

Focus on the Humanities

February 2012



(Visit our web site at www.mshumanities.org to learn more about us.)

Contents:

- MHC Partners on Film About Mississippi's Food Diversity
- Gala Will Celebrate Achievements in the Humanities; Council's 40th Anniversary
- New Edition of *Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi* Examines State's Ethnic Diversity
- Legends, Lore and Literature: Storytelling in the South
- USM Hosts *Mother/Nature* Conference
- 19th Oxford Conference for the Book
- Workshops Offered for Nonprofit Organizations
- SonEdna Foundation Seeks Executive Director
- Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers
- Family Reading Programs Under Way in Laurel, Greenville
- Tougaloo College Hosts *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow* Exhibit
- Northeast Mississippi CC Takes on Difficult Subject of Food
- Have You Seen Our Events Calendar?
- Next MHC Grant Deadline April 15, 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Grant Applications to MHC Now Require DUNS Number

All organizations applying for Mississippi Humanities Council grants are now required to have a DUNS Number (data universal numbering system). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has adopted the use of DUNS numbers as a way to keep track of how federal grant money is dispersed. All grants awarded by the Mississippi Humanities Council are federal funds and therefore subject to the DUNS requirement. To learn more about the policy, you can read the [Federal Registrar notice](#). If you are unsure of your number, visit <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> for more information.

MHC Partners on Film about Mississippi's Food Diversity

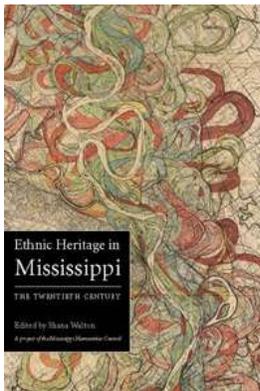
The Negro in Mississippi Historical Society Unlimited is launching a new television show entitled *It's About You*, a project overseen by Dr. Wilma Clopton. The purpose of this program is to celebrate the diversity of Mississippi through film and food. Installments are to air on Fox 35 WUFX and JSU 23 with the first program, *Steve's Downtown Deli*, scheduled for Sunday, February 26, at 11:30 a.m. on WUFX. The Mississippi Humanities Council is providing financial support for this endeavor through its FOOD: For Thought, For Life initiative.

Gala Will Celebrate Achievements in the Humanities, Council's 40th Anniversary

The Mississippi Humanities Council Public Humanities Awards, which recognize outstanding contributions by Mississippians to the study and understanding of the humanities, will be presented Friday evening, February 24, at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson. The annual awards celebration will begin with a reception and silent auction of Mississippi Miscellany at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets to the awards ceremony and banquet are \$45 each or \$340 for a table for eight and may be purchased by sending a check to the Mississippi Humanities Council, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 317, Jackson, MS 39211. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.mshumanities.org or call Elena Fougerousse, 601-432-6752 or efougerousse@ihl.state.ms.us.



New Edition of 'Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi' Examines State's Ethnic Diversity

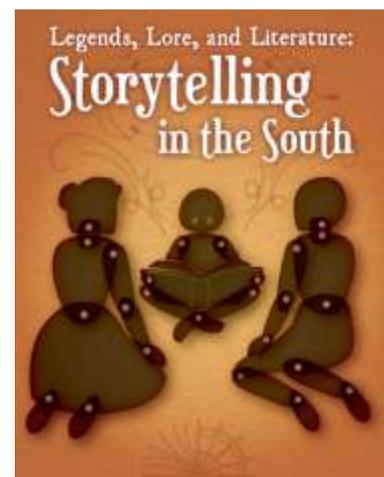


Throughout its history, Mississippi has seen a small, steady stream of immigrants. Those identities – sometimes submerged, sometimes hidden – have helped shape the state in important ways. Amid renewed interest in identity, the Mississippi Humanities Council has commissioned a companion volume to its earlier book that studied ethnicity in the state from the period 1500–1900, edited by Dr. Shana Walton. This new book, *Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi: The Twentieth Century*, offers stories of immigrants overcoming obstacles, immigrants newly arrived, and long-settled groups witnessing a revitalized claim to membership. The book examines twentieth-century immigration trends, explores the reemergence of ethnic identity, and undertakes case studies of current ethnic groups. Some of the groups featured include Chinese, Latino, Lebanese, Jewish,

