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MORGAN COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM ANNOUNCES THE 6th ANNUAL RAYMOND ANDREWS PRIZE

Sixth year for local writing contest

Madison, Georgia – The Morgan County African American Museum and its partners announce the 6th Annual Raymond Andrews Prize for Creative Writing. High school students in Morgan County are eligible. The purpose of the contest is to build excitement for creative writing among area youth. Students may submit entries in fiction or creative non-fiction between February 10, 2025 and March 10, 2025. Winners will be announced in April of 2025. The top entries will be selected by a guest celebrity judge for cash prizes.

In 2024, the Morgan County African American Museum awarded \$800 in prizes to the top four finishers in the contest. Avril Brown, a senior at Morgan County High School, earned the top prize. Other prizewinners include Georgia McPherson, Catherine Malcom, and Abigail Benoff.

Tina McElroy Ansa (*Baby of the Family, Taking After Mudear*) served as guest judge for the 2024 competition. Her novel *Baby of the Family* was named to the “Top 25 Books Every Georgian Should Read” list by the Georgia Center for the Book. She was a beloved writer, publisher, teacher and champion for young writers. She believed in the importance of taking time to encourage and nurture artistic pursuits of all kinds. Serving as guest judge for the Raymond Andrews Prize fit perfectly into that mission. Tina McElroy Ansa passed away on September 10, 2024.

Raymond Andrews, the namesake for the prize, was born in the Plainview Community of Morgan County in 1934. He published three novels and four other books. Almost all of them are set in the fictional Muskhogean County, which is a stand-in for Morgan County. Andrews is a member of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. He passed away in 1991.

High school students living in Morgan County, Georgia, regardless of which high school those students attend, are eligible to compete. Also, students attending Morgan County High School, regardless of their home address, are eligible. For complete rules and eligibility please see the contest guidelines at the Morgan County African American Museum’s website (mcaam.org). Winners will read from their stories at a public event in May 2025.

For more information contact The Morgan County African American Museum or project coordinator, Jesse Freeman.