

# NEWSLETTER

## President's Letter

Dear MKR Society Friends –

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the conference this year, but I will miss all of you. I remember my first conference feeling like a part of the group even though I had just joined, and I only knew two or three of the group. Friendship and support are the hallmarks of each of these conferences.

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society for the past two years, and I plan to continue serving on the board and attending the conferences in the future. Everyone works together to make the conferences so informative and enjoyable—the MKR Conference is the high point of my academic year.

I would like to congratulate Ashley Lear as she takes over the presidency. She is a bright, hard-working scholar, and I am confident that she will do a better job than I. Thank you all again for the help and encouragement, and I hope to see you all at the 2016 conference.

—Steve Brahlék

*I would like to offer a special thanks to Steve for his letters and professional friendship over the past two years. Steve encouraged me to attend the College English Association conference last year and present some of my own scholarship on Rawlings and also introduced me to the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, a group very similar to ours that celebrates a Kentucky author with a strong community following.*

*I hope that Steve continues to celebrate Rawlings with us in future years, and I look forward to working with the society in the upcoming years as the incoming president.*

*I would also like to encourage Society members to send me articles or information that you would like included in this newsletter. The past two issues have included writing from different members of our Board. Readers enjoy hearing your thoughts and experiences as they relate to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.*

*Ashley Lear*

### IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please check your address label. The date that you see on the label is the date your dues are due. If your membership is current, we thank you! Renewal card at:  
<http://rawlingssociety.org/>

John Doe  
123 Street  
Anytown, FL 12345

6/30/2015

## Summer Program for High School Students

This summer, the University of Florida will be offering a program called, “Humanities and the Sunshine State: Exploring Florida’s Past, Present, and Future.” This is the first humanities-oriented residential program for high school students offered through UF’s Center for Precollegiate Education and Training and includes a weeklong seminar that will take students to shell mounds at Cedar Key, the site of the former town of Rosewood, the springs at Silver Glen State Park and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ house at Cross Creek State Park. Applications are now being accepted from rising juniors and seniors in Florida at [cpet.ufl.edu/students/humanities](http://cpet.ufl.edu/students/humanities).

### Leave a Legacy

Ensure the future of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society by including the Society in your will. The following language may be used to name the Society as a beneficiary:

“I [your name], of [city, state, zip code], bequeath to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society [written amount of percentage of the estate or description of real or personal property].

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Society Newsletter

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## **La Florida: Idella Parker's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Card from the MKR Society**

*By Margaret A. Harris*

When my husband and I visited Christopher Still's art gallery at 324 E. Lemon Street in Tarpon Springs, FL, in January 2014, he showed us around. Still is in the Florida Artist Hall of Fame and his paintings are in museums and private collections, including the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee and the Smithsonian Institute. He is a native Floridian.

He explained in detail to us *La Florida*, a 2013 oil-on-canvas triptych. It had been featured at the Florida Governor's Mansion as part of the Viva Florida 500 anniversary celebration. Appraised at \$606,000, it had already been sold to a private collector. Still explains that he never reveals to whom he sells his paintings. I was interested in his inclusion of *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings on the bottom of a piece of Key Lime pie on the bottom left of the painting. He said he picked *The Yearling* as an important part of Florida's 500-year history. It is the only literary reference in the painting.

I bought a box of notecards of *La Florida*. Below is the card that the MKR Society sent to Idella Parker on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*La Florida (2013)*  
 Christopher Still

**Thursday, March 26**

7 pm Annual Trustees Dinner, **Terrace Hotel**, Lakeland

**Friday, March 27 – Hollis Room, Florida Southern College**

8–9 am Registration  
 9–9:30 Welcome, Ashley Lear, President of MKR Society; Dean Brad Hollingshead (Florida Southern College); Keith Huneycutt (Florida Southern College); Malcolm Manners (Florida Southern College), and Art Wade (Rose Petals Nursery, Gainesville)  
 9:30–10 James Michael Denham (Florida Southern College), "The Black and White of Florida Cracker Lives: Shared Traditions and Recalled Legacies"  
 10–10:20 Bev Hogue (Marietta College, Ohio), "When Local Color Meets the Open Road: Rawlings and Hurston at the Crossroads"  
 10:20–10:40 Darien Andreu (Flagler College), "The Literary Benéts and Their Florida Connections"  
 11–11:30 Rodger Tarr (Illinois State University) and Brent Kinser (Western Carolina University) (Homework: read "Black Secret")  
 11:30–11:50 Jim Stephens (Gainesville and Cross Creek), "Honoring Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: The Rawlings Stamp"  
 11:50–12:10 Ashley Lear (Embry-Riddle University), Oh, Brother!: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Ellen Glasgow's Lesser Known Brothers  
 12:10–12:30 Keith Huneycutt (FL. Southern College), "Zora Neale Hurston in Polk County"  
 12:30–1 Alexander Rich (FL. Southern College), "Interpreters of Nature: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the 'Sense of Place.'"  
 1–2 Lunch (sack lunches)  
 2 pm Frank Lloyd Tour of Florida Southern College  
 6:30 Cocktail hour, **Terrace Hotel**  
 7:30 Banquet, **Terrace Hotel**. Speaker: John Fleming (U. South Florida)

**Saturday, March 28 – Hollis Room, Florida Southern College**

8:30–9 am MKR Society Business Meeting  
 9–9:30 MKR Writing Contest Winners from Lakeland (Ellen Giallonardo); MKR College Writing Contest Winners (Kevin McCarthy and Ashley Lear)  
 9:30–9:50 Michael Stowe (University of South Florida), "Community in Response to Isolation: Place-Making in Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's *The Yearling* as a Model for Community Engagement in a Gated Florida"  
 9:50–10:20 Anne Pierce (Hawthorne), "Steamboats on the Ocklawaha River"  
 10:40–11:10 Richard Bermann, "The Connecticut Yankee Home of Maxwell Perkins: Editor of Genius"  
 11:10–11:40 Flo Turcotte (University of Florida), "Caught at the Still: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and the Florida Moonshiners"  
 11:40–Noon Margaret Harris (Palm Harbor), "Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Dessie Smith Prescott: Pioneer Women and Their Cookbooks"  
 Noon–12:20 Michael Perez (Embry-Riddle University), "Ecological Themes in Rawlings's *South Moon Under and Golden Apples*."  
 12:20 Silent Auction  
 1:00 pm Luncheon, **Lakeland Yacht and Country Club**. Speaker: Peter Meinke

**Conference Homework:**

Professors Rodger Tarr and Brent Kinser require that you read Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's story, "Black Secret." Deadline: Friday, March 27, 11 am. Your grade will **drop** if you fail this task.

**Silent Auction**

If you have items that you'd like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Elaine Bradbury [hhfsouth@embarqmail.com](mailto:hhfsouth@embarqmail.com) or Claire Koshar [summerhillfcr@comcast.net](mailto:summerhillfcr@comcast.net)