



September 2005 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
(Visit our web site at www.mshumanities.org to learn more about us.)

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Mississippi Humanities Council email newsletter.

When in the last few months the MHC planned its first email newsletter, we had no idea it would go forth in a time of such confusion and urgent need. However, as more and more information comes to us about our partners and constituents and their situations resulting from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, we hope email news will reach you quickly and perhaps be beneficial in ways we never foresaw. We are including links that might be helpful, and we will be happy to pass your information along as well.

This first issue thus contains the messages and articles we had originally intended, about our programs and those of interest to our supporters, including a calendar of upcoming events and notices of special initiatives. We regret that a number of programs have had to be cancelled or rescheduled, but we will work with grantees in every way possible to continue their good work.

We also provide timely information for those in south Mississippi who are struggling for resources and technical assistance in restoring museums, libraries, archives, schools, programs and in numerous other desperate circumstances. Most immediately we are announcing a special Emergency Relief Initiative (see immediately below). MHC is establishing family reading programs

in shelters and at other sites providing help for evacuees. In conjunction with our partners at the University of Southern Mississippi, we are supporting oral history interviews in Mississippi and at other sites where dislocated Mississippians are now living as a result of the storm, to document their stories. We are planning a meeting in the near future to bring together directors of museums, libraries and other institutions affected by the storm to assess and prioritize needs and provide information about resources and technical assistance. We are open to suggestions for other ways to assist. At the same time, we continue our regular grant programs and council-conducted projects. For further information, please visit our web site (www.mshumanities.org).

*Barbara Carpenter
Executive Director*

P.S. We hope you enjoy learning about our programs, but if you would prefer not to receive our mailings, please contact Carol Andersen at carol@mhc.state.ms.us.

Emergency Relief Initiative

The Mississippi Humanities Council announces an **Emergency Relief Initiative** for institutions and organizations affected by Hurricane Katrina, supported by special funding from the Endowment for the Humanities.

Previous MHC grant recipients based in designated disaster areas in Mississippi are eligible to apply for a limited number of small awards of \$2,000–\$5,000 for emergency needs resulting from Hurricane Katrina. A letter explaining how the funds will be used and signed by an authorizing official will suffice for application. No cash or in-kind match is necessary for these awards, though full reporting and documentation of expenditures will be required. Deadline for application is **September 30, 2005**. Email applications will be considered, but no funds can be released until a letter with original signature is on file in this office.

Please direct questions and requests to Dr. Barbara Carpenter, Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 311, Jackson, MS 39211; 601-432-6752; barbara@mhc.state.ms.us; or consult the web site: www.mshumanities.org.

Other Hurricane Katrina Resources

- In the effort to connect those in the arts community who were affected by Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippi Arts Commission has set up a blog. Visit <http://msartscommission.blogspot.com/> to be a part of an ongoing,

online discussion of needs and solutions to the devastation that has hit our state.

- The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced that it will make available at least \$1 million for emergency grants to libraries, museums, colleges, universities and other cultural and historical institutions in Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Information about these emergency grants may be found on the NEH website at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/hurricanekatrina.html>.
- The NEH has also posted resources for preservation professionals and the public in dealing with damaged collections, objects and family heirlooms. It is available at <http://www.neh.gov/katrina.html>.

8th Annual Keady Lecture

The Mississippi College School of Law will co-host the Mississippi Humanities Council's Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture VIII Oct. 24 at the MC School of Law Conference Center in Jackson, MS. This biennial lecture series was inaugurated by the Mississippi Humanities Council to explore the impact of judicial decisions on citizens' everyday lives. The lecture series was named for William Colbert Keady, a Greenville native appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the federal court for the Northern District of Mississippi. He served 21 years on the bench and was regarded as one of the top federal judges with one of the lowest records on reversals in the nation. Among his landmark – and controversial – decisions were his rulings that favored desegregation of public schools; his decisions that forced the state to improve its deteriorating prisons, especially the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman; and his refusal to block construction of the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway. Judge Keady died in 1989 at age 76.



The 2005 lecture will be presented by Mississippi Supreme Court Justice James E. Graves Jr. Justice Graves was appointed to the state Supreme Court in 2001. A graduate of Millsaps College and Syracuse University College of Law, he worked as a staff attorney at Central Mississippi Legal Services, and as a special assistant attorney general. Just prior to being appointed Circuit Court Judge, he was director of the Division of Child Support Enforcement of the Mississippi Department of Human Services. He was also engaged in the private practice of law for more than three years and has taught at Harvard Law School and at Jackson State

University. Justice Graves has been recognized by numerous organizations for his commitment to the principle of "equal justice for all" and for his outstanding ability as a judge.

