

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home 2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Save-the-Date for the 2015 Peacock Party!

This year's premier fancy but down home fundraising event will be held on October 10th. Stay tuned for details, and please contact us if you are interested in participating as a sponsor, an auction donor, a bird whisperer, or in other meaningful ways of contributing and showing your support.



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Announcing the 2015 Spring Lecture Series

Lectures take place at the Childhood Home, free and open to the public, and are made possible by the support of Gulfstream Aerospace, and the generosity of all Friends of Flannery.

UP NEXT: Sunday April 26th, 4pm

Edward Fletcher, a.k.a Duke Bootee: The Savannah School

Edward Fletcher will talk about the elements that contribute to what he considers the "Savannah School", including antiquity, master-servant relations, water, fauna and lush verdant vegetation, and the spirit world: religion and things unseen. He will also read a sample of his own writing. Fletcher is a writer, novelist, musician, producer, and hip-hop pioneer. The New Jersey native is a former member of the Sugarhill Gang, Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five, and many other groundbreaking projects. He is the voice, creator and producer of The Message, hailed by Rolling Stone magazine as the No. 1 Hip-Hop Song of All Time. His work is included in the Smithsonian Collection of American Recordings, and is also included in the Norton Anthology of Black Literature. He currently teaches Critical Thinking at Savannah State University.

His novel, *The Yo Culture*, is available from www.dukebooteeproductions.com, and his forthcoming novel is titled *Against My Better Judgment*.

Sunday May 3rd, 4pm

Jane Fishman: *How Not To Write A Book -or- How Not To Garden.*

Columnist, gardener, and nomad; contrarian Jane Fishman will be talking about the process of assembling random thoughts or plants into a whole.

[See more](#)

Sunday May 10th, 4pm

George Williams: *The Valley of Happiness*

George Williams will read an excerpt from the title story of his latest collection, *The Valley of Happiness*, and will talk about writing, teaching, and editing fiction.

[See more](#)

Sunday, May 24th, 4pm

Sjohnna McCray: *Rapture*

Sjohnna McCray will be discussing and reading from his poetry, including poems to appear in *Rapture*, which was selected for the 2015 Walt Whitman Award from the American Academy of Poets.

[See more](#)

THE COMFORTS OF "Flannery's Childhood" HOME A Message from the Managing Director, Jared Hall April 2015

It is a delight to be welcomed by so many new and familiar faces as I have stepped into the managing role here at The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home (FOCCH). I have met so many passionate, quirky, and talented people already in my two months of working for the organization, which may also reflect the very spirit of Flannery herself.

As I quickly scrambled to make myself familiar with not only the day to day operations of the house museum but also with the history of how the house became the FOCCH, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed with the creative, financial, and historical accomplishments of the founders and board members throughout the years. They have not only honored Savannah's famous local author, but also turned the house into a vibrant literary hotspot.

While the economic climate continues to challenge all non-profit and arts organizations, the leadership at FOCCH has put the museum in a strong position to not only preserve and continuously restore the house itself, but also to grow its visitor attendance and event programming. We now have a strong set of volunteers as docents helping us with tours and special events who include: Gillian Brown, Jo Hailey, John Harris, Kathryn Tanner, and Holly Elliott. We also have Kathryn Tanner, Frances Smith, and Margaret Kincaid volunteering to help keep the courtyard and garden in terrific shape. Hopefully we can keep building our volunteer program, enhance our tours, and extend our hours over the course of the next few years.

On a glorious Sunday afternoon March 29, 2015, my wife, daughter and mother-in-law were able to attend the 5th annual Flannery O'Connor parade on Lafayette Square in celebration of what would have been Flannery's 90th birthday and I couldn't have been more excited about the future of the FOCCH. Other attendees include; local authors, artists, chickens, and a parade of young children all the way up to great-grandparents. Favorite moments including gorilla costumes, a moving blessing from Bishop Boland, live music with a marching band, and dogs in costume helped create such a fun and very important event in the life of our community.

I look forward to meeting any of you that have been involved in FOCCH in the past and would welcome your stories and insight. I hope to meet many new folks who wish to lend a talent in any way to help support our mission of all things Flannery! I invite all of you to join us here at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home as we chart the future of this great little spot on Lafayette Square here in Savannah, Georgia!

