

Focus on the Humanities September 2013



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

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Newest Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit Opens October 5 in Meridian



The Way We Worked, a Mississippi Humanities Council-sponsored Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, will begin its tour of the state with opening ceremonies at the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum in Meridian at 10 a.m. Oct. 5. The exhibit, which addresses work in American from the late 19th to late 20th centuries, is supported by weekly programming and complemented by work-related local displays. It will remain in Meridian through Nov. 12 and will then travel to the Henry M. Seymour Public Library in Indianola, the

Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany, East Central Community College in Decatur, Co-Lin Community College in Wesson and the Tunica Museum in Tunica before returning to the Smithsonian in mid-July of next year. For more information call MHC at 601-432-6752 or visit www.mshumanities.org.

Nomination Deadline for Humanities Teacher Awards is September 23



The Mississippi Humanities Council will observe Arts and Humanities Month in October with its annual Humanities Teacher Awards. The Humanities Teacher Awards recognize the contributions of humanities faculty at each of the state's colleges and universities. Nominations are made by the college or university president or humanities dean. Each award recipient is required to prepare and deliver a public lecture

during October or November. Recipients are then recognized at the Mississippi Humanities Council's annual awards ceremony in the spring. The deadline to nominate a Mississippi educator for a Humanities Teacher Award is Sept. 23, 2013. Nomination forms may be downloaded [here](#).

MHC Prepares for Five-Year Site Visit by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Every five years, each state humanities council writes a forward-looking self-assessment report that considers the context in which the Council works, the humanities benefits and services it provides and the Council's management and organizational effectiveness. This report serves as the basis for a site visit to the Council by two outside consultants and a representative from Federal/State Partnership. The site team serves as fresh eyes looking at the Council. The goal is a 360-degree look at the Council and the effectiveness and impact of its programs and services. The site visit considers not only the public humanities programming carried out by the Council but also the Council's strength as a nonprofit organization. The Mississippi Humanities Council's five-year site visit will take place Sept. 25-27.

MHC's *FOOD: For Thought, For Life* Project Supports Thacker Mountain Radio Program

Beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Thacker Mountain Radio, based in Oxford, will present a live-audience performance celebrating the food of the South. In concert with the theme of this year's Southern



Foodways Alliance conference, this show will focus on the ways women have been entrepreneurs in a shifting food economy and the way this has impacted Southern food traditions. The Mississippi Humanities Council will assist in supporting this venture via a monetary award from its NEH-funded *FOOD: For Thought, For Life* project. Thacker Mountain Radio shows are broadcast live via local Oxford radio station 92.1 FM and rebroadcast statewide each Saturday evening at 7 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Long-time MHC board member, Dr. Andy Mullins will speak on behalf of the Mississippi Humanities Council at the opening of the show.

Family Literacy Programs Continue Throughout the State

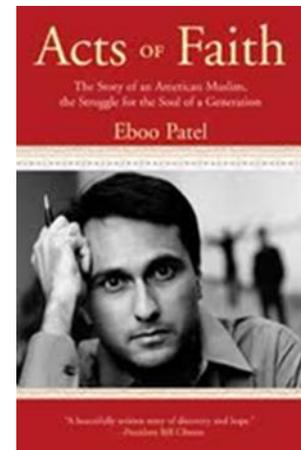
This family focused reading project, which consists of English-only (Family Reading Bonds) and bi-lingual Spanish/English (Luciérnagas Family Reading Program) versions, continues across the state. The Family Reading Bonds program is currently being presented on Tuesday nights through Oct. 15, at the TN-Tom Moving Youth, Inc. headquarters in Aberdeen. The Luciérnagas Family Reading Program is now ongoing (for a record-setting fourth consecutive year) on Wednesday nights through Oct. 23 at the M.R. Dye Public Library in Horn Lake. The Mississippi Humanities Council's reading programs will continue next year, following the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, at other locations statewide. For more information on our reading programs, please go to www.mshumanities.org or call the MHC at 601-432-6752.

***Muslim Journeys* Discussion Series Continues in October, November and December**

The Mississippi Humanities Council has received a *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf* from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. It includes a collection of books,

films and other resources that introduce the American public to the complex history and culture of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

The Council is sponsor a reading and discussion series using materials from a *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf*. The first discussion was held Sept. 12 and focused on the text, *Prince Among Slaves* by Terry Alford. The next discussion will take place Oct. 10, focusing on *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel. The series will include five discussions in all. Participation is free and open to all. Discussions take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Margaret Walker Center, located in historic Ayer Hall on the campus of Jackson State University (1400 John R. Lynch Street). Participants must provide their own books, either borrowed from a library or purchased. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or call 601-432-6752.



Upcoming discussions will include:

- Nov. 14, 2013 *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States* by Edward E. Curtis IV (editor)
- Feb. 13, 2014 *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* by Leila Ahmed
- March 6, 2012 *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson

NEH to Deliver *Created Equal* Film Sets Across the Nation



Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle is a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. The four films that are part of this project – *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders* and *The Loving Story* – tell the remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo, from slavery to segregation.

Over the next three years, *Created Equal* film sets will be distributed to more than 400 communities across the nation. In addition to many state councils, the host institutions include public libraries, museums, NAACP chapters, African American heritage sites and cultural centers. The venues have proposed film screenings, book discussions, theatrical productions, interviews with former activist and intergenerational dialogues, exploring topics that range from the history of fair housing to women in the abolitionist movement. These programs promise to fulfill our original hopes for the *Created Equal* initiative – to extend and deepen the discussions that are already taking place in our communities about race, equality and freedom in American civic life.

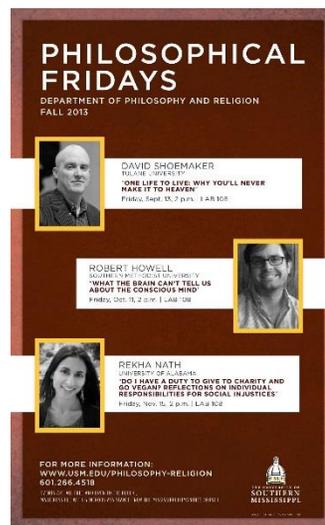
The Created Equal [website](http://www.createdequal.neh.gov) will launch in September at www.createdequal.neh.gov, offering programming resources, discussion guides, film clips and scholars' essays. Three of the Created Equal films will be streamed in full on the website.

The Mississippi Humanities Council hosted an online viewing and discussion session on *The Abolitionists* in February, with broad participation. The Council anticipates hosting similar and other related *Created Equal* programming. For more information about *Created Equal*, please visit www.createdequal.neh.gov.

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! Join a mock excavation at Winterville Mounds near Greenville Oct. 5, one of dozens of events planned for *Mississippi Archaeology Month 2013*. Travel to Clarksdale Oct. 4 and 5 for the 21st Annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams and sit in on a discussion on the characterizations and performances in Williams' *Baby Doll*. Join *Philosophical Fridays* at the University of Southern Mississippi – the next lecture will address "What the Brain Can't Tell Us About the Conscious Mind," Friday, Oct. 11.

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 October 15, 2013

October 15, 2013, is the next MHC Mini-Grant application deadline for proposals for amounts 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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