

# The Mulberry Times

The Voice of Mulberry's Virtual Community

Mulberry, Georgia

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## A Letter From Tina

Dear Readers,

Lately, I have become more and more concerned with the state of African-American literature. Not what we are writing or what we are thinking. The work presented at our Sea Island Writers Retreats showed the high caliber of writing that we are producing. You can read an update of what some 2004 Retreaters have accomplished at

<http://www.tinamcelroyansa.com/siwr/updates04.html>. My

concern is with what is reaching the reading public.

I feel you are like me and want to read literary fiction as well as a pop fiction, serious biographies as well as celebrity life stories. But a visit to any bookstore proves this wide range of black writing is no longer available.

If you are as concerned as I am, please share your views with us at my website. Also, do the same with newspapers, libraries, letters to editors, magazines, booksellers (our best friends) and publishing companies.

Let's take back our books!

Love and peace,

Tina

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## EDITORIAL STAFF

**Tina McElroy Ansa**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**Kara Walker**  
*Layout Editor*



## THE SEA ISLAND WRITERS RETREAT

**Registration is now open for the Second Annual 2005 Sea Island Writers Retreats.** Register early and send in your fee to secure your place! As before, spaces are limited. The 2005 retreats are tentatively scheduled for **Aug. 4-7, Sept. 15-18, and Nov. 17-20.** Tell your family and friends that participation in the Writers Retreat makes a thoughtful and useful Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation or Christmas gift!! This year, we are adding a workshop on "Children's Literature" to our curriculum of Fiction, Nonfiction, Memoir and Website Savvy. Visit the website at <http://www.tinamcelroyansa.com> for more information.

## Retreat Testimonials

**"I'll never be able to talk about the greatest times in my life without mentioning the Sea Island Writers Retreat on Sapelo Island."**

*LaRhonda Crosby Johnson  
September participant*



**"We came as strangers and emerged as sisters, bonded by our shared commitment to 'the world of words.'"**

*Debbie Wood Holton  
October participant*

**"I learned many lessons about writing, but I also learned things about myself."**

*Shawan Lewis  
November participant  
Author of **HELP WANTED***



## \* BULLETIN \*

Tina McElroy Ansa, novelist, filmmaker and teacher, has been named the 2005 recipient of the Stanley W. Lindberg Award. Visit the website

<http://www.tinamcelroyansa.com/lindberg05award.html>

## A LOOK AT BOOKS TINA'S RECOMMENDATIONS and FAVORITES

I know how limited our reading time can be sometimes, so I want to help by sharing with you some books that have caught my attention.

### **SPEAK, SO YOU CAN SPEAK AGAIN**

By Lucy Anne Hurston and the Estate of Zora Neale Hurston. (What a treasure trove! I felt as if Zora Neale Hurston had opened up her personal trunk up in the attic and shared her life with me. This is a must for anyone who loves and respects the artist who was Zora.)

### **DYING IN THE DARK**

A Tamara Hayle Mystery by Valerie Wilson Wesley. This is the seventh book in this series. Valerie always delivers.

### **BABYLON SISTERS**

By Pearl Cleage. Pearl, who always captures our hearts and minds with her deeply rendered characters and ideas, returns to Atlanta with a love story that is fast-paced and emotionally resonant. She is a true artist who I'm proud to call a sisterfriend.

Visit

<http://www.tinamcelroyansa.com/booklist.html>

for a complete listing.