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Charleston Magazine Recognizes Lowcountry Writers In January's Literary Arts Issue

December 19, 2008 – Charleston, South Carolina – *Charleston* magazine's January Literary Arts issue spotlights some of the most brilliant and undiscovered individuals putting ink to paper in the Lowcountry. From lauded novelists to never-been-published authors, this issue celebrates these individuals, both past and present, who have educated and entertained us, as well as incited our imaginations, says editor-in-chief Darcy Shankland.

Meet the winners of *Charleston* magazine's first-ever short story competition, the Lowcountry Fiction Review. Local authors were tasked with submitting original, unpublished works of 3,000 words or less in which Charleston or the Lowcountry plays an integral role. Award-winning novelist Josephine Humphreys judged the competition, narrowing the 67 submissions down to three deserving winners whose works will be featured in the Literary Arts issue.

Each of the winning stories provides a unique interpretation of life in the Lowcountry. In "Sullivan's Island 1951," you will be transported through the imagination of a lonely boy. Set in circa-1929 downtown Charleston, "A Roof the Color of Desire" introduces us to painter Edward Hopper as he chases his muse. Lastly, "Project Asylum" offers a satiric tale of a government social experiment on the peninsula. Don't miss the works of the two runners-up on the *Charleston* magazine website, www.charlestonmag.com.

In this month's edition of "Top Shelf," Jon Yarian reviews recently published works of fiction by four local authors. January's Editor's Pick is Out Loud by College of Charleston professor Anthony Varallo, winner of the 2008 Drue Heinz Literature Prize. Other featured works include A Hundred Years of Happiness by Nicole Seitz, Time is a River by Mary Alice Monroe, and Armageddon Conspiracy by John Thompson.

Meet South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth in January's "Charleston Profile." In addition to her involvement in the success of the Lowcountry Fiction Review, the exceptionally talented Wentworth has authored a children's book and several collections of poetry.

Also in this issue, join contributing editor Sandy Lang as she tours Oxford, Taylors, and Clarksdale, Mississippi. Discover tips and try recipes from Tristan chef Aaron Deal as he prepares a four-course meal of soups, including cauliflower bisque and a sweet caramel apple concoction for dessert. Lastly, get to know playwright, novelist, and PURE Theatre Playwriting Lab director Spencer Deering in "Artist Profile."

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Charleston magazine reflects the city, her people, culture, traditions, architecture, and natural beauty. Our continued goal is to cover the evolution of this diverse community – its local icons, pressing issues, style, food, entertainment, and more – while preserving its historic traditions. For more information or to subscribe, call (843) 971-9811 or log on to www.charlestonmag.com. Charleston magazine is available at area newsstands for a cover price of \$4.95.

To schedule interviews with editor-in-chief Darcy Shankland or other contributors, please contact Jackie Tyler Thomson with Leapfrog Public Relations jtyler@leapfrogprco.com or (843) 579-0500.

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