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Mar/Apr 2017



Humanities Matters

The e-Newsletter from Humanities Tennessee

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CALL TO ACTION: Protect Funding for the Humanities!

You have probably heard reports that the initial proposed budget in D.C. calls for the elimination of the National Endowments for the Humanities (NEH) and the Arts (NEA), among others. **The NEH is the largest source of Humanities Tennessee's revenue.** Without it, we would be unable to continue many of our programs and grants.

Last week, Humanities Tennessee joined the other state humanities councils in D.C. to talk about our work and the importance of continued funding for the NEH. Today and tomorrow (3/13 and 3/14), work on the Hill continues with Humanities Advocacy Day. **Now is the time to tell our elected officials that we value the arts and humanities.**

We ask you, as a lover of the humanities, to add your voice to the chorus of support for the NEH nationwide, and as a Tennessean, to defend the cultural identity of our state. [Find your elected officials here](#) and contact them directly, or simply [fill out this webform](#), created by the National Humanities Alliance, to inform your legislators that you support Humanities Tennessee and the NEH and do not want to see them go away. Five minutes of your day can make a big impact!

Another way to show your support is to [donate to Humanities Tennessee.](#) Your donations directly fund our programs and ensure that, even if federal funding is lost, the humanities will remain strong and supported in Tennessee.

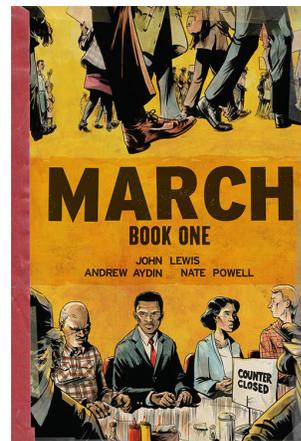
Finally, participate over social media to **#SupportNEH** and join the national conversation. If you don't already, please ['like' us on Facebook](#) and stay in touch. We will have more updates for you in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your support!

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE NEWS

2017 Nashville Reads Program is Underway

Humanities Tennessee is pleased once again to partner with other Nashville nonprofits to present **Nashville Reads**, a citywide reading program. The spring 2017 selection is the award-winning ***March: Book One*** by Congressman **John Lewis** and **Andrew Aydin**, and illustrated by **Nate Powell**. Lewis' graphic novel traces his experiences as an organizer in the Civil Rights movement, including his time in Nashville. Congressman Lewis kicked off the program with a public presentation to a packed house of 1,200 people at Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet high school in November. Book discussions, contests, and public events will take place throughout the community in March and April.



[Click here](#) to find out more and get involved!

GRANTS & AWARDS NEWS

Funds Available for Public Humanities Projects

The spring round of our General Grant Program is underway for applicants seeking funding for pilot or one-time public humanities projects. This core program is an important means by which we fulfill our mandate to invest federal tax dollars across Tennessee for community-driven ideas and local audiences.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our grant program and request an application. Don't wait--the draft deadline is **March 24, 2017!**

Announcing 2017 Cooperative Agreement Grantees

Student history projects, children's reading, and literature discussions for incarcerated adults are among the statewide activities supported by our [2017 Cooperative Agreement grants](#).

We continue to support the amazing work of [Southern Word](#)'s expansion of spoken word poetry mentoring in West Tennessee. Be sure to check out this amazing performance featured at their "State of the Word" event.



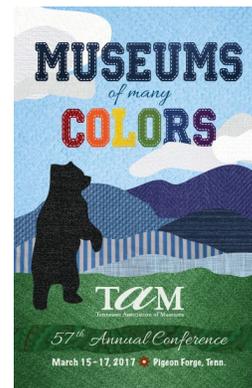
Nubia - State of the Word - Southern Word

Announcing 2017 T.A.M. Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to award scholarships to 14 people from 8 organizations to attend the [2017 Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Conference](#), March 15-17 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Volunteers and board members of cultural organizations without paid, professional staff are eligible to receive scholarships.

Since 2003, Humanities Tennessee has awarded 278 individuals from 109 organizations.

