

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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**For immediate release:**

Through March 27, 2011

**For more information:**

Emily Lightner, 770/949-2787

**MEDIA ALERT –**

**March AFTERNOON WITH AUTHORS Event Features Sylvia Krebs**

*Douglasville, Georgia* – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce the second book signing and reading of its 2011 “Afternoon with Authors” series featuring Sylvia Krebs, a retired academic and local writer from Douglasville, at the Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3 until 5 p.m. Ms. Krebs will read from her new book, *How Am I to Touch with You? Encounters with China*, which is a fascinating personal memoir of her teaching and living in China from a first visit with her husband Ed Krebs in 1971 and then later from 1984 until 2000 when they taught in Chongquin, Xi’an, Beijing, and Nanjing for periods ranging from three to sixteen months. Their travels took them from the wartime Communist capital of Yan’an in the north to Guangzhou in the south, from Tianjin on the east coast to Urumqi in China’s Far West. This event is free and open to the general public.

Krebs’s illuminating memoir is a very personal account of her experience of everyday life in China during a crucial period in its history. Ever self-effacing, she describes her viewpoint as that of a lay person, “I have no formal training in China studies, and my language level can best be described as ‘survival Chinese.’” The reader meets her friends and students, learns of her living situations and travel adventures, and begins to understand the complicated relationships of Chinese history and its political present. Her observations illustrate how far China has come in in the last three decades and how strong the power of the past remains. *How Am I to Touch with You?* is an involved, intelligent and interested woman’s perspective on late 20<sup>th</sup> century China’s complex society.

Sylvia Krebs grew up on a farm in Mississippi and she attended a small college in Jackson, the state capital. She did graduate work at the University of Alabama. After teaching at colleges in Alabama, she then moved Georgia where she taught at West Georgia College (now the University of West Georgia), DeKalb College (now Georgia Perimeter College) and occasionally at Agnes Scott College. From 1984 to 2000 she taught at several Chinese institutions, most often at Nanjing Teachers University. As a free-lance writer, her articles, mostly about China, have been published in *US-China Review*, *Clearinghouse*, *The Manchester Guardian Weekly*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other newspapers (including the *Douglas County Sentinel*.) She has also published articles about China and the southern United States in academic journals. The first issue of *Some Assembly Required* included my short story “City Life.” She and her husband own China Bridge, a travel and cultural exchange company.

“There is great interest in our community about other cultures,” commented CAC director Laura Lieberman. “The Krebs’ travels to China have helped the Cultural Arts Council offer several exhibits of Chinese art and artists over the past 25 years, and we are delighted to present this noteworthy book during our ‘Afternoons with Authors,’ at the Cultural Arts Center this year.” The 2011 series began with The DC Connection’s popular annual literary event in February and will conclude on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, with a reading by local poet Carlene Tejada who will read from her recently published volume, *Blue Pearls*.

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](http://www.artsdouglas.org).