

For Immediate Release

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2010 ROWITA Recipients Announced for Women's History Month Celebration

Five local women have been selected to receive the second annual ROWITA Awards for their outstanding lifetime achievement and contributions to the arts in St. Johns County . The 2010 ROWITA recipients are: Chris Man, Jean Rahner, Luba Estes, Jan Miller, and Carrie Johnson.

Established in 2009 to help celebrate Women's History Month, the ROWITA awards (Recognizing Outstanding Women in the Arts) are the result of a coalition of five arts organizations that worked together last year to establish a month long celebration and recognition of Women's History Month (March). "ROWITA represents lifetime achievement and is awarded to women who have made significant contributions to the St. Johns County arts community." explains Joy D'Elia, program coordinator for the St. Johns Cultural Council.

The collaborative group has grown to six this year and includes: Saint Johns Cultural Council; National League of American Pen Women - St. Augustine Branch; Tale Tellers of St. Augustine; Jane's Stories Press Foundation; Limelight Theatre; and Cyprian Center for Expressive Arts.

The awards will be presented during, *Festival of Muses*, a series of events that will take place from 3-5p.m. each Sunday during the month of March at the Cyprian Center for the Expressive Arts located at 130 Martin Luther King Avenue, St. Augustine. A different program each week will showcase poetry, artwork, storytelling, and music. The art exhibit, *Muses Revealed*, will include all forms of expression in the visual arts and reflect on the artist's personal and unique nature of the creative process.

At the end of each program, a 2010 ROWITA recipient will receive their award from a 2009 award winner.

The ROWITA program schedule is as follows:

Sunday February 28, 2010: 3-5p.m. Kick-Off Event- Ancient City Poets Heart Pour Open Mic Reading at City Coffee, 1280 N Ponce De Leon Blvd St. Augustine , with Glenda Bailey-Mershon presiding.

The rest of the programs will take place at the Cyprian Center for the Expressive Arts located at 130 Martin Luther King Avenue .

Sunday, March 7, 2010: 2:30-3:00p.m. Opening reception for the art exhibit, *Muses Revealed*

Sunday, March 7, 2010: 3-5p.m., Program by National League of American Pen Women-St. Augustine Branch; ROWITA presentation to Carrie Johnson

Sunday, March 14, 2010: 3-5p.m., Performance by KiKi Tovey, Artistic Director and founder of Veddy Theatre Group; Readings by SeaQuills Writing Group; ROWITA presentation to Luba Estes and Jan Miller

Sunday, March 21, 2010: 3-5p.m., Performance by Nancy Avera and Chris Kastle from the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine: ROWITA presentation to Chris Man.

Sunday, March 21, 2010: 5:30 PM., Jazz Vespers at St. Cyprian's Church.

Sunday, March 28, 2010: 3-5p.m., Readings by Jane's Stories Press Foundation: ROWITA presentation to Jean Rahner.

All programs are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

These programs are made possible with the support of the St. Johns Cultural Council serving St. Johns County and the State of the Arts License Plate Grants.