

PRESS RELEASE:

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For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

MEDIA ALERT –

Poets Alice Shapiro and David Axelrod featured in June AFTERNOON WITH AUTHORS

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce the fourth and final book signing and reading of its new 2009 “Afternoon with Authors” series, featuring poets Alice Shapiro, a Douglasville resident, and David Axelrod who lives in Long Island, New York, at the Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, June 21st, from 3 until 5 p.m. Ms. Shapiro will read from her first full-length book of poems, *Cracked* and Mr. Axelrod will read selections from *How To Apologize* and selections from his earlier 18 books; and autographed copies of both of these volumes will be available for sale during the event. A reception, hosted by the Douglas County Writers Group, will follow the reading. This event is free and open to the general public.

Alice Shapiro who moved to Douglasville in 2005 has been writing since 1985 when she studied under William Packard, founder of *The New York Quarterly* and professor at NYU. Her poetry credits include a chapbook, *Seasons of the Heart* with Scars Publications (2007), poems in *Silent Actor*, *New Verse News* as well as the anthologies *Poetry Connoisseur* (third prize winner), *Antologia del Nuovo Mondo*, and *Thank You, Gorbachov!* In addition, Shapiro has had two plays produced, *In The Beginning* and *Four Voices*. Her *Four Voices* is the winner of the Bill C. Davis Drama Award. Ms. Shapiro is also the book author of *A South Florida Culinary Adventure*. Her first full-length book of poems, *Cracked*, from Total Recall Press, was published in February 2009. Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post reviewed her collection, commenting, "Alice Shapiro's poems in 'Cracked' explore the complex relationships we have as humans to one another, and to the world. With strong images and gripping words, the poems in this book compel us to look at the ordinary and the extraordinary in our own lives. The eloquent use of metaphor in each poem leaves the reader wanting more, turning the page to find wonderful creativity and surprises in language. The poetry in this collection, does indeed, bring the reader to examine the cracks of our inner and outer worlds. With precision and imagery, the poet finds the waiting spaces inside each of us."

The Suffolk County Poet Laureate since 2007, Dr. David B. Axelrod is a three-time Fulbright Scholar and was the first official Fulbright Poet-in-Residence in China. He holds a bachelor's from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a master's from The Writing Seminars at The Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, and a doctorate from Union Institute and University. Poems from his nineteen books have been translated into fourteen languages, and he has performed internationally including at the United Nations and for the American Library Association. Axelrod is also the founder and president of the not-for-profit, educational organization, Writers Unlimited Agency, Inc. (www.writersunlimited.org), publisher of Writers Ink Press, and president of World Wide Writers Services (www.poetrydoctor.org). In those capacities, he has sponsored hundreds of writers, performances, conferences and assisted in founding numerous arts and writing groups. Pulitzer Prize winning poet Louis Simpson described Axelrod's writing, "Whether Axelrod is reliving a moment of pleasure, or a time of bitterness and pain, the truth of his poetry is like life itself—compelling."

"The 'Afternoon with Authors' book signings and readings were inspired by the popularity of the DC Connection's annual literary event during Black History Month in February," stated CAC director Laura Lieberman. "These Sunday afternoon literary soirees have been a great success. Now with requests to participate from poets throughout Georgia and around the country, we are planning our next series for 2010!"

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. The Cultural Arts Council and its programs are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, Douglas County, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund, 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.