



Tracey Pugh  
Marketing Director  
Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center  
(707) 579-4452 ext. 268  
[Tracey@schulzmuseum.org](mailto:Tracey@schulzmuseum.org)

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Step Into the Paw Prints of the World Famous Author  
New Exhibition at the Charles M. Schulz Museum  
***It Was A Dark and Stormy Night***  
January 28 through September 10, 2017

(Santa Rosa, CA) Charles M. Schulz brought his love of literature to his art, especially with his depiction of Snoopy as the “World Famous Author” sitting atop his doghouse using a typewriter. Snoopy began his writing career in July, 1965 with that infamous first line originally penned by English novelist Edward Bulwer-Lytton, “It was a dark and stormy night.”

**The Schulz Museum’s new exhibition, *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night*, on view January 28, 2017 through September 10, 2017**, explores Charles Schulz’s love of literature, displays rarely seen books from his personal library collection, and highlights many *Peanuts* comic strips where books and writing appear in the everyday lives of his characters. An interactive typing display allows visitors to share in Snoopy’s experience and step into the paw prints of the World Famous Author.

2301 Hardies Lane • Santa Rosa, CA 95403 U.S.A. • 707.579.4452 • Fax 707.579.4436  
[www.SchulzMuseum.org](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)

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Schulz gave Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and the others opportunities to talk about the authors he most admired, including Leo Tolstoy, Thomas Wolfe, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. He was a wide ranged reader, and the titles which pop up in the strips reflect a man who surrounded himself with books from his earliest childhood. Schulz developed his style and came to understand the world through his love of books and reading.



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Snoopy worked on his novel atop his doghouse in *Peanuts* strips during 1969 and 1970, as he experimented with plot devices and struggled with bouts of writer's block. Then, in 1971, fantasy crossed paths with reality when *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night*, the novel, emerged from the comic strip and the book was published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc. Dedicated to Woodstock, Snoopy's "friend of friends," *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night* launched Snoopy's identity as the World Famous Author.



Two *Peanuts* strips appeared in this strip from July 12, 1965--Snoopy's typewriter, and the first line of his novel, "It was a dark and stormy night." In a 1980 interview Charles Schulz said, "If you look at the doghouse from a three quarters view, the typewriter is going to fall off. But from the side, you can accept it." ©Peanuts Worldwide LLC

The original hand-drawn manuscript for *Snoopy and "It Was a Dark and Stormy Night,"* written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz, is on display in the exhibition.



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Drawing from original manuscript for *Snoopy and "It Was a Dark and Stormy Night"*, circa 1970

Like all authors, Snoopy wasn't always successful and had to face the inevitable: writer's block, harsh reviews and rejection. But being Snoopy, he took the challenges in stride, even when he was ridiculed for his writing style or his strange takes on famous book titles such as *Beagle Island* and *Snow White and the Seven Beagles*.



This strip from July 21, 1984 features Eudora, a character Schulz created to pay tribute to the southern writer Eudora Welty. They were both attending the Santa Barbara Writer's Conference, and at a dinner party Schulz was delighted to find himself standing right next to the author in the buffet line. "I very deftly maneuvered her into the living room so I could sit on the couch and talk with her for about five minutes before anyone else came in and bothered us," he said. "That was really one of the great moments of my whole life, just meeting someone like Eudora Welty." ©Peanuts Worldwide LLC.

Schulz once mentioned a poignant quote that E.B. White, author of acclaimed children's book *Charlotte's Web*, wrote about cartoonist and author James Thurber. Presented below, it reflected the whimsical way in which he himself hoped to be remembered by his readers and fans of *Peanuts*.

"He wrote the way a child skips rope and a mouse waltzes." -- E.B. White

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## PROGRAMMING

Celebrate literature today through the **Bookshelf Author Series** at the Museum featuring Dr. Michael Krasny, Lemony Snicket, Paige Braddock, Robb Armstrong, Jean Hegland and others.

The series debuts on **Saturday, February 18, 1:00 pm** with award-winning radio host and best-selling author **Dr. Michael Krasny**. Dr. Krasny is the host of KQED's Forum, a daily radio show focused on news, public affairs, and current events. In addition to receiving numerous awards for his broadcast journalism, Dr. Krasny is the author of several best-selling books. He will be speaking about and signing his newest book, *Let There Be Laughter: A Treasury of Great Jewish Humor and What It All Means*.

**Mark your calendar for additional talks by:**

### **Lemony Snicket on Saturday, March 18, 2:00 pm**

Meet best-selling author Lemony Snicket, creator of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, which includes 13 books that have garnered numerous awards including three IRA/CBC Children's Choice Awards, a best book prize at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards, and a 2006 Quill Book Award, among others. Mr. Snicket, a longtime fan of Charles Schulz, will talk about his admiration for *Peanuts* and other topics relating to despair.

### **Jean Hegland on Saturday, May 27, 2:00 pm**

Hegland is the author of *Into the Forest*, *Windfalls*, *The Life Within*, and *Still Time*. *Into the Forest*, the story of two sisters struggling to survive after the collapse of technological society, was adapted to the big screen. Directed by Patricia Rozema, the film stars Ellen Page (who also serves as co-producer) and Evan Rachel Wood. It premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September, 2015, and is now featured on Netflix.

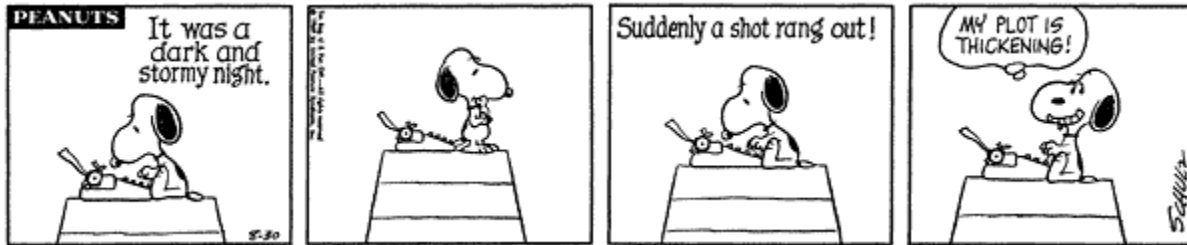
Look for upcoming dates with graphic novelist Paige Braddock and cartoonist and writer Robb Armstrong, creator of the comic strip *Jump Street* and author of *Fearless: A Cartoonist's Guide to Life*.

## IMAGES

If you would like the image in this release to print in a publication, contact Tracey Pugh at [tracey@schulzmuseum.org](mailto:tracey@schulzmuseum.org) or (707) 284-1268.



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## ABOUT THE CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

The Charles M. Schulz Museum opened in August 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz. The museum carries out this mission through changing exhibitions and programming that: build an understanding of cartoonists and cartoon art; illustrate the scope of Schulz's multi-faceted career; communicate the stories, inspirations and influences of Charles Schulz; and celebrate the life of Charles Schulz and the Peanuts characters.

## LOCATION

The Charles M. Schulz Museum is located 50 minutes north of San Francisco by car on Highway 101. The Museum is located at 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

## HOURS

Weekdays Monday thru Friday (except Tuesdays\*) 11am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm

Closed Tuesdays\*

\*Open every day throughout the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

## ADMISSION FEES

Free – Museum Members, Children 3 and under

\$12.00 – Adults

\$8.00 – Seniors 62 and over with ID

\$5.00 – Children 4-18, college students with valid I.D. card

**For more information consult the Museum web site:** [schulzmuseum.org](http://schulzmuseum.org)

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