Filipino, South Asian and Vietnamese communities. The book also examines Biloxi as a city that has long attracted a diverse population and takes a look at the growth in identity affiliation among people of European descent. The book is funded in part by a We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Legends, Lore and Literature: Storytelling in the South

Stories about the South have been told in a hundred different languages around the world, and this year's Literary and Cinema Celebration turns its focus to storytelling as it is, and has been, conducted in the South. What makes the writers from the South such iconic authors, is the way they tell their stories, and their methods are evident in stories like Willie Morris' *My Dog Skip* and Eudora Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom*. Literary greats from around the region will lecture on a variety of storytelling methods of legendary authors of the South such as William Faulkner and Richard Wright, and how those styles affected the scripting styles of authors of contemporary Southern literature. John Grisham, Ernest Gaines, Anne Rice and Greg Iles are just a few of the prolific writers who have developed their authoring skills in the light of their great predecessors, and made their own marks on literary history and



storytelling in the South. The NLCC runs from February 23rd, starting with a 1:30 – 5 p.m. pre-conference screening of *Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White*, which will be narrated by Rita Dove, Professor of English at the University of Virginia, and culminates on February 26th with an oral history workshop and screening of *Crazy Heart*, a film by this year's Horton Foote Award recipient, Scott Cooper. For more information and details regarding lectures, please visit the NLCC website and click on the brochure link. The site address is www.colin.edu/nlcc

USM Hosts 'Mother/Nature' Conference

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. – John Muir



The University of Southern Mississippi English Department will host a conference entitled *Mother/Nature* March 16–17 to discover interconnectedness and meaning through a study of shifting influences on the changing definition of motherhood. The conference will include double-session panels from multiple disciplines exploring and critiquing theories of childbirth, biological and non-biological definitions of motherhood, women's health and

representations of motherhood in literature, popular culture and film. Paper submissions have been invited from the fields of English, philosophy, history, sociology and anthropology. Submissions have also been invited for readings of creative works. A writing workshop is planned with plenary speaker Janisse Ray. This conference is free and open to the public. Thad Cochran Center, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. <http://www.usm.edu/english/mothernature-conference>

19th Oxford Conference for the Book

The 2012 Oxford Conference for the Book will be the 19th annual event to celebrate books, reading and writing while also examining the practical concerns on which the literary arts and the humanities depend, including literacy, freedom of expression and the state of publishing. The conference is partially funded with a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Set for March 22–24 at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, the conference will open with a lunch and lecture on the history of the book in the United States by scholar David D. Hall. That afternoon Beth Ann Fennelly will host a celebration of National Poetry Month, joined by poets Nicole Cooley and Brad Richard. Immediately following will be a Writers Conversation between author Richard Ford and current John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence Josh Weil. A panel moderated by Charles Reagan Wilson entitled *Writing Black Freedom Movements* will include Randall Jelks and Allen Tullos. That evening a special Thacker Mountain Radio show will feature author and musician Bobby Keys along with Charlie Winton. A cocktail reception will follow at the Barksdale–Isom Place. For schedule details for Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, visit <http://conferenceforthebook.tumblr.com/>



Workshops Offered for Nonprofit Organizations



The Mississippi Center for Nonprofits, the state's primary source of management training, technical information, advice and coaching for nonprofits, has released its 2012 workshop schedule. Workshops range from Decoding the IRS 990 Forms to Writing a Grant Proposal: the Essentials. Workshops are offered in locations throughout the state. To view the Center's workshop schedule, visit <http://msnonprofits.org/training-and-consulting/view-calendar>.

SonEdna Foundation Seeks Executive Director

Young organization, focused on providing literary programs to benefit the Mississippi Delta and beyond, seeks its first full-time executive director who is looking for a challenging opportunity to lead the SonEdna Foundation through the next stage of its growth. Founded by Myrna Colley-Lee in 2006, the SonEdna Foundation has developed a solid reputation for high quality programming benefitting established and aspiring writers throughout the United States. With a good beginning, the organization is poised to grow substantially. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should review the full job description and application instructions posted at www.sonednajobs.org.

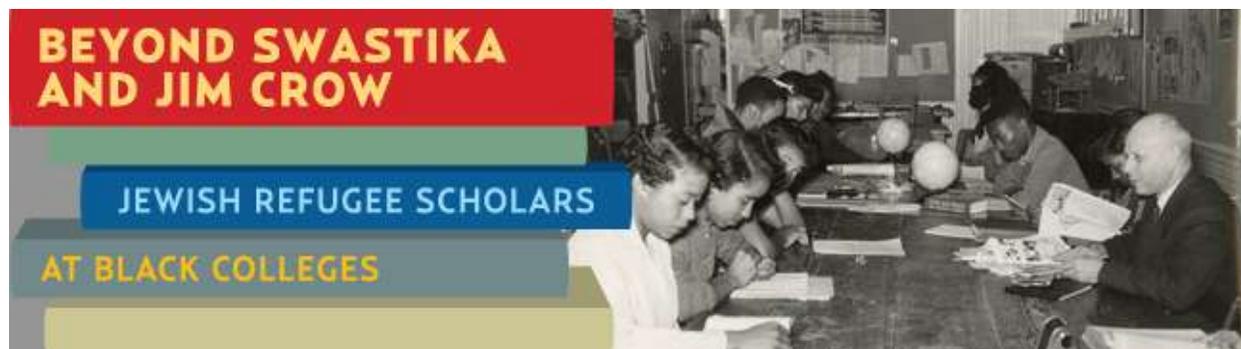


Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers

K-12 school teachers, administrators and librarians are invited to participate in a one-week workshop, *Abraham Lincoln and the Forging of Modern America* June 25-29 or July 16-20, 2012, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Forty teachers will experience this extraordinary no-cost program on the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and in Springfield, IL. They will explore Abraham Lincoln's life in Springfield and New Salem Village, IL, and the political and historical challenges he faced as president. They will hear from outstanding Lincoln scholars drawn from universities in the St. Louis area. Application postmark deadline is March 1, 2012. For information, visit www.siu.edu/education/neh

Family Reading Programs Under Way in Laurel, Greenville

Mississippi Humanities Council Family Reading Bonds programs are ongoing at the Public Library in Laurel, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday evenings through March 1 and at O'Bannon Elementary School in Greenville, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday evenings through March 8.

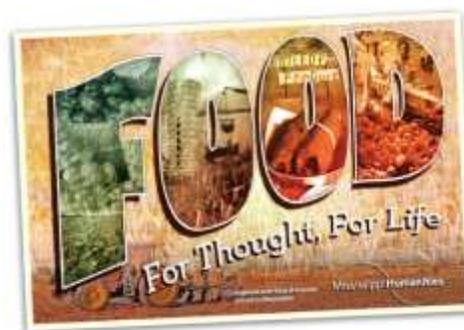


Tougaloo College Hosts 'Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow' Exhibit

Tougaloo College, with support from the Mississippi Humanities Council, will host *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, a powerful exhibition created by the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. This exhibit tells the story of Jewish academics from Germany and Austria who were dismissed from their teaching positions in the 1930s. After fleeing to America, many refugee scholars found positions at historically black colleges and universities in the Jim Crow South, including Dr. Ernst Borinski at Tougaloo College. Through its FOOD: For Thought, For Life initiative, the Mississippi Humanities Council is providing financial support for portions of the programming for the exhibit including oral history interviews and a lecture by nationally recognized food historian Jessica Harris. This exhibit will be on display at Tougaloo College from February 25 to May 27.

Northeast Mississippi CC Takes on Difficult Subject of Food

The Northeast Mississippi Community College Cultural Arts Committee and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Forum will present FOOD: For Thought, For Life, a series of programs about the competitive aspects and ethical implications of food production, distribution, and consumption across the world and in our hometowns. From the philosophical to the practical, multiple viewpoints on this vital human concern will be explored in four separate one-hour sessions:



Tuesday, February 28 – Dr. Benjy Mikel, professor of food science and associate vice president of the International Institute at Mississippi State University, will deliver a talk Food: Is Feeding the Masses a Competition?

Thursday, March 1 – A panel comprised of Art Gaines, former director of The Food Depot of Tishomingo County; Joel Gill, professional cattleman and mayor of Pickens, MS; and Will Reed, owner of Native Son Organic Farm in Tupelo, MS, will address questions raised by Mikel's talk.

Tuesday, March 6 – Dr. Ralph Didlake, founder and director of the Center of Bioethics and Medical Humanities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and member of the Mississippi Humanities Council, will present the talk Food from a Bioethics Perspective.

Thursday, March 8 – Four NEMCC faculty members, Sandra Ford, Mark Hurley, Dr. Deborah Kehoe and Dr. Bill Stone, will form a panel to discuss questions raised by Didlake's talk.

With the exception of the March 8 event, all programs will be held in the Claude Wright Room of the Frank Haney Union on the NEMCC campus and will run from 10:50 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The March 8 panel discussion will be in the Black and Gold Lounge of the Frank Haney Union. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch and eat during the presentations.

Have You Seen Our Events Calendar?



Did you know that our Calendar page is updated weekly with humanities events all over Mississippi? Even better, most events are free and open to the public! You can do everything from attending an interactive exhibit celebrating American roots music to archeological digs to a Beethoven lecture and performance. Keep coming back to our Calendar page; there will always be new events added each week for you to attend. Click this [link](#) to find a humanities program occurring in your community.

Next MHC Grant Deadline April 15, 2012

April 15, 2012, is the next Mini-Grant application deadline for proposals up to \$1,500. April 15, 2012, is also the next Regular Grant application deadline for proposals greater than \$1,500 up to a maximum of \$7,500. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org. Mini-Grant deadlines are January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 each year. Mini-Grant applications must be submitted a minimum of 8 weeks before the proposed program begins. Regular Grant deadlines are April 15 and September 15 annually. Regular Grant applications must be submitted a minimum of 12 weeks before the proposed program begins.

Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.

The Council invites grant proposals that address one or more of four focus areas: Books and Reading, Mississippi History and Culture, Civil Discourse and Capacity Building.

MHC Welcomes Your Support

Mississippi Humanities Council programs are engaging, inspiring and free of charge. Your gift makes a big difference to our mission of cultivating an understanding of our history and culture throughout the state. You help us enrich peoples' lives through programs incorporating history, literature, music, politics, philosophy and other humanities-based disciplines that illuminate the human condition. Thanks to your support, we are able to serve all Mississippians: all ages, all geographic areas of the state, all walks of life.

A small gift of \$25 will purchase two books for children participating in the Mississippi Humanities Council's [Family Reading Bonds](#) program.

A larger gift of \$250 will fund a lecture in a school classroom, local library or civic club, by a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council [Speakers Bureau](#).

A \$2,500 contribution will underwrite a six-week [Family Reading Bonds](#) series, part of the Mississippi Humanities Council's literacy program.

A gift of any amount can support any one of our ongoing programs:

- [Oral History Projects](#)
- [Lecture Series](#)
- [Smithsonian Exhibits](#)
- [Public Humanities Awards](#)

The humanities are vital to each of us – to our self-awareness, our understanding of the past and our vision of the future. The Mississippi Humanities Council has been bringing the insights of history and culture into people's lives since 1972. The Council celebrates and preserves our diverse cultural heritage, creates public dialogue on issues that matter and enriches the education we offer our children. The Council depends on public support. The MHC will appreciate your financial help. To donate online, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp> . Or call 601-432-6752.



Disclaimer

The MHC is supported by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and by the generosity of individual donors. The MHC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the NEH.

Unsubscribe

You are receiving this email from the Mississippi Humanities Council because you have shared your email address with us at some time in the past. If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please reply with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.

Mississippi Humanities Council | 3825 Ridgewood Rd., Rm. 317 | Jackson, MS | 39211