

PRESS RELEASE:

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For more information:

Amy Davison, 770/949-2787

MEDIA ALERT –

April AFTERNOON WITH AUTHORS Event Features Poets Alice Lovelace & Alice Shapiro

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is delighted to celebrate National Poetry Month with the third book signing and reading of its 2010 “Afternoon with Authors” series featuring two women poets -- Atlanta-based Alice Lovelace, a performance artist, arts activist and writer, and Alice Shapiro who lives in Douglasville whose first book published last year was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize – at the Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, April 25th, from 3 until 5 p.m. Ms. Lovelace will read her own poems and those of other writers published in *Crux*, an international anthology of writing and images, which she co-edited; and Ms. Shapiro will read from her second book, *LIFE: Descending/Ascending*, which has just been published this month, as well as reading several poems written about art works from the Cultural Arts Council’s permanent collection, currently on display at the Cultural Arts Center. This event is free and open to the general public.

A performance poet, playwright, essayist, arts-in-education specialist, and community consultant with a Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution from Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio, Alice Lovelace worked with Alternate ROOTS and the Arts Extension Services at the University of Massachusetts to design and teach an “Arts for Social Change” curriculum for artists, arts administrators and social service organizations. From 1998-2000, she was Executive Director of Alternate ROOTS, Inc., a regional organization committed to community-based art. With 25 years of experience in arts education, arts infusion, and community-based arts, she helped to found the Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning, Inc., serving as its Executive Director from 2000-2004. Currently, Lovelace is the co-editor of "Art Changes" at In Motion Magazine, an on-line publication devoted to issues of democracy.

ALICE SHAPIRO’s first collection of poems, *CRACKED: Timeless Topics of Nature, Courage and Endurance*, was published by Total Recall Press in 2009 and included a preface by Suffolk (Long Island, New York) Poet Laureate David Axelrod who read with her during the Cultural Arts Council’s “Afternoon with Authors” series last year. The volume was nominated for a 2010 Pushcart Prize and for Georgia Author of the Year, a GAYA Award. Her second collection, *LIFE: Descending/Ascending* was released April 2010, and she is currently working on her third book of poetry, scheduled for publication in 2011. She is also the author of a chapbook, *Seasons of the Heart*, published by Scars Publications in 2007. Shapiro’s verse play, “Four Voices,” produced in New York, won the Bill C. Davis Drama Award, and this year she served as a regional judge for the Poetry Out Loud competition.

“We are so pleased to present such talented poets as part of our 2010 Afternoon with Authors initiative,” stated CAC director Laura Lieberman. “We think our local writers and readers will find their reading at the Cultural Arts Center truly inspiring and undoubtedly thought-provoking. Afternoon with Authors continues to grow and improve – this year we have had wonderful writers including local historian Elaine Bailey in March and a great number of African American authors during Black History Month. And we are not even sure if this is the final of our series this year because David Fillingem from Rome, Georgia, has written a wonderful book on Georgia Cowboy Poets and offered to read from it some time this summer. We are still setting that program up.”

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. and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. For more information, 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org.

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. The Cultural Arts Council and its programs are supported by its members, sponsors, the City of Douglasville, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Southern Arts Federation, American Reinvestment and Restoration Act, Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, 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.