More details about the Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture III will follow in next month's newsletter.

'Between Fences' Tour Opens

After the successful and highly popular Smithsonian Institution touring exhibits "Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945" and "Key Ingredients: America by Food," the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing a third touring exhibit to Mississippi. Entitled "Between Fences," the exhibit tells the story of the settling of the United States, the establishment of its communities and the building of its borders. It is the story of people, pigs, corn and dirt. It is about intimacy and conflict, creativity and industry, restraint and liberation in America.



Watercolor by Wyatt Waters

The "Between Fences" tour in Mississippi is made possible by the Smithsonian Institution and its Museum on Main Street program, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, East Central Community College, the Greenville Higher Education Center and Starbucks Coffee Company.

Dr. Luther Brown, director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, is serving as the state scholar for the exhibit. David Morgan (601-432-6752) serves as project coordinator.

Dates and locations for the Between Fences traveling exhibit are as follows:

- Sept. 14-Oct. 18, 2005, East Central Community College, Decatur, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site, contact Stacey Hollingsworth at 601-635-6327 or sholling@eccc.edu)
- Oct. 24-Nov. 22, 2005, Greenville Higher Education Center, Greenville, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site, contact Grover Greer at 662-332-8500 or ggreer@ghec.org or Emily Erwin at 662-846-4781 or eerwin@deltastate.edu)

- Nov. 30–Dec. 22, 2005, Oren Dunn Museum, Tupelo, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Christy Roberts at 662–841–6438 or museum@ci.tupelo.ms.us)
- Jan. 3–Jan. 31, 2006, Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Public Library (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Henry Ledet at 601.833–3369 or hledet@llf.lib.ms.us)
- Feb. 4–March 7, 2006, M.R. Dye Public Library, Horn Lake, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Carson Culver at 662–393–5654 or carsonc@first.lib.ms.us)
- March 20–April 25, 2006, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Glen Berry at 662–325–2029 or gberry@library.msstate.edu)

Mississippi Historical Society Offers Oral History Award

The Mississippi Historical Society will recognize “the most outstanding oral history project conducted in 2005” with its first–ever Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award. The award comes with a \$300 cash gift. The award honors Elbert R. Hilliard, who retired in 2004 after 31 years as director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. He continues to serve as secretary–treasurer of the Mississippi Historical Society. Individuals, organizations and associations are eligible for this prize. The award will recognize oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collection, high–quality preservation and proper use of oral history. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted by Oct. 31, 2005, to Oral History Committee, Mississippi Historical Society, PO Box 571, 200 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39205–0571. If merited, the award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society, which will be held March 2–4, 2006, in Natchez. Only projects completed in 2005 are eligible. Project considerations submitted after Oct. 31 will be held for the following year’s competition. Projects should follow the principles and standards of the Oral History Association (http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/pub_eg.html).

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Oct. 6, 2005 – *Lunch Lecture Series*, Eudora Welty Library, 300 North State Street, Jackson MS. Rev. Ross Olivier, lead minister at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, has been an outspoken, passionate advocate against apartheid measures in South Africa and has been involved in the Methodist ministry since 1980. Since then, he has traveled extensively throughout South Africa to speak on racial

reconciliation and respect in post-apartheid South Africa. This is one of four lectures in this series, aimed at promoting a dialogue on crucial race-related issues. Bring your lunch to this free lecture.

- Oct. 6–Oct. 7, 2005, ***22nd Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Symposium***, Dollye Robinson Liberal Arts Building, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. The 22nd Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Symposium will explore pedagogies for integrating the teaching of citizenship into humanities curricula in fields such as history, the social sciences, literature and music. The two-day symposium will feature keynote presentations and panel discussions exploring a variety of K–12 teaching models.
- Nov. 9, 2005, ***Origin of Thanksgiving***, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 400 Grants Ferry Road, Brandon, MS. Lecture.
- Dec. 6, 2005 – ***Lunch Lecture Series***, Eudora Welty Library, 300 North State Street, Jackson MS. Dr. Stuart Rockoff, historian at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, along with Bea Gotthelf, a Jackson resident and active participant in local civil rights activities during the 1960s, will present a joint lecture. Gotthelf will provide a firsthand account of being both a member of the Jewish community and a participant in the Jackson civil rights activities. This is one of four lectures in this series, aimed at promoting a dialogue on crucial race-related issues. Bring your lunch to this free lecture.

Suggestions for Future Issues of Our Newsletter?

We welcome suggestions for humanities-related items for our monthly newsletter. If you have a suggestion, please contact Carol Andersen at carol@mhc.state.ms.us.

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