



The 30th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration:

The Great River Road

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Cinema Event 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 pm

5:45 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Mississippi Madam: The Life and Times of Nellie Jackson:

Witness to the greater part of the 20th century, brothel owner Nellie Jackson fully embodied the paradoxes of her era. As a young, poor, Black divorcee, Nellie began a brothel in her home in the riverside town of Natchez, Mississippi, and ran it continually for sixty years. Despite her illegal and salacious trade, Nellie's brothel was operated quite publicly, largely due to her friends in high places, both cops and town mayors. Through interviews with those who knew her—from family members to the (now elderly) southern gents who used her services—we discover Nellie's unique legacy, that of a savvy businesswoman with a generous spirit that would render her a pillar of the community all the way until her tragic death. Nellie's story is layered and complex—examining the role of women, people of color, and the often-ignored underclass during the turbulent Civil Rights Movement.

Directed by Mark K. Brockway and Timothy Givens, "Mississippi Madam" has won numerous awards at prestigious film festivals nationwide. (runtime: 1:20 minutes, with question and answer following)

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Making of "Women of the Struggle"

Beverly Adams and G. Mark LaFrancis will present clips of their upcoming documentary Women of the Struggle, which chronicles the lives of Mississippi women who experienced fear and intimidation during the Civil Rights movement. In addition, the two filmmakers will talk about the filmmaking process and appear alongside several of the documentary's subjects. (Presentation time 50 minutes, with question and answer following)

Friday, February 22, 2019

8:30a.m.-9:10:

Opening Ceremony

Opening Ceremony President Jane Hulon/CLCC; Mayor Darryl Grennell, City of Natchez. Presiding: (for Governor William F. Winter) Teresa Busby, Director of Proceedings, NLCC. Recognition of William Winter Scholars and Vance Fellows.

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Anne Butler presents: "Deep Roots"

Anne Butler has a BA in English from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and an MA in English from Humboldt State University in California. A career journalist, she is a former editor of Country Roads Magazine and has published hundreds of articles in magazines and newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Mississippi Magazine, New Orleans Magazine, and Louisiana Life. Ann's



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Presentation, *Deep Roots*, will detail her real passion is the preservation of our unique landscapes and cultures (Louisiana Highway One; Louisiana's Main Street Communities, Spirit of St. Francisville; Louisiana's Swamps and Marshes). In her two latest books (Bayou Sara; and Deep Roots: The Story of a Place and its People) she explores the importance of waterways like the Mississippi River and tributaries like Bayou Sara in populating the Lower South in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the deep ties between Mississippi and Louisiana.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

James Pate presents *Early Roots in French Louisiana and Pickett's History*

Jim Pate is an emeritus professor of history at the University of West Alabama, where he served as a department chair, dean, and vice president. He also served as a dean at Southeastern Oklahoma State, vice president at Northeastern State University, and campus dean at the University of Mississippi-Tupelo. He is a graduate of Delta State University and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from Mississippi State. He has previously edited "When This Evil War is Over": The Correspondence of the Francis Family, 1860–1865, Cherokee Newspapers, 1828–1906, and The Reminiscences of George Strother Gaines. His contributions to research, preservation, and archaeological investigations at the Fort Tombeché/Fort Confederation complex led to the transfer of the significant eighteenth-century French-British-Spanish site to the University of West Alabama. Pate's latest publication, as editor of Albert James Pickett's two-volume *History of Alabama, and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, from the Earliest Period* makes him uniquely qualified to speak to the early history of the region. Pickett's history first appeared in September 1851. Demand for the \$3 set caused Charleston publisher Walker and James to issue a second and third edition before year's end. Mr. Pate's presentation will center on Volume I, covering the history of from De and discovery of the Mississippi River, the struggles of Native Americans during contact period with the French, and the early chiefdoms of the protohistoric period.

11:00-11:30 a.m.: Meet the authors / Q&A

11:30-1:00p.m.: Break for Lunch

1:00-1:30 p.m.:

Presentation of the *Thad Cochran Award for Achievement in the Humanities* to John F.

