



Jan/Feb 2016



Humanities Matters

The e-Newsletter from Humanities Tennessee

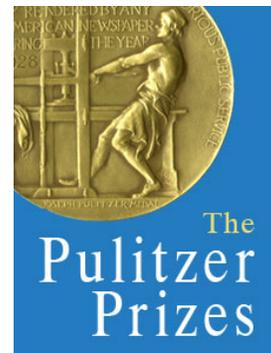
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Humanities Tennessee Receives Grant to Commemorate 100 Years of The Pulitzer Prizes

Humanities TN is honored to receive a grant for \$18,250 from the Pulitzer Prize board of directors to conduct programming throughout Tennessee in 2016 related to the 100th anniversary of the prestigious awards. Throughout the year, 46 states will conduct programming examining the history and impact of the Pulitzers and the changing nature of media. Programs include:

- The "Joseph Pulitzer and the Media of Tomorrow" track at the 2016 Southern Festival of Books will include readings and panels focused on the Pulitzers in Tennessee, including an author roundtable debate about the Pulitzer fiction winners with the greatest impact.
- We will engage a highly qualified presenter to prepare a talk about the media literacy that is appropriate for general audiences high school age and above. The scholar will receive a stipend to travel in 2016 to larger cities in Tennessee -- Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga -- and offer the talk to the public free of charge.
- For our [Chapter16.org](#) literary website, we will commission pieces from notable writers today on the legacy of Tennessee winners and the lasting influence past Pulitzer winners have had on a range of contemporary writers.



For more information about this grant and the Pulitzer centennial celebration, [click here](#).

Deadline Approaching for the 2016 Letters About Literature Contest

Enter the [Letters About Literature \(LAL\) contest today!](#) It is a great way to get your young people to think critically about something they've read and how and why it made them see the world or themselves differently. LAL

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

meets Common Core Standards for writing, too!

Letters About Literature is a writing contest that encourages students in grades 4-12 to write a personal letter to the author (living or dead) of a fiction or nonfiction book, a short story, poem, essay or speech (sorry, no song lyrics) they have read and about which they have strong feelings. Their letter should explore those feelings and why they reacted the way they did during or after reading.

This year's entry deadline is January 11th, 2016. [Download complete guidelines and the entry form here.](#)

Nominate an Outstanding Educator for a 2016 Award



**Does your community have a great teacher or librarian?
Recognize them with an Outstanding Educator Award!**

Outstanding Educator Awards provide financial support for professional development and classroom resources for those who demonstrate excellence in teaching the humanities in grades 3-12. In 2016, one award will be reserved for a school librarian who teaches humanities content. Past recipients have traveled throughout the world and brought the world back to their classrooms. Nominate an educator in your community!

The final deadline for nominations is February 29th, 2016. [Find out more about Humanities Tennessee's Outstanding Educator Awards here.](#)

Students Engage With Visiting Authors

Humanities TN's Student Reader Day program supports creative writers and authors who visit elementary, middle, and high schools across the state, bringing programs to readers and discussion that invigorates the classroom and beyond. We connect educators and authors for events at their schools and, when possible, provide a free copy of the visiting author's book to each participating student, all thanks to grants from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Nashville Predators Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.



This past spring we were delighted to bring **Matt de la Peña** to three high schools including the Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center. [You can read more about Matt's visits here](#). In the fall we were excited to bring **Stephan Pastis** to two elementary schools, and we closed out 2015 by providing books to a middle school in Clarksville for a visit from local favorite **Kristin O'Donnell Tubb**.

[Read more about this program here.](#)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Our Jan/Feb **Donor Spotlight** section features **Grace Awh & Laura Smith Tidwell**, who served as co-chairs for the 2015 Authors in the Round dinner (which was a smashing success)! We took some time to learn a bit more about their hobbies and passion for the humanities:



What is your favorite Humanities Tennessee program and why?

Grace: *The Authors in the Round dinner! It's a special night filled with music, great food, and interesting conversation with nationally recognized authors. All of the dinner guests received a gift copy of their table author's book-what a memorable party favor!*

Laura: *I am admittedly biased, but my favorite Humanities Tennessee program is the Southern Festival of Books. The festival is such a gift to the city of Nashville and to the region. As a free and fun event, it is an incredible way for readers young and old to be connected with some of their favorite authors, to learn about authors with whom they were not already familiar, and to develop or enhance their love of books.*

[Read more about Grace and Laura here.](#)

Join Our Cause

Founded in 1973, [Humanities Tennessee](#) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting civility and a sense of community among Tennesseans. Each year, governmental funding for the humanities decreases. We rely on donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations to present programs like the annual [Southern Festival of Books](#), the [Tennessee Young Writers' Workshop](#), [Community History programs](#), [Chapter16.org](#), and [more](#).



We appreciate your support!

DONATE NOW

Secure donations through
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Now-June 30 - [Flyin' Saucers Rock & Roll: The Cosmic Genius of Sam Phillips Exhibit](#) (Nashville)
- January 11 - [Entry Deadline for Letters About Literature](#) (Statewide)
- February 19 - [War and the Struggle for African American Equality in the U.S.](#) (Stanton)
- February 19 - ["Reconstruction: The Untold Story" Black History Month Presentation](#) (Memphis)
- February 29 - [Nomination Deadline for Outstanding Educator Awards](#) (Statewide)

[More events](#)

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