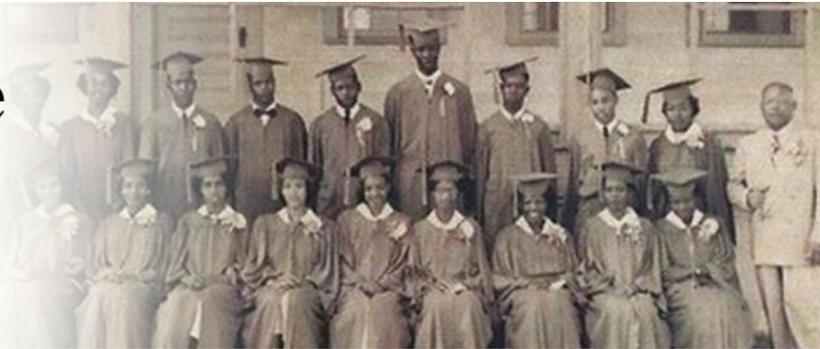


Focus on the Humanities

January 2013



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

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Public Humanities Awards Nominations Due Feb. 15

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its 2013 Public Humanities Achievement Awards, which honor outstanding contributions in the arena of public humanities. Nominations will be accepted for Humanities Scholar Award, Humanities Partner Award, Humanities Educator Award and Humanities Award for Preservation of Mississippi Culture.



The Council began issuing Achievement Awards in 1993 to recognize persons who have supported the Council's work through public programs across the state based in the branches of learning concerned with human thought and relations, such as history, literature, culture, values and ideas. All Mississippians are invited to make nominations for these awards. Nominations are reviewed by a panel, which selects the year's awardees.

All awards will be presented at an awards luncheon Friday, March 22, 2013, at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson. Recipients of the 2012 Humanities Teacher Awards, which pay tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields, will also be honored at the luncheon.

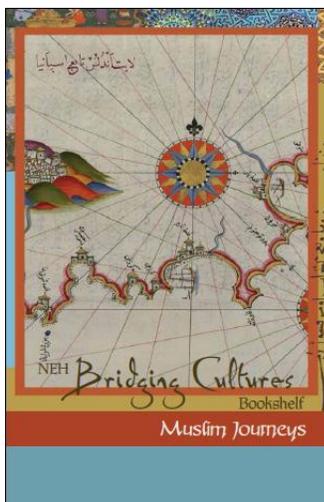
Nominations for Public Humanities Achievement Awards may be made [online](#). For information call 601-432-6752.

Council Invites Board Nominations

Twenty-two Mississippians serve four-year terms on the Council as volunteers. Five Council members are appointed by the governor and the others elected by the Council. Half of the members are public and half academic, and every effort is made to maintain balance by race, gender and geographic distribution to assure representation for all Mississippians.

Any Mississippi resident may nominate persons to serve on the Council. Mississippi Humanities Council nomination materials are available [online](#). For more information, please call 601-432-6752.

MHC Awarded "Bookshelf" on Muslim History, Culture



The Mississippi Humanities Council, along with two libraries in Mississippi, has been awarded the *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf*, a collection of books, films and other resources that will introduce the American public to the complex history and culture of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

Developed by the NEH and the American Library Association based on the advice of scholars, librarians and other public programming experts, the *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf* is intended to address both the need and desire of the American public for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations. Each participating library will receive 25 books, three films and access for one year to Oxford Islamic Studies Online.

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library and the University of Southern Mississippi library also received the *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf*. All libraries and organizations that have received the *Bookshelf* are also eligible for public programming grant opportunities.

The Mississippi Humanities Council Then and Now

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.



Dr. Peggy Prenshaw
Advisory Board Member

Mississippi Humanities Council

In its earliest days, the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities, as MHC was called then, funded programs on topics that were issues likely to come to the ballot box. By Congressional requirement, the state humanities councils were created to foster informed public dialogue, bringing scholars in the humanities to communities to participate in discussions that would contribute to citizens' involvement in public discourse.

For many of us academics who were committed to offering whatever skills we had as facilitators and clarifiers of such discussions, Mississippi's public life in the 1970s offered issues a plenty that called for reasoned debate. These were the days when the challenges of racial integration influenced every aspect of public life. Simply bringing together an integrated audience for a humanities program in some library or public school or courthouse was an important step toward the racial reconciliation that would evolve over the next forty years. As I think about those days, I have come more and more to respect the idealism and the effort to foster racial justice that the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities, led by the committed director Cora Norman, represented in this state.

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

Family Literacy Project Locations and Dates Set for 2013

To date, times and locations have been set for six Family Literacy Project programs. For the Family Reading Bonds program, host sites include Brookhaven Elementary School (1/24 - 3/7), the Farish St. YMCA in Jackson (2/21 - 4/4), Pearman Elementary School in Cleveland (3/21 - 4/25), Greenhill Elementary School in Sardis (3/26 - 4/40) and Tenn Tom Moving Youth in Aberdeen. The Luciérnagas Family Reading Program (MHC's bilingual Spanish/English program) is scheduled for an unprecedented 4th consecutive year at the M.R. Dye Library in Horn Lake next fall.