Marszalek. John F. Marszalek retired in 2002 as a Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus. He taught courses in the Civil War, Jacksonian America, and Race Relations. He produced over twenty doctoral and masters graduates, a number of whom are published scholars. He is the author or editor of thirteen books and over two hundred fifty articles and book reviews. Sherman, A Soldier's Passion for Order was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize, and his first book Court Martial, A Black Man in America was made into a Showtime motion picture and reissued as a paperback under the new title Assault at West Point.). He continues to lecture widely throughout the nation and has appeared on the major television networks. He serves on the board of advisors of the Lincoln Forum, the Lincoln Prize, the national Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the Monitor Museum (Newport News, Virginia). Canisius College named him a distinguished alumnus, he received the Richard Wright Literary Award (life time achievement by a Mississippi author), and the Mississippi Historical Society presented him its highest award, the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in history. He is presently researching a book on the development of the mythology surrounding Robert E. Lee and William T. Sherman.



The 30th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration:

The Great River Road

1:30-2:30 p.m.:

Gene Dattel presents “Preparing for the World: Experiences of A Mississippi Delta Jew”

Gene Dattel, a cultural and economic historian, grew up in the majority-black cotton country of the Mississippi Delta. He was educated at Yale University and Vanderbilt University Law School. He has served as an advisor to major cultural institutions from The New York Historical Society to The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, and his previous book, *Cotton and Race in the Making of America* (2009) describes the fateful intersection of cotton’s economic power to the African American experience. Mr. Dattel lectures widely at universities, museums, and public forums across the country, has sponsored research projects on the art and music of the Mississippi Delta, and produced a documentary on the race riots in the north. He is a Berkeley Fellow at Yale University, an advisory board member of CUNY’s Macaulay Honors Program, and formerly on the advisory board of the B.B. King Museum. Most recently, Gene has appeared at the 2018 Mississippi Book Fair, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and The Center for Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi with Otis Sandford. Their presentation, "Reckoning with Race: The Perspective of Two Native Mississippians", is an honest and unflinching discussion of growing up Jewish and African American (respectively) in small towns along Mississippi’s River Road. For the 2019 NLCC, Gene will present on the Jewish experience of the region.

2:30-3:45 p.m.:

“Guidebooks to Sin: The Blue Books of Storyville” Pamela D. Arceneaux, Senior Librarian and Rare Books Curator, Historic New Orleans Collection

Pamela Arceneaux is a Senior Librarian and Rare Books Curator, with the Historic New Orleans Collection / Williams Research Center. She has a B.A. in history from West Georgia College (now, the University of West Georgia), and an MLS from Louisiana State University. She is a past recipient of the Lucy B. Foote Award presented by the Subject Specialists Section of the Louisiana Library Association in recognition of her service as an outstanding librarian in a specialized field. She appears in the 23d edition of *Who’s Who of American Women* (2002-2003). Along with other published articles about various aspects of Louisiana and New Orleans history, she also presents lectures and authored the entry, “New Orleans Blue Books,” for the online Louisiana encyclopedia, KnowLA. She is the author of The Historic New Orleans Collection’s recently released book, *Guidebooks to Sin: The Blue Books of Storyville, New Orleans*, the topic of her presentation at the 2019 NLCC. Though many scholars have written about Storyville, no thorough contemporary study of the blue books—directories of the neighborhood’s prostitutes Arceneaux’s examination of these rare guides invites readers into a version of Storyville created by its own entrepreneurs. A foreword by the historian Emily Epstein Landau places the blue books in the context of their time, concurrent with the rise of American consumer culture and modern advertising. Illustrated with hundreds of facsimile pages from the blue books in The Historic New Orleans Collection’s holdings, *Guidebooks to Sin* illuminates the intersection of race, commerce, and the underclass in this essential chapter of New Orleans history.

3:50-4:45 p.m. “Making the Film: Mississippi Madam”. Mark Brockway and Tim Givens.

An afternoon session on the documentary process by our featured award winning documentary film makers

5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Ticketed Event: tour—Concord Quarters Tickets \$15.



The 30th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration:

The Great River Road

Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:15 a.m.-8:50 a.m. Opening Remarks: Dr. Jane Hulon, President, Copiah Lincoln Community College. Recognition of the winners of the John D. W. Guice Young Writers Competition.

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Beth Ann Fennelly presents: A Reading from *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs* In today's increasingly heterogeneous landscape, cross-genre works that blend inheritances from multiple literary parents have a new urgency and popularity. Combining the extreme brevity of poetry, the narrative arc of fiction, and the truth-telling of creative nonfiction, the micro-memoir is a hybrid form that aims to tell true stories in as few words as possible. In this presentation, Mississippi's poet laureate will share some of these small true stories and chat about the people and places that inspired them. Beth Ann currently teaches in the MFA Program at the University of Mississippi, where she was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She's won grants and awards from the N.E.A., the United States Artists, a Pushcart, and a Fulbright to Brazil. Beth Ann has published six books--three of poetry: *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*, all with W. W. Norton. Beth Ann's poetry has been in over fifty anthologies, including Best American Poetry 1996, 2005, and 2006, *The Book of Irish American Poetry from the Eighteenth Century to the Present*, *Poets of the New Century*, and *The Penguin Book of the Sonnet*, and in textbooks such as *Contemporary American Poetry and Literature*. She is the current Poet Laureate for the State of Mississippi.

