

North Carolina Literary Review

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**NCLR ISSUE 33 CONTINUES PUBLISHING AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS,
INCLUDING IN “DISABILITY LITERATURE” FEATURE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, NC: The *North Carolina Literary Review* 33rd flagship print issue contains in-depth interviews with and scholarly essays on high-profile authors, five award-winning pieces, and continues illuminating the 2024 feature of North Carolina authors and writings about disabilities. As Guest Feature Editor Dr. Casey Kayser, Director of the Medical Humanities Program at the University of Arkansas, remarks, “Reading about disability experiences, whether they are those of authors through memoir and autobiographical writing, or those of fictional characters, can cultivate awareness, understanding, and empathy, and lead us to a more inclusive society.”

The feature section begins with Delia Steverson’s essay “Two Different Worlds,” which explores the life and autobiographical writings of Mary Herring White, a deaf, African American writer, among “the few existing historical accounts of life and education at The North Carolina State School for the Blind and Deaf, which Wright attended from 1935 to 1941.” Also featured is 2022 Albright Prize Winning author Audrey Jennifer Smith’s interview with James Tate Hill, a writer with Leber’s hereditary optic neuropathy. That piece will also be accessible via recording on the website for visually-impaired readers. The interview is accompanied by the art of RaeAnn MacDonagh, an NC artist who was born legally blind. From our 2023 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize contest is the essay “Buy Now!” by finalist Ashley Harris, a writer with M.S. The feature section concludes with

Taylor Hagood's essay on disability and deformity in Ron Rash's novel *Serena* and Donna Summerlin discussing mental health in Lee Smith's novel *Guests on Earth*.

In the Flashbacks section, *NCLR* founding editor Alex Albright remembers Fred Chappell, former NC Poet Laureate, who passed away earlier this year: "Ultimately, Fred was about poetry and helping his students find their ways in the world, he was about hunkering down with a good story and folks to talk about it with, in class or afterwards at the Pickwick, and he was all about saying 'sure' to most of what was asked of him." Best-selling and award-winning author David Joy talked to Leah Hampton about "Complicating the Appalachian Narrative": "If I'm ever asked about the one thing I find hopeful about American publishing, it's that we're in a moment where people are being given a stage that they were not ever given before." Up-and-coming author Mark Powell was interviewed by ASU professor Zackary Vernon, earning the interview the 2024 Randall Kenan Prize.

The 2024 Paul Green Award honored Donald Paul Haspel, who explores the impact of Green's World War I experience on *The Lost Colony*. Our 2023 James Applewhite Poetry Prize contest winning poem, "That Lake, That Sun" by Janis Harrington, and the third-place poem, "Daguerrologue" by Debra Kaufman, both of whom have had many poems published in *NCLR* are also in Flashbacks.

Also included are an investigative piece by Stephanie Browner, who reveals that before her death, Lorraine Hansberry, author of *A Raisin in the Sun*, had planned a play based on Charles W. Chesnutt's *Marrow of Tradition* about the 1898 Wilmington coup d'état. Biographer Jean W. Cash writes about the influence of Gail Godwin's Peace College years on her fiction.

From the Doris Betts Fiction Prize (sponsored by the North Carolina Writers' Network), read Paul D. Reali's "How to Get Struck by Lightning," selected by David Joy as the winner for 2023. Other fiction in the issue is Gary V. Powell's short story "Fifty-Cal," a 2022 Betts finalist.

NC visual artists featured within the print issue are: Max Herbert, Joan Mansfield, Catherine Edgerton, Frank Hunter, Katharin Wiese, Andrea Bruce, Cameron Johnson, Ashley T. Evans, Kate Nartker.

The 2024 print issue is available with a subscription to *NCLR* or can be purchased from UNC Press or through your local independent bookstore. The 2024 issue and all back issues are also available through the [NCLR store](#) online. For more information visit the [NCLR website](#).

Produced since 1992 at East Carolina University, and published by the University of North Carolina Press, the *North Carolina Literary Review* has won numerous awards and citations. The mission of *NCLR* is to preserve and promote North Carolina's rich literary culture. *NCLR* introduces new and emerging writers; reintroduces forgotten authors; showcases work in literary criticism, interviews, book reviews, fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry; and reports on the state's literary news.