

# Golden Apples

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Fall 2015

The Eudora Welty Foundation

## INAUGURAL SMASH! BOOK FESTIVAL ATTRACTS 3,500+



Eudora Welty was front and center at Mississippi's first ever book festival billed as "A Literary Lawn Party" at the State Capitol August 22. Keynote speakers referenced her, two panel discussions featured Welty topics and scholars, and many friends—old and new—visited the Welty tent staffed by the Foundation and the Welty House and Garden on the grounds.

Welty Foundation National Advisory Board member authors were featured prominently.



John Grisham

**John Grisham** was a major headliner, opening the festival, hosting a fundraising luncheon, and participating in a standing-room-only panel discussion at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church.

Former NAB member **William Ferris** joined Grisham for the opening panel and moderated the closing panel, which included NAB member **Julia Reed**. NAB member **Margaret McMullan** was featured on two panels.

Discussing "Eudora Welty: Letters, Loves, and the Latest Scholarship" were **Suzanne Marrs**, **Tom Nolan**, **Julia Eichelberger**, and **Sally Wolff** with **Peggy Prenshaw** moderating. The discussion was carried live on C Span 2's "BookTV," which also showed Welty House scenes shot earlier.

Participating in "Margaret Walker Alexander, Eudora Welty, and the Making of Literary Jackson" were **Carolyn Brown**, **Marrs**, **Eichelberger**, and **Alferdteen Harrison**, with **Robby Luckett** moderating.

Over 100 writers drew capacity crowds at every event as readers and authors celebrated the written word. Lemuria Books' John Evans, festival organizer, said "he hoped it would be a day Eudora Welty could look down from heaven and smile upon," noted *The Clarion-Ledger* in its coverage.

On Friday evening before the festival, the Welty House and Garden was the scene of a cocktail party welcoming the authors, their guests, and festival sponsors. Docents graciously helped the staff offer tours, and some 300 visitors enjoyed the evening's festivities.

Holly Lange, festival executive director, said the event greatly exceeded expectations in attendance and hopes it will stimulate continued appreciation of literature and a focus on literacy.

Attractions at the festival included an exhibit from the Library of Congress, book vendors, musicians, food trucks, and booths sponsored by many non-profit organizations. *See more photos on p. 7.*



From left, Tom Nolan and Suzanne Marrs, editors of *Meanwhile There Are Letters*; Peggy Prenshaw, moderator; Julia Eichelberger, editor of *Tell About Night Flowers*; and Sally Wolff, author of *A Dark Rose*, were featured in a panel discussion that drew a full house to the Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol.

## SUMMER REVIEW

### Scholastic

## WRITING ENTRIES DUE ONLINE DECEMBER 16

For the first time, entries into the Scholastic Writing Awards program must be submitted exclusively online, according to Lee Anne Bryan, outreach and education specialist for the Eudora Welty House and Garden and coordinator for the program. Paper manuscripts will not be accepted.

Directions for entering may be found on the Scholastic website at [artandwriting.org](http://artandwriting.org). The statewide Mississippi Regional Scholastic Writing Awards program is sponsored by the Eudora Welty Foundation and administered by the Welty House staff with a generous grant from the C Spire Foundation. The awards ceremony will be held Sunday, April 10, 2016, at the Welty House and Garden.

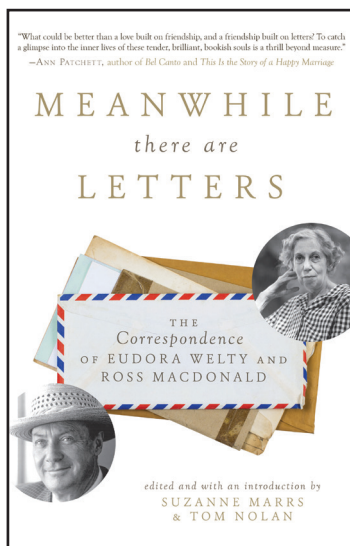
## New Book of Correspondence Attracts Readers, Reviews

"*Will They or Won't They*" is the provocative headline in *The Paris Review* — the latest of the very favorable reviews of *Meanwhile There Are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald*.

