse into the archives at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home. There are many additional O'Connor family photos on display at the Home year-round.



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## Become a Friend of Flannery!

Would you like to support Flannery O'Connor's legacy in Savannah? 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 at **[flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com](mailto:flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com)**.

Thank you very much for your support!



Flannery O'Connor  
Childhood Home

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## New Board Members

### **WILLIAM BELFORD**

William Belford lives with his wife in his hometown of Savannah, Georgia, where he writes fiction and serves as Lecturer of English at Armstrong State

University, teaching creative writing, literature, and composition. He earned his Ph.D. in English - Creative Writing at Florida State University in Tallahassee; his M.F.A. in creative writing at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; and his B.A. in English at Sewanee: The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Will has published his work in *The Minus Times* and *The Virginia Quarterly Review* and is currently revising a novel manuscript.



### **DAWN BERGER**

Dawn Berger hails from northeastern Kentucky and is a 2004 graduate of Centre College. While there she was introduced to Flannery O'Connor through a course on the Southern Literary Renaissance, and soon signed up for a one-month immersive course exclusively on O'Connor's works. The course covered nearly all of O'Connor's short stories and many of her letters, and included a trip to Andalusia. Dawn was hooked on O'Connor at that point. Dawn currently serves as the Associate Director of College Counseling at Savannah Country Day School, where she has also taught several English classes. She's always sure to introduce her students to O'Connor, usually through the romance of Hulga and Manley Pointer.



### **MEREDITH GRAY**

Meredith Gray is a former New York City-based editorial fashion publishing executive who began her career at VOGUE, serving as Fashion Editor at Harper's Bazaar prior to becoming Editor-in-Chief of VOGUE Patterns magazine. Since moving to Savannah in 2011, Meredith has been an active community volunteer, serving on the board of directors for the Telfair Academy Guild, Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy and a number organizations supporting breast cancer awareness and advocacy.



### **BEVERLY WILLETT**

Beverly Willett is a writer and former New York City-

based entertainment attorney. Her work has appeared in dozens of national magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *Salon*. Locally she's written for *Savannah Magazine* and *South*. Her new radio show "Beginning Again" is carried on Our American Network. An active community volunteer, she also serves on the board of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless.



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