10:30-11:30 a.m.: Richard Wright Awards for Literary Excellence

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Ticketed Event: Luncheon at Dunleith Plantation; Tickets \$30.

1:00-2:00 p.m.: Tom Franklin presents, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*.

Tom Franklin is a southern novelist and New York Times bestselling author, often compared with Cormac McCarthy and Flannery O'Connor, who draws his readers deeply in his stories with expertly woven plots and colorful characters. He has written nine novels about life in the rural south, and is currently published by Harper Collins. Tom earned his BA from the University of South Alabama and his MFA from the University of Arkansas. He is also currently an Associate Professor of Fiction Writing with the University of Mississippi's Master of Fine Arts program. He has won numerous prizes for his work, including the 2010 Los Angeles Times book prize, the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, the RT Reviewer's Choice Award for Best Contemporary Mystery, and the United Kingdom's Crime Writers' Association's Gold Dagger Award. In 2013, Tom and his wife Beth Ann Fennelly, co-authored a novel, *The Tilted World*, published by HarperCollins and set during the 1927 flood of the Mississippi River. Translated into six languages, *The Tilted World* was an IndieNext Great Read; Southern Booksellers Association Okra Pick; 2013 LibraryReads pick; San Francisco Librarian's Best Books of 2013 and *Uncut Magazine's* Best Books of 2013.



The 30th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration:

The Great River Road

2:00-3:30 p.m.:

Michael Twitty presents, "The Cooking Gene", Michael Twitty

Michael Twitty is food writer, independent scholar, culinary historian, and historical interpreter personally charged with preparing, preserving and promoting African American foodways and its parent traditions in Africa and her Diaspora and its legacy in the food culture of the American South. Michael is a Judaic studies teacher from the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area and his interests include food culture, food history, Jewish cultural issues, African American history and cultural politics. Michael's work is a braid of two distinct brands: the Antebellum Chef and Kosher/Soul. **Antebellum Chef** represents the vast number of unknown Black cooks across the Americas that were essential in the creation of the creole cuisines of Atlantic world. The reconstruction and revival of traditional African American foodways means seed keeping, growing heirlooms and heritage crops, raising heritage breeds and sustainably gathering and maintaining wild flora and fauna that our ancestors relied upon. The responsible exploration of the Southern food heritage demands that the cooks of colonial, federal era and antebellum kitchens and enslaved people's cabins be honored for their unique role in giving the Southland her mother cuisine. It is important that we not only honor the Ancestors but provide a lifeline to contemporary communities and people of color looking for a better life in the new economy, a way out of the health and chronic illness crisis, and a way to reduce the vast food deserts that plague many of our communities. To honor the food past and provide for the food future is what Michael calls, "**culinary justice.**" Michael is the winner of the James Beard Award for his book "The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African-American Culinary History In The Old South". His presentation for the 2019 NLCC will focus on the foodways of the River Road, specifically African American and Jewish.

3:45-4:45 p.m. Karen Cox presents, "A Crime and Disgrace Anyway You Look at It": National Press Coverage of the 1940 Rhythm Club Fire in Natchez"

Dr. Karen L. Cox is an award-winning historian who has written op-eds for the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, *TIME* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, and the *Huffington Post*. Her expertise on the American South has led to interviews with the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Daily Beast*, *Mic*, *The Atlantic*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate* (France), the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Charlotte Observer*, as well as international newspapers in Germany, Denmark, Ireland, and Japan. She has also appeared on *BBC Newshour*, *Black Politics Today*, *The Mike Smerconish Show* (Sirius XM), *C-SPAN*, *Canadian Public Broadcasting*, *Minnesota Public Radio*, *Georgia Public Radio*, and *Charlotte Talks*. Cox is the author of three books and numerous essays and articles on the subject of southern history and culture. Her first book, *Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture*, won the 2004 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize from the Southern Association for Women Historians for the Best Book in Southern Women's History.