

The 27th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Presents

Natchez at 300: A River Runs by It

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 25-27, 2016 - Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi

Pre-Conference Event

Thursday, February 25, 2016

6:30 p.m. Cinema Screening Event: *The Rhythm Club Fire: A Documentary*; with an introduction by the filmmaker, **Bryan Burch**, and **Darrell White**, City of Natchez, Heritage and Culture Tourism. Question and answer to follow.

Conference Events

Friday, February 26, 2016

9 a.m. Welcome to the 27th Annual NLCC with **Ronnie Nettles**, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College; **Larry "Butch" Brown**, Mayor of the City of Natchez; and **William F. Winter**, Jackson, Miss., President Emeritus, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and NLCC Director of Proceedings

9:15-10 a.m. "The Mississippi River: Memory and Sense of Place" a keynote address by **Dr. William Ferris**, Center for the Study of the American South, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, co-editor of *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*; and author of *Local Color*; *Images of the South: Visits with Eudora Welty and Walker Evans*; *Give My Poor Heart Ease: Voices of the Mississippi Blues*; and *The Storied South: Voices of the Writers and Artists*.

10-10:15 a.m. Remarks by **Howell C. Garner** (President, retired)—Copiah Lincoln Community College) and presentation of the Thad Cochran Humanities Achievement Award to **Carolyn Vance Smith**, Chairman, Advisory Committee, Carolyn Vance Smith Natchez Literary Research Center

10:30-11:15 a.m. "From Fort Rosalie to Ellicott's Hill: Colonial Natchez" by **G. Douglas Inglis**, Director of The Texas Tech University Center in Seville, Spain.

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. "Legacies of Enlightenment and Darkness: The Burden of History in Natchez, Mississippi" by **Christopher Morris**, University of Texas at Arlington, author of *Becoming Southern: The Evolution of a Way of Life, Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, 1770-1860*, and *The Big Muddy: An Environmental History of the Mississippi and Its Peoples, from Hernando de Soto to Hurricane Katrina*

1:30-4:45 p.m. "The African American Experience from Civil War to Richard Wright" presented by **Jim Wiggins**, **Lynette Tanner**, editor, *Chained to the Land: Real Voices, Real People* (on the WPA slave narratives) and **Dennis L. Harried**

5-6 p.m. Reception, **Natchez Museum of Afro-American Culture**, 301 Main Street (\$10 at the door)

6:30 p.m. "Music at the Temple: An Evening of Jewish Music" at the historic Temple B'Nai Israel featuring **Alvin Shelby**, musician and singer-songwriter and **Dr. David Goldblatt**, Professor of Music, Alcorn State University. This eclectic concert will feature works that reflect a diverse heritage. The event will include ancient Jewish chants, Classical works based on Jewish texts, prayers and songs from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and Israel as well as Modern Jewish forays into folk music, Jazz, Rock, and Gospel. Introduction and remarks on history of Temple B'Nai Israel by **Terri Tillman**. (Tickets \$10)

**conference schedule as of February 6, 2016*

Sponsored by

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Humanities Council, & Mississippi Department of Archives and History
with support from Natchez National Historical Park

The 27th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Presents

Natchez at 300: A River Runs by It

Saturday, February 27, 2016

8:45 a.m. Introduction of winners of the NLCC's Chocolate Milk Café, a writing project for young authors

9:05-10:15 a.m. "The 1927 Flood," A Conversation with **John M. Barry**, author of *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America*; *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Greatest Plague in History*, and *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*.

10:30-11:15 a.m. Awards Ceremony

Tricentennial Award for Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking

- **Bryan Burch**, director and producer, *The Rhythm Nightclub Fire: A Documentary*, and winner of the Best Documentary Short Film at the Orlando Film Festival and Honorable Mention, Los Angeles Movie Awards; and an Official Selection at the Louisville International Festival of Film, the Orlando Film Festival, and the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival.

Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award

- **Jerry Mitchell**, Investigative Reporter, winner of over 30 national journalism awards and Pulitzer finalist. The stories of Clarion-Ledger investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell have helped put four Klansmen and an accused serial killer behind bars. His stories have also exposed corruption, helping lead to exonerations and reforms of state agencies. A winner of a MacArthur "genius" grant and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, he is writing a memoir about his pursuit of civil rights cold cases, *Race Against Time*, for Simon & Schuster.
- **Suzanne Marrs**, Professor of English (Emeritus) Millsaps College, author of *Meanwhile There are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald*; *One Writer's Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora Welty*; *Eudora Welty, A Biography*, and *What There is to Say We Have Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William Maxwell*.

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Tricentennial Luncheon: "*The Mighty Mississippi*," with stories of the Old Natchez District and featuring classic Natchez foods, and notorious Natchez stories by **Joan McLemore**. Carriage House at Stanton Hall, 401 High Street. (\$30 per ticket).

1:00-2:00 p.m. Pulitzer Centennial Event: "Finding Creative Inspiration in Past Pulitzer Winners", honoring the Centennial of the Pulitzer Prize and featuring **Dr. