



Flannery O'Connor
Childhood Home
Savannah, Ga.

Newsletter

- Spring 2019 -

From the President



The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home is off to a strong start to 2019. We had a standing-room-only audience for the first of our Spring Lecture Series events when Dr. Susan Copeland came down from Clayton State University to talk about Ches McCartney, better known as the Goat Man, and his

possible role as the inspiration of an iconic O'Connor character.

I was impressed that even those standing in the entranceway stayed through the presentation and the active discussion that followed. Upcoming talks are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would like a seat, I encourage you to arrive early.

Then came Super Museum Sunday, with nearly 300 guests visiting the Home in one memorable day. We are thrilled to be able to help so many folks to learn more about Savannah's best known author.

We are also in the process of assembling an Advisory Board of individuals who have been particularly helpful to the Home in the past but are not currently on the Board of Directors. We want to be able to call on the Advisory Board for their knowledge about the Home or for their advice on matters related to fundraising, community resources or other issues that arise.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our upcoming events, whether the Spring Lecture Series or the Flannery O'Connor Birthday Parade in

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 flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com.

2019 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home's 2019 Spring Lecture Series will continue with three exceptional events in March, April and May. 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,
MARCH 10, 4
p.m.**
Kelley Kidd
**“Stories from
Milledgeville
and Miss
Flannery”**

Kelley Kidd grew up in Milledgeville, Ga., while Flannery O'Connor lived on the nearby farm, Andalusia. Kidd will share first-hand stories of his childhood in middle Georgia and his adventures with Miss Flannery.



**SUNDAY, APRIL
7, 4 p.m.**
Alena Pirok,
Ph.D.
**“Savannah's
Gothic Ghosts”**

Alena Pirok, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at Georgia Southern's Armstrong Campus, will look at the relationship between the Southern gothic literary tradition, Flannery O'Connor and her contemporary's vision of the South and how it shaped the city's ghost lore.

**SUNDAY,
MAY 19, 4
p.m.**
**Peacock
Guild**
“A Muster of Peacocks”



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.



BIRTHDAY PARADE AND STREET FAIR SET FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 24



The **2019 Flannery O'Connor Birthday Parade and Street Fair** will take place on **Saturday, March 24 from 1 to 4 p.m.** in Lafayette Square.

This lively annual celebration of acclaimed author and Savannah native Flannery O'Connor's birthday will offer family fun, live music and more. You're invited to join the

parade, carry handmade signs and sing along.

1-4 p.m. – Enjoy live music, games, art, face painting and contests. Meet local authors, enjoy a pop-up art show by Panhandle Slim, get your photo taken with a gorilla and play bingo with live chickens. Refreshments provided by the Sentient Bean. Vendors include Kleo's Handmade Soaps, Holly Oddly, Quarter Press and many others.

3 p.m. – The Parade starts in Lafayette Square with a blessing by Bishop Emeritus J. Kevin Boland, former president of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home board of directors. Enjoy birthday cake in Lafayette Square immediately following the parade.

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 94th birthday. Music for the parade will be performed by the Sweet Thunder Strolling Band.

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

To learn more, visit flanneryoconnorhome.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PEACOCK PARTY

Special thanks to everyone who attended the **Peacock Party** on October 12! This lively event, held at the home of Dale and Lila Critz and in the garden of the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, celebrated the 29th anniversary of the Flannery O'Connor Home Foundation, Inc., and the ongoing efforts to



preserve this award-winning author's legacy in Savannah.

The theme of this annual soiree was *Moonlight in the Garden*. Event highlights included live music, a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations. All proceeds supported ongoing programs, maintenance and outreach initiatives at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in Savannah.

NEW WRITING CONTEST



The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home is currently sponsoring the inaugural **A Good Writer is Hard to Find Writing Contest**. Students currently attending public or private high schools in Chatham County in grades 9-12 are submitting short stories that are loosely inspired by the writing of Flannery O'Connor. Stories can range between 500 and 2,500 words.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three winners. Submissions can be sent via email to dberger@savcds.org. The submission deadline is April 1, 2019.

FROM THE FLANNERY ARCHIVES



Located on Whitefield Square, Savannah's original St. Joseph's Hospital is pictured circa 1925. Mary Flannery O'Connor was born at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, March 25th, 1925 to Regina Cline and Edward Francis O'Connor, just two blocks from her childhood home on nearby Lafayette Square.



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