MHC Reading Programs Have Impact

Following an autumn 2012 Luciérnagas family reading series hosted by the Mississippi Humanities Council at the M.R. Dye Public Library in Horn Lake, a library staff member was proud to report what she heard while "eavesdropping" in a local store. "Two Hispanic ladies and their children were in the next aisle speaking in English. The conversation centered on 'what have you and the family been doing?' One lady spoke of about a wonderful reading program the whole family had attended at the Horn Lake library, called Luciérnagas," she related. Turns out, it was the Mississippi Humanities Council's six-week reading program!

The library staff member continued, "The conversation went on for several minutes as information about the impact the program had made on the family, how much everyone enjoyed it and how the kids were doing better at school...The final comment was from the mom who had not attended: 'When is the next Luciérnagas workshop and do you think there is room for my family next year?'

The impact of the Council's reading programs is often hard to measure in hard data, but eavesdropping certainly produced proof of a very positive outcome!

The Mississippi Humanities Council supports two family-based reading programs for literacy-challenged adult readers and their lower elementary school age children. For more information, please visit our [family literacy page on our website](#), or contact David Morgan at 601-432-6752 or david@mhc.state.ms.us.

MHC Chair Receives Outstanding Achievement Award from MLA



Pamela Pridgen, director of the Library of Hattiesburg and Forrest County, a member of the Mississippi Library Commission (MLA) Board of Commissioners and chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council, was awarded the 2012 MLA Outstanding Achievement Award at the Association's annual conference late last fall. The Association recognized Pridgen for her commitment and service to public libraries.

"I am honored to have received the MLA Outstanding Achievement Award," Pridgen said. "I love being a librarian and am grateful to the board of trustees and the staff at the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County for allowing me to do work every day that I believe is meaningful. I have been very lucky to work in a community that is supportive of their public library and to also be able to work on statewide projects...To be recognized for doing a joy you love by your profession is a great joy."

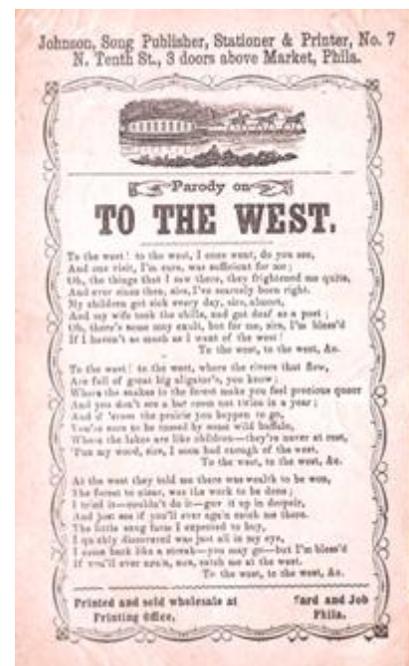
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Workshop Scheduled April 11-12

Representatives from six Mississippi sites selected to host "The Way We Worked," a traveling Smithsonian exhibit hosted by the Mississippi Humanities Council, will meet in Jackson April 11-12. This two-day conference will serve as an orientation to the exhibit, its themes and contents, as well as an overview of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street Program. Host sites include the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum in Meridian, East Central Community College in Decatur, Co-Lin Community College in Wesson, the Sunflower County Library in Indianola, the Tunica Museum in Tunica, and the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany. Space for this meeting has been graciously provided by PTK, the event taking place at PTK's International Headquarters in Jackson.

NEH Summer Institute for Teachers: Teaching American History Through Song

The Center for American Music at the University of Pittsburgh, in partnership with the Society for American Music, is offering a five-week summer institute for K-12 teachers. "Voices Across Time: Teaching American History Through Song" will be held from June 24 to July 26, 2013, at the University of Pittsburgh. This Institute, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), will allow 25 secondary school teachers and three graduate students in education, to explore topics in American history through the lens of music.

Participants will receive a \$3900 stipend to cover travel and housing. Participation is especially encouraged from middle- and high-school teachers of social studies or related disciplines, including history, geography and language arts; other grade levels and disciplines will also be considered, and music teachers are welcome. Additional



information, along with application materials, is available at <http://www.library.pitt.edu/voicesacrosstime/index.html> or email: amerimus@pitt.edu (please indicate NEH Institute in the subject line). Applications should be **postmarked** no later than **March 4, 2013**.

MHC Staff Members Serve on Millsaps Arts and Lecture Series Board

Carol Andersen, assistant director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, and Elena Fougerousse, executive assistant for the Council, are both serving terms on the 2013–2014 Millsaps Arts and Lecture Series Board. The Arts and Lecture Series is in its 45th year of presenting programs for the Jackson area. Part of the College's community outreach mission, the series was created by volunteers, many of them Millsaps College alumni, to bring unique programs of music, literary, current events, history and more to the greater community. "Our goal with the series is to enlighten and entertain," said Nola Gibson, executive director of the series." Andersen serves as president of the 2013–2014 board. The program for the Lecture Series 44th season is available [here](#).

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 viewing an exhibit at DSU on the life and contributions of American voting rights activist and Mississippi native Fannie Lou Hamer to joining a "Philosophical Fridays" lecture at USM to participating in the Thirty–Third Avenue Trojans Alumni Black History Exp in Gulfport. 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, 2013

April 15, 2013, is the next MHC 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.

April 15, 2013, is also the next MHC Regular Grant application deadline. Regular Grant proposals for amounts between \$1,500 and \$7,500 will be accepted in our office or postmarked by this date. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org. Regular Grant deadlines are April 15 and September 15 each year. Regular Grant applications must be submitted a minimum of 12 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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