Edited by Suzanne Marrs and Tom Nolan, this moving exchange of letters documents the deep friendship between Welty and Ken Millar, who used the pseudonym Ross Macdonald. Called "an epistolary romance," the book was released to widespread acclaim in July.

Details about the crafting of the book and links to the reviews are on the Welty Foundation website at [eudorawelty.org](http://eudorawelty.org).

Nolan visited Mississippi from his home in California for several readings, signings, and receptions with Marrs celebrating the book's publication, pictured here.



Suzanne Marrs speaks to a full house at History Is Lunch at the William Winter Archives and History Building.



Billie Green and Pat Meiners enjoy the reading and reception at Lemuria Books.



Special Projects Coordinator Maggie Stevenson shows Nolan and Marrs an exhibit of books on loan by Lemuria's John Evans. Two are first editions of Ross Macdonald mysteries. The center book is *The Eye of the Story* by Welty, dedicated to Ken Millar and inscribed to him by her.



Nolan inscribes Phyllis Hollenbeck's copy of *Meanwhile There Are Letters*.



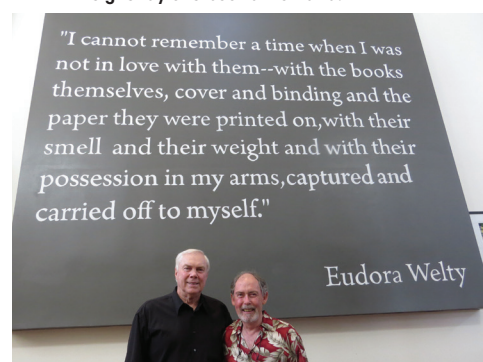
Mary Taylor visits with Suzanne Marrs as she signs Taylor's book at Lemuria.



Nolan offers a toast to Marrs, joined by Welty House docents Cecile and Bill Wardlaw, Laura Flint, and Lee Anne Bryan, Welty House outreach and education specialist.



Kay Barksdale passes libations for the traditional Welty toast to "absent friends."



Chico Taylor and C. B. Carroll visit at the Lemuria reception beneath the Welty quotation at the entrance to the store.



At left, Marrs and Nolan were hosted on a visit to the Gulf coast by author Margaret McMullan, who joined them for a reading and signing at Pass Christian Books/Cat Island Coffeehouse. The bookstore is owned by Scott Nagle, Millsaps alumnus and a former student of Marrs's. In background is Suzanne's husband, Rowan Taylor.

Photo courtesy Susan Shands Jones



Foundation Chair Holmes Adams and Gayle Adams, left, and Mary Yerger Dunbar, board member, join the Lemuria fun.







Liz Egan, kneeling front, Millsaps Writing Center coordinator, guided the activities of the students throughout the writing workshop. Instructors Mary Miller, second row left, and Richard Boada and Michael Pickard, third from last and last on back row, are shown with students after the closing ceremony.

## MCMULLAN YOUNG WRITERS WORKSHOP LAUNCHED

Twenty-two gold and silver key recipients in the Scholastic Writing Awards program spent five creativity-packed days at the first McMullan Young Writers Workshop held at Millsaps College in July.

Funded by a generous grant from the McMullan Family Foundation and coordinated through the Eudora Welty Foundation/Millsaps College partnership, the workshop featured inspiring keynotes and daily sessions with writers and creative writing professors.

Students workshoped their own writing in small groups and presented their creations to a public audience at the closing session.



Author Margaret McMullan delivered a motivational address as the young writers workshop came to a close. McMullan is a member of the Welty Foundation National Advisory Board.



Poet Richard Blanco opened the workshop with an inspiring talk based on his memoir of his life as the son of Cuban immigrants. The featured poet at President Barack Obama's second inauguration, here he meets student writer Aerial Adams.



Welty scholar Suzanne Marrs, left, directs a tour of the Welty House and Garden for students.



Poet Richard Boada reviews Carly Austin's work one on one.



Fiction writer Mary Miller, center, works with students in a small group session.



Lauren Allen delivers a reading of her poem to the audience.



Vernell Allen presents his work at the closing ceremony.



