



MANY STORIES, ONE PEOPLE

THE 2008 LINDA FLOWERS LITERARY AWARD

HISTORY

The North Carolina Humanities Council was privileged to have Linda Flowers as one of its members from 1992 to 1998. During the years we shared with her, she taught us many things. Above all, Linda showed us what it means to live by one's belief that "the humanistic apprehension is as necessary for living fully as anything else. Education in the humanities," she wrote, "is equipment for living."

In addition to honoring Linda Flowers (1944-2000) with a literary award named for her, the Council seeks to draw to the attention of others something special that Linda passed on to us. We want to celebrate excellence in the humanities achieved by people like her, those who not only identify with our state, but who explore the promises, the problems, the experiences, the meanings, in lives that have been shaped by North Carolina and its many cultures. This is true to the portraits in Linda Flowers' book, *Thrown Away: Failures of Progress in Eastern North Carolina*; it is just as true of "I Have Come Home," the essay Linda wrote about her experience with cancer for *NC CROSSROADS* (May 1999). Both are superb examinations of intimate, provocative, inspiring portraiture of North Carolina, its people and cultures. The Linda Flowers Literary Award is intended for an entry that demonstrates these powers of recognition.

DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Humanities Council invites original entries of fiction or nonfiction for The Linda Flowers Literary Award. We welcome a wide range of formats. Submissions should engage readers' understanding of the "humanistic apprehension," bringing to light "real men and women having to make their way" in the face of "changes and loss, triumphs and disappointments." Entries are expected to draw particular North Carolina connections and/or memories.

ELIGIBILITY

Writers of all ages are eligible. Applicants may or may not be native to or live in North Carolina. The committee will review original works of up to 2000-2500 words, typed and double-spaced. Five copies of each submission are required and a cover letter. The author's name should not appear on the submission. Entries must be postmarked by August 15, 2008.



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SELECTION PROCESS

A committee will be responsible for selecting the Linda Flowers Literary Award winner. Committee members will be invited by the Council Chair and will include North Carolina Humanities Council board members or alumni, as well as writers, scholars, and other public members.

TIMELINE

Entries for the 2008 Prize are invited with an August 15, 2008, deadline. The annual prize will be announced by November 1.

RECIPIENT

The winner of The Linda Flowers Literary Award will receive a cash prize of \$500 and a stipend for a Writer's residency at Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Her/his original work will be published in the Council's bi-annual magazine, *North Carolina Conversations*.*

**The writer will maintain copyright of the literary work with the understanding that the Council may publish or republish it at a later date; for example, in an anthology.*

That my book about Eastern North Carolina might touch a chord with some people, and with several ready-made audiences—teachers, social workers, health personnel, civic organizations, book clubs, readers in general... I had not anticipated. What these groups are responding to in *Thrown Away*, I think, is its human dimension: the focus on real men and women having to make their way in the face of a changing, onrushing and typically uncaring world. ... This humanistic apprehension, I tell my students, is as necessary for living fully as anything else they may ever hope to have ... they must recognize and nurture it in themselves ... to realize more fully the potential of the human spirit.

*—Linda Flowers, letter to the North Carolina Humanities Council
Membership Committee, July 1992*