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For more information:

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**MEDIA ALERT –
AFTERNOON WITH AUTHORS Event Celebrates African American Writers**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce the first book signing and reading of the 2010 “Afternoon with Authors” series: organized by the Douglas County Connection, this Black History Month event features African American writers living and working in Georgia, at the Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, February 21st, from 3 until 5 p.m. Autographed copies of the participating writers will be available for sale during the afternoon’s literary soiree. Visual artist Brenda Hillman will also display her unusual and unique afro-centric jigsaw puzzles, which will be on sale. The event is free and open to the general public.

“We have a lot of variety and talent this year,” commented Janet Payne of the DC Connection. “It is going to be a lively afternoon!” Participating writers include children’s book author Mona L. Scott who lives in Decatur and who wrote the wonderfully illustrated, *Nappy Sunrae Crown*, about a little girl considering all the ways African Americans have treated their hair. Romance novelist Jamilah Jihad who wrote the highly regarded *The Summer of '89: A Summer to Remember*, science fiction writer Alan D. Jones, recognized for his work of Christian-based speculative fiction, *To Wrestle with Darkness*, and motivational author Jay White who will read from his inspirational book, *Tap Into Your Destiny*, will also present their recent works. Douglas County-based storyteller Douglas County-based storyteller Ursula Renee Spratling, better known as Auntie Renee, will tell African and African American folk tales, and urban poet “Q” Anderson, a native Atlanta, will add a great performance to this wonderful afternoon of diverse literary expressions.

The “Afternoon with Authors” series, inspired by the popularity of The DC Connection’s annual literary event in February, will continue with a reading and book signing by West Georgia writer Elaine Bailey of her most recent book, *Explosion in Villa Rica*, which explores the 1957 devastation of this small town on Sunday, March 28th, and concludes on Sunday, April 25th, with readings by two poets – Douglas County-based Alice Shapiro who will read from her new collection of poetry, *Crime*, and Atlanta’s well-known Alice Lovelace who will read not only her own poems but also those of writers published in *Crux*, an international anthology of writing and images, which she co-edited.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite organizations. The Cultural Arts Council and its programs are supported by its members, sponsors, the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the State General Assembly. The GCA is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

The Cultural Arts Center is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, located about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org.