Millsaps creative writing professor Michael Pickard leads a group discussion.



# GARDEN DANCE PARTY ATTRACTS BIG CROWD; PANEL DISCUSSIONS FEATURE WELTY THEMES

"June Recital Remix: Music and Dancing in Eudora's Garden" came to life with great enthusiasm as some 200 guests gathered on the front lawn and side porch and in the Camellia Room on a beautiful summer evening.

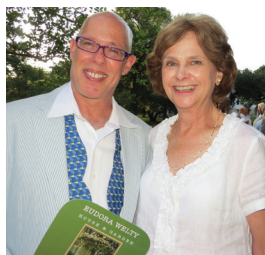
Sponsored by the Welty Foundation and the Welty House and Garden, the party featured some of Eudora's favorite music, storytelling, dancing, and tours of the refurbished clubhouse in the Woodland Garden. The party was an event of the Welty Biennial, which also included three panel discussions by Welty scholars, friends, and family.



Guests of all ages enjoyed the evening's entertainment.



Welty scholars Rebecca Mark, Pearl McHaney, and Harriet Pollack hit the dance floor.



Guests, clockwise from top left, included Marshall Bennett and Beverly Fatherree, Biennial Curator David Kaplan and Welty Foundation Board Member Jean Medley, Jim Child and Marion Swayze, and Howard and Susan Shands Jones.



Above, David Kaplan, Biennial curator, introduces Welty friends and family Suzanne Marrs, Patti Carr Black, Governor William Winter, Mary Alice Welty White, and Hunter Cole.



Left, former Welty Graduate Research Fellows Ebony Lumumba, Jacob Agner, and Elizabeth Crews were featured in a panel moderated by Forrest Galey, right, special projects officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



The Session, part of the Capital City Stage Band, with vocalist Lisa Palmer, provided swing and jazz music.



Cheryl Coker, Millsaps music professor, made a special appearance with the band.



Docents Laura Magee and Ann Bittick were among the faithful volunteers to help with the party, greeting guests and helping serve refreshments.



Suzanne Marrs, right, and her sister, LuAnn Marrs, were in a party mood. Suzanne shared anecdotes about music in Welty's stories during the evening.



Welty House and Garden staff members Lee Anne Bryan, left, and Molly Knight display props they prepared to add a festive touch for photo ops in the clubhouse. The decorations and props were inspired by photographs of Eudora taken at clubhouse parties and her well-known spoof of an Helena Arden ad, shown courtesy of Eudora Welty LLC.



## PORTRAIT READER PROJECT BENEFITS WELTY FOUNDATION

The imaginative Eudora Welty Portrait Reader project was brought to reality by Kate Medley, Brooke Hatfield, and Emily Wallace, a team of creative souls connected, they say, by a love of bourbon and southern stories.

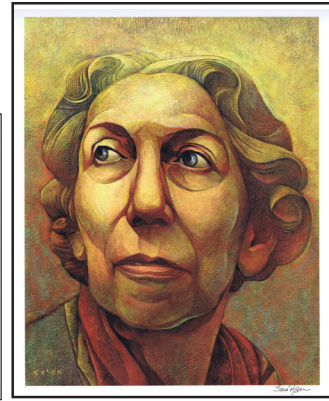
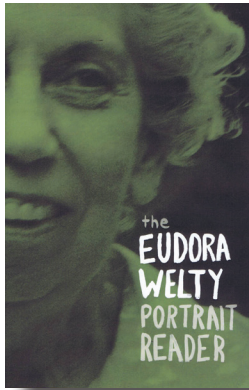
They collaborated on the publication of *The Eudora Welty Portrait Reader*, shown at right. The book features 20 illustrations of Welty by artists from across the south along with four literary pieces inspired by the art.

Twenty of the Welty portraits were displayed at a preview party at the Welty Education and Visitors Center in June. Local artists and owners of other Welty portraits were invited to bring their favorites for exhibition, as well.

The evening included music by Caroline Keys of Stellarondo, bourbon punch, and words about Eudora by long-time Welty friends Patti Carr Black and Suzanne Marrs.