[Click here](#) for a list of the 2017 recipients and more information.



RECOMMENDED READING

As you might have guessed, **Humanities Tennessee staff members are avid readers.** In this new section of our newsletter, we would like to share recommendations for books that address current issues in the state/national/international conversation (e.g., civics, economics, immigration) or that promote the values we hold dear (e.g., civility, empathy, humanity). Read on!

	<p>Wave, by Sonali Deraniyagala (Memoir, 2013) <i>"Deraniyagal's husband, sons, and parents were killed in the 2004 tsunami while the family was vacationing in Sri Lanka. It feels like a fine line between reading this memoir to understand and relate to grief, and reading it as a voyeur in the land of tragedy. The book begins on the morning of the flood, with Deraniyagala recounting the tiny details that comprise her last living memories of her family. Her dispassionate tone only adds drama to the story, and she spares herself—and the reader—nothing. The memoir is divided into chronological sections that cover different phases of Deraniyagala's grief. This brutal but ultimately beautiful memoir is a bracing reminder to the reader of the simplest yet most easily forgotten lesson in the world—pay attention."</i> Recommended by Serenity Gerbman, Director of Literature and Language Programs</p>
	<p>Revolutionary Suicide, by Huey P. Newton (Memoir, 1973) <i>"Revolutionary Suicide is a memoir by Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party. In it, Newton describes his rise from being an illiterate at-risk juvenile to becoming the leader of one of the foremost social justice organizations of its time. In telling his story, he makes explicit critiques of American poverty and racism. He argues that a collective struggle against such oppression can be a dangerous endeavor, but is required for true social progress. Ultimately, Newton illuminates that we, as ordinary people, have the innate ability to eradicate systemic social ills and create a better world for ourselves."</i> Recommended by Langston Wilkins, PhD, Program Officer, Youth Programs</p>

Join Our Cause

Founded in 1973, Humanities Tennessee is a statewide, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting civility

and strengthening communities through humanities-based programs and grants. Each year, governmental funding for the humanities decreases. We rely on donations from individuals, foundations, and corporate sponsors to present programs like the [Southern Festival of Books](#), the [Young Writers' Workshops](#), [The Conversation Project](#), [Outstanding Educator Awards](#), [Chapter16.org](#), and [more](#).



We appreciate your support!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

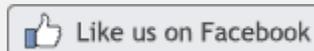
- March + April: [Nashville Reads Citywide Book Club Events](#), Nashville
- Now-April 19: ["Turn the Page Literacy Initiative" Book Discussion Series](#), Cleveland
- March 6-31: ["The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966" Traveling Exhibit](#), Lebanon
- March 15: ["A Musical History of Joe Hill & the Early Labor Movement."](#) Memphis
- March 15-17: [Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Conference](#), Pigeon Forge
- March 18: ["A Musical History of Joe Hill & the Early Labor Movement."](#) Knoxville
- March 24: [Humanities Tennessee General Grant Program draft deadline](#), Statewide
- March 25: [Salon@615 with Greg Iles](#), Nashville
- March 25: ["A Musical History of Joe Hill & the Early Labor Movement."](#) Nashville
- April 3-May 1: ["The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966" Traveling Exhibit](#), Charlotte
- April 8: [Tennessee History Day, State Competition](#), Nashville
- April 8: [Genealogy Festival](#), Granville
- April 9: [Salon@615 with John Oates](#), Nashville
- April 12: [Salon@615 with Lesley Stahl](#), Nashville
- April 13: [Salon@615 with Andrew McCarthy](#), Nashville
- April 14: [Humanities Tennessee General Grant Program final deadline](#), Statewide
- April 19: [Salon@615 with David Baldacci](#), Nashville

[More events](#)

Institutional support for Humanities Tennessee provided in part by:



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807 Main St, STE B * Nashville, TN 37206
(615) 770-0006 * info@humanitiestennessee.org
HumanitiesTennessee.org

Humanities Tennessee, 807 Main St, STE B, Nashville, TN 37206

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