

MUSCADINE LINES: A SOUTHERN ANTHOLOGY

Cleveland native Kathy Hardy Rhodes announces the release of her new book *MUSCADINE LINES: A SOUTHERN ANTHOLOGY*. Rhodes is editor of the collection of 28 stories and 28 poems by 28 writers, published by Cold Tree Press, Nashville, Tennessee. The book features the works of acclaimed veterans of the online magazine *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Journal*, asouthernjournal.com, also edited by Rhodes, now in its second year. Rhodes currently lives in Franklin, Tennessee, and is the author of *Pink Butterbeans: Stories from the heart of a Southern woman*.

One of the anthology's contributors, Lonnye Sue Sims Pearson, of Kinston, North Carolina, is also a Cleveland native. Rhodes and Pearson were both born in the old Cleveland hospital in 1949 and graduated from Cleveland High School together in 1967. They were taught English by longtime CHS favorites Mary Ann Odom and Virginia Ricks, and Pearson studied under Christine Jones. Rhodes and Pearson graduated with majors in English from Delta State University in 1970 and 1971, respectively. Both claimed Dr. Maria Butler as their favorite professor.

Rhodes' contribution to the collection is "Watch and Stalk," a work of creative nonfiction about a hawk eating a mockingbird on her fence. Pearson offers two essays, both set in Cleveland. "Mamaw and the Night Visitor" describes Pearson's grandmother, who worked at Kamien's, wore



lilac perfume, and wielded a shotgun one summer night — the epitome of a strong, Southern woman. "Miss Juanita Bridges" tells of a neighbor who lived between Third and Fourth Avenues and made THE BEST fruit preserves ever.

MUSCADINE LINES is a gathering of short fiction, essays, and poems that epitomize the qualities readers treasure in the best Southern literature: rich appreciation of language and humor, as well as a dead-on sense of place and character.

Beth Boswell Jacks of Cleveland, the Bolivar Commercial's "Snippets" columnist, wrote a cover rave for the book. "The stories herein represent the best of the South!" said Jacks, author of three books.

Contributors have roots in

Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and one transplanted Canadian whose heart is in the bayous of Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta.

From a topless four-year-old who has a run-in with the law, to two mean boys who make football history, to a mother forced to send her substance-abusing teenaged son to a wilderness camp, to a young grandmother run over by a cattle truck and paralyzed, *MUSCADINE LINES* is humorous and heartwarming, sassy and sad, racy and reflective — a collection for every mood.

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