In July the full array of portraits was exhibited in Atlanta at the Goat Farm Arts Center. The exhibition's opening featured readings by the authors and music by Keys.

Sales of the book, prints of some of the artwork, and other income from the project benefited the Welty Foundation. A few readers are still available for purchase for \$10.00. Visit [eudorawelty.org/store](http://eudorawelty.org/store) for details.



Welty portraits, top from left, by Patti Carr Black and Sara Tyson, and below by Laurin Stennis were among those on display at the Welty Education and Visitors Center for the Welty Portrait Reader Preview exhibition.



From left, Welty Portrait Reader project creator Kate Medley has a reunion with friends Emily Kate Sabree, Mary Elizabeth McKay, Lydia West, Karen Redhead, and Lee Anne Bryan at the reception. Redhead, is a former director of the Welty House. Bryan is outreach and education specialist. Former teachers, Redhead, history, and Bryan, English, taught Medley, Sabree, McKay, and West at Murrah High School.



Prints of Laurin Stennis's Welty portrait, directly above, are on sale at the Welty Education and Visitors Center for \$100.00, with \$50.00 from each sale benefiting the Eudora Welty House and Garden. Call 601-353-7762 for more information.



Carol Spencer tours through the many Welty portraits on display.



Musician Caroline Keys and Welty House and Garden Director Bridget Edwards admire the portrait by William Dunlap, member of the Welty Foundation National Advisory Board.



Artist Laurin Stennis visits with Carla Wall, Welty Foundation board member, and Diane Morse at the exhibition.



Marion Barnwell and Luran Buchanan study a creative collage tribute to Welty.

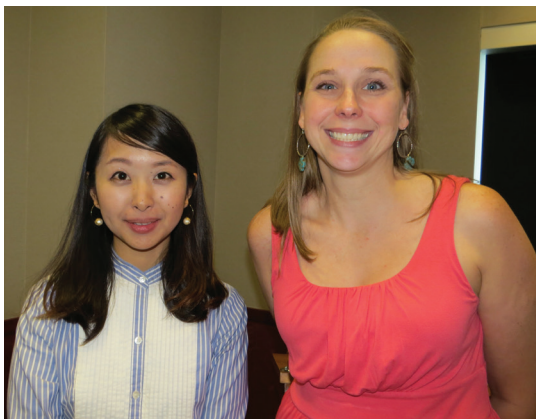


Patti Furr, center, executive director of the Jackson-Hinds Library System; Jean Medley, Welty Foundation board member; and Tim Medley view the portrait by Baxter Knowlton that hangs in the Eudora Welty Branch, loaned for the preview.



Mary Claire Primos, Chandler Griffin, and Nicole Robinson enjoy themselves at the Portrait Reader preview exhibit and reception.





2015 Welty Graduate Research Fellow Ikuko Takeda is welcomed to the public presentation of her research by Elizabeth Crews, the first graduate student to be awarded the fellowship.

## GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW COMPLETES SUMMER WORK

Ikuko Takeda, a Ph.D. candidate at Louisiana State University, worked during May in the Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), thanks to a fellowship made possible through the Eudora Welty Foundation.

Takeda focused on the relationship of Welty's writings to the short-story cycle as a genre. She reviewed Welty's uncollected stories, 1925-1987; *The Wide Net*, 1942; *The Golden Apples* and related works, 1949; and relevant correspondence, 1918-2002. She says she is confident that this work will help her in the preparation of her dissertation.

The Welty Graduate Research Fellowship is awarded annually and research is coordinated by MDAH. It includes a stipend of \$2,000, which may be used for travel, housing, and other expenses.

## WRITERS WORKSHOP ATTRACTS HIGH SCHOOLERS



Jamie Dickson, Germantown High School English and creative writing instructor, led a writers workshop for local high school students, hosted by the Welty House and Garden this summer.

For four Monday mornings in June, eight young people had their writing workshoped by Dickson, who has an MFA in creative writing from Bennington College. In the photograph, he is instructing students in how to use the Internet to find an agent and market their work.