Jared Hall Joins Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home as Manager

The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in Savannah recently hired Jared Hall as the manager of this historic home dedicated to preserving the legacy of one of the South's iconic authors. In his new position, Hall is responsible for supporting the house museum's operations and activities and working with the organization's board of directors, staff, volunteers and the community.



Before joining the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, Hall served as the director of music at Trinity United Methodist Church on Telfair Square in downtown Savannah. During his tenure, he organized a variety of music programs the Thursday Night Opry Concert Series and the Noon-Time Lunch Concert Series.

He is also an accomplished musician, playing keyboards with Velvet Caravan, an award-winning gypsy-jazz musical group based in Savannah, and contributing to with the Train Wrecks, the Lucas Theatre for the Arts Cabaret Series and the Savannah Music Festival Education Series. He has recorded with top artists ranging from the Blind Boys of Alabama to DMC from RunDMC.

Over the years, Hall has worked as the stage and show manager for the Savannah Music Festival; as a liaison to PERC Coffee Roasters in Savannah; as a choral director and concert programmer in Des Moines, Iowa; and as an early childhood music teacher in Austin, Tex. He has also served as a touring musician and freelance recording artist in Austin and as the president of the Des Moines Metro Opera Guild.

Originally from Atlantic, Iowa, Hall earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. He is an active community volunteer and plays piano regularly in the lobby of the Anderson Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital through a special program offered by the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra.

He is married to Emily Grundstad-Hall, a voice professor at Armstrong State University. Together, they have one daughter and a Pomeranian.

2015 Ursrey Lecture Announced! Roxane Gay "America's Brightest New Essayist" - The Guardian (UK)

Thursday, September 3, 2015
Historic Trinity United Methodist Church Sanctuary
7:00pm (with book signing and reception to follow)

Roxane Gay's presence is unmatched in the world of words. With a deft eye on modern culture, she masterfully critiques its ebb and flow through our society and social media.

Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska she is the daughter of Haitian immigrants. Her family moved frequently as her father took on new engineering projects. Eventually, this led her to Phillips Exeter Academy where she spent most of her high school years. She later started at Yale, but left early to experience life without the confines of classrooms. Having discovered a love of writing and Laura Ingalls Wilder at 5 years old, she eventually decided to hone her craft at The University of Nebraska where she received an MA in Creative Writing. In 2010, she received her PhD in Rhetoric and Technical Communication.



In 2014, she published both *Bad Feminist* and *An Untamed State* to universal praise. *Bad Feminist*, her collection of essays, continues to garner international acclaim for its reflective, no-

holds-barred exploration of feminism. In their review of her work TIME magazine proclaimed, "let this be the year of Roxane Gay!" In her essays, she navigates her sharp wit through entertainment and culture, particularly the consumption of television, news, movies, sports, literature and comedy. Her powerful debut novel, *An Untamed State*, is a thought-provoking examination of privilege, social class, entitlement and corruption. It was long listed for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize and *Libray Journal* named it one of the ten best books of the year.

Roxane is the co-editor of *PANK* and was the non-fiction editor at *The Rumpus*. She is at the helm of *The Butter*, a website dedicated to cultural criticism and personal essays by people of color and queer writers. Her writing has also appeared in *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Nation*, and many others. She is also the author of *Ayiti*. She is currently working on her new novel, *Hunger*.

Roxane dominates Scrabble tournaments frequently and hopes to be Ina Garten when she grows up. She resides in Indiana where she is an Associate professor of English at Purdue University.



Gorillas, Chickens, and a Parade: Savannah Celebrates Flannery O'Connor

Our 4th Annual Flannery O'Connor Parade was a huge success with over 200 people and 25 local authors. Click on the link below for an article on the big day!

[Check out the article from Savannah Morning News here!](#)



Lucinda Williams gives Savannah shout out to Flannery O'Connor

During her performance at the 2015 Savannah Music Festival at the Lucas Theatre, Lucinda Williams gave a shout out to Flannery O'Connor and shared her memories of chasing her peacocks around when she was 4 years old, while her father, Miller Williams, was visiting with Flannery. Then she played *Get Right With God*, a song inspired by the book (and movie) *Wise Blood*.



"He said one time that Flannery O'Connor was his greatest teacher," she says, "and on the album [released in September] I thank my dad. I said, 'As Flannery O'Connor was to you, you were my greatest teacher.' He taught me to never lose my sense of wonder. And I never have." - Lucinda

Williams.

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 at flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com.

Thank you very much for your support!!!



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