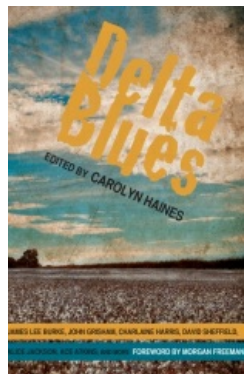




We're going to rock this joint, baby.



Mike Utley, in his element



That's what friends are for.



Dear Friends and Readers,

Lots of doings this month in the land of critters and books. My big event is the launch of DELTA BLUES, a short story anthology published by Tyrus Books. We're having a big party at Ground Zero blues club in Clarksdale, MS the evening of March 27, and everyone is invited to come and hear the Blues Muse band play.

I told you last month that we had a guest musician sitting in. Mike Utley, a multi-talented keyboard player, arranger and producer with Jimmy Buffet, Aretha Franklin and many, many more, will play with us. I can't believe he's taking time out of his busy schedule to do this, but he is. Mike's wife, Fran Hawkins, and I went to USM together and also worked as photographers at the HATTIESBURG AMERICAN. And do I have some stories to tell!

For the full view of the band, click on [Delta Blues Launch Party](#) and check it out. There is also a schedule of events posted for those who would like to attend some of them. My head spins at all the fun we're going to have.

As far as DELTA BLUES goes, Tyrus Books (I just love Ben and Alison!) are putting together a very special collector's edition. Leather bound, gilt-edged, and only 100 of them, numbered and signed by the authors and Mr. Freeman. These books will sell for \$275 and the proceeds for the first 10 sold go directly to Rock River Foundation to support literacy programs. You can pre-order this edition—or simply pre-order a regular hardcover or trade paperback at www.tyrusbooks.com or at www.deltabluescollection.com Don't forget to read the interviews with the authors on these websites, too.

Also coming up the very next weekend, April 3, (Saturday) from 10 a.m.-3p.m, David Sheffield, a terrific screenwriter AND fiction writer (he has a story in the collection) will teach a screenwriting workshop at Termite Hall at 2000 Dauphin Street in Mobile. David is generously doing this for the USA creative writing department where I teach. This is open to the public but a \$100 fee will be charged. **Seating is limited** and you can reserve a seat by calling me at 251-649-9456. I'm really looking forward to this workshop.



David Sheffield coming to Mobile, AL on April 3. Call me to reserve a seat.



Spring is in the air.

Following the workshop at 4 p.m., David will read from his short story, "Love in Vain." Alice Jackson will also read from her story, "Cuttin' Heads." A book signing, co-sponsored by Bienville Books, the Friends of the Mobile Library, and Termite Hall will follow. Copies of DELTA BLUES will be available for purchase. The reading is open to the public at no charge.

Last weekend, I participated in the Thacker Mountain Radio Show at the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. We had more fun than the law allows. DSU is a terrific school and the music institute is impressive, as much for the people who run it as the fine facilities. All in all, a stand out trip.

The radio show will air, I believe, at 7 p.m., March 27 on Mississippi Public Radio. You can also hear it [right here](#).

And don't forget the Alabama Writers Symposium April 29-May 1 in Monroeville, Ala. Always a good time, and this year will be very special to me.

At last, it seems winter's grip has broken. The pear trees are incredible, and the redbuds and Japanese magnolias are heartbreakingly beautiful. Miss Scrapiron has survived another winter, and I hope the spring is kinder to her. The other horses are good, as are the dogs and cats. Thanks again to those who've contributed to Good Fortune Farm Rescue.

Until next time—keep reading!

Best,
Carolyn

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