*Reading.  
Writing  
and  
Welty*

## STORYTIME ON PORCH IS A KID CROWD PLEASER

Thanks to Clara Martin of Oz, the children's book department at Lemuria, and the creativity of the Welty House and Garden Outreach and Education staff, children enjoyed an abundance of stories and activities during June.



## MARRS RETIRES FROM CLASSROOM, CONTINUES AS WELTY SCHOLAR



Advanced Placement English teachers visit the Welty House and Garden as part of their continuing education through the Welty Foundation/Millsaps College partnership. Suzanne Marrs, Welty Foundation Scholar-in-Residence, leads this tour and lectures in the annual workshop. Although Marrs retired from college classroom teaching at the end of the 2014-15 academic year, she continues to direct many other educational programs, events, and scholarly work for the Welty Foundation, the Welty House and Garden, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



# *Literary Lawn Party Highlights*

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MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL



Carol Andersen, assistant director, Mississippi Humanities Council; Jere Nash, Festival organizer; Senator David Blount; Chris Goodwin, public information, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Leila Salisbury, director, University Press of Mississippi



Author Margaret McMullan, Welty Foundation National Advisory Board member



Katie Blount, executive director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; author Dennis Mitchell; author K. C. Morrison; Seetha Srinivasan, director emerita, University Press of Mississippi; and author Polly Dement



Author Julia Eichelberger, author Carolyn Brown and Lusby Brown



Authors Sterling Plump and Robby Luckett



Julia Young, Archives and Records Services director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; author W. Ralph Eubanks, and Kathy Ott, Library of Congress.



Visitor to the Eudora Welty Foundation and Welty House and Garden tent



Author Howard Bahr with Belhaven University students



Mary Alice Welty White, Welty Foundation corresponding secretary; Elee and Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves; and Festival Director Holly Lange



Author Julia Reed, Welty Foundation National Advisory Board member, was on the closing panel, also held at Galloway.

A standing-room-only crowd gathered to hear William Ferris, Jerry Mitchell, and John Grisham discuss "What Reading Means for Our Culture: Reading, Writing, and Journalism's Influence on Mississippi" at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church across the street from the Capitol.



Keep up with the news and events on the Welty Foundation website: [eudorawelty.org](http://eudorawelty.org) and the Eudora Welty House and Garden's Facebook® page.

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## VERSATILE NEW STAFF MEMBERS BRING EXPERTISE, ENTHUSIASM TO THE WELTY HOUSE AND GARDEN

Two new staff members and a Millsaps College senior have added their special skills to those of the hard-working staff at the Welty House and Garden.

**Maggie Lowery Stevenson** is no stranger to lovers of Welty and reading, having spent the last 15 years of her career at Lemuria Books. She is president of Bookfriends of University Press of Mississippi, co-vice-president of programming for the Millsaps Arts and Lecture Series, and a board member of Jackson Friends of the Library. Maggie is special projects coordinator, working with docents and helping coordinate public programs.

A graduate of Belhaven University, Maggie and her husband, Steve, have two dogs, Tillie and Eloise. A Jacksonian, Maggie attended Jackson Prep, where she and Eudora's great niece Leslie Thompson Jacobs were good friends.

**Isabel Gray**, who is from Tupelo, Mississippi, is a 2015 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Millsaps College where she majored in art history with a concentration in museum studies. She is a youth leader at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral working with 6th–12th graders. Isabel is an outreach and education specialist at the Welty House.

Isabel worked at Brown's Art Gallery this summer and interned for two semesters at the Mississippi Museum of Art, principally working with students. She is excited about using her museum studies and experience at Welty.

**Molly Knight**, who is pursuing a double major in Communications and Religious Studies at Millsaps, started working part-time at the Welty House and Garden in February. She will graduate next spring and plans to continue working at the Welty House and Garden.

From Folsom, Louisiana, Molly says she grew up reading Welty and is very happy to have the chance to work in the Welty environment. She also works at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Molly is the administrative assistant — greeting visitors, assisting with tours, and supporting many public functions.



**Maggie Stevenson, above, and Isabel Gray, below right, are welcomed new additions to the Welty House and Garden Staff. Molly Knight, below left, continues in her part-time role.**

