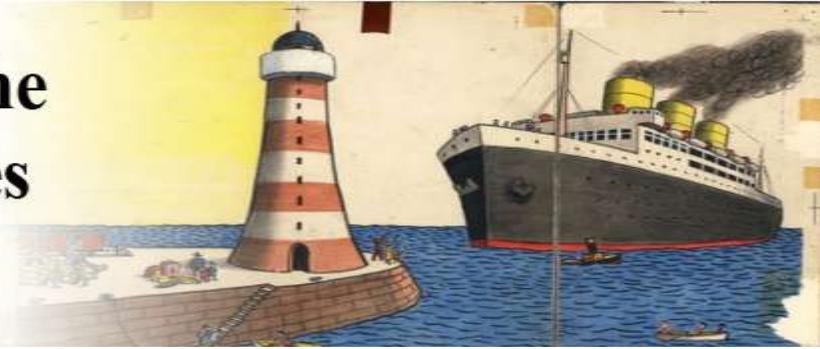


Focus on the Humanities May 2012



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

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Looking Back, Moving Forward: The Humanities are for Everyone

This year, the Mississippi Humanities Council marks its 40th year of encouraging Mississippians "to learn, to think, to imagine; to honor our traditions while envisioning a better society; to instill a sense of ethical behavior and civic responsibility in our children; to learn about the larger world of which we are a part." To celebrate this anniversary, we will print a series of essays by current and former leaders in the humanities in Mississippi.



Barbara Carpenter, PhD
Executive Director
Mississippi Humanities Council

If at any time in the last five years you have encountered printed materials or the website or heard public radio spots for the Mississippi Humanities Council, you have encountered our motto, "The humanities are for everyone." More than just a catchy sound bite, the brief sentence encapsulates the Council's commitment to reach far and wide to the people of Mississippi in all their diversity.

Though the current phrase has been in use for a brief time, it expresses the guiding principle and central purpose of our organization through its four decades of service to the people of this state. The current mission statement (2008) puts it thus: *The Mississippi Humanities Council seeks to create and foster*

opportunities for the people of this state to understand themselves and others and to place their lives in the larger context of the human condition. Though the wording has changed from time to time, the sentiment remains the same: the Council is determined to provide funding for the kinds of programs most appropriate and most beneficial to the people of this particular state with their peculiar and unique circumstances and interests.

Read the rest of Dr. Carpenter's essay [here](#).

Save The Date: University of Mississippi to Host Cora Norman Lecture October 25



Dr. Cora Norman, founding director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, will deliver the lecture named in her honor, *The Cora Norman Lecture*, October 25 on the campus of the University of Mississippi, where the Council was originally founded. Dr. Norman's lecture highlights one of several celebrations the Council is hosting across the state during its 40th anniversary year. Please watch the MHC website (www.mshumanities.org) for further details about the lecture, and please make plans to join us for this commemorative lecture in Oxford.

Mississippi Storyteller Spotlights in National Endowment for the Humanities Magazine

Diane Williams, a Mississippi storyteller and member of the Mississippi Humanities Council [Speakers Bureau](#), was featured in the January/February *Humanities* magazine in a narrative about a female buffalo soldier, a name given by the Plains Indians to African American troops, who served in the Infantry on the western frontier from 1866 to 1868. She is the first African American female to enlist, and the only documented to serve in the United States Army posing as a man under the pseudonym, William Cathay. Williams shares stories about Cathay in a presentation titled "Southern Women of Character: The Life & Music of Mahalia Jackson and Cathay Williams, Female Buffalo Soldier." You can read the *Humanities* article [here](#).



Buffalo soldiers of the 25th Infantry, wearing buffalo robes in Montana. Library of Congress.

FOOD: For Thought, For Life Book Discussion Series Planned in Tupelo, Hattiesburg

TUPELO – Café Humanities, a book discussion series sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council, will begin Monday, June 11, in the Reception Hall at Link Centre. The program is part of the "FOOD: For Thought, for Life" initiative, designed to reach as many Mississippians as possible with information about food issues and food culture in our state.

The opening session in the Reception Hall at Link Centre will be a sign-up reception and introduction to Gum Tree Bookstore's collections of books on various aspects of food. Over the following six weeks,

group members will read three food-related books and discuss their thoughts and ideas. Discussion sessions will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 25, and July 9 and 23.

The three featured titles include: *Dinner with Tennessee Williams*, by Troy Gilbert and Chef Greg Picolo; *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*, by culinary historian Jessica B. Harris; and *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by naturalist and food activist Michael Pollan. For more information or to sign up, contact Melanie Dees (662-690-4011, mdeas@link-centre.org), Emily Gatlin (662-842-6453, books@reedsms.com) or David Morgan (601-432-6752, david@mhc.state.ms.us).

Family Literacy Project Update

Family Reading Bonds programs are slated for Clinton and Jackson this summer. The Clinton program will begin at the Clinton Community Christian Corporation June 19 (5:30-70 p.m.) and continue on Thursday evenings through July 24. The Jackson program, hosted by the United Way of the Capital Area, will take place at the Richard Wright Public Library beginning July 10 (6- 7:30 p.m.), continuing on Tuesday nights through August 7. The bilingual (Spanish/English) version of this program, the Luciérnagas Family Reading Program, is currently ongoing on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7 at the Morton Public Library through May 31. A second program is slated for the Pontotoc Public Library beginning July 17.

Newspaper Features MHC Assistant Director

Mississippi Humanities Council Assistant Director Carol Andersen was spotlighted in a recent issue of the Jackson-based *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper. Andersen discussed the work of the Council, the enriching experience it has provided her during the seven years she has worked in the humanities and the plans the Council has put in motion to mark its 40th year of providing humanities programming in Mississippi. To read the full article, go [here](#).



Photo by Vickie D. King.

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 a lecture on the narrow escape of *Curious George* creators H.A. and Margret Rey from Nazi-occupied Paris to joining a book discussion series exploring the ethics, aesthetics and politics of food. 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 July 15, 2012

July 15, 2012, is the next Mini-Grant application deadline for proposals up to \$1,500. 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. 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](#)

To donate online, visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp>. Or call 601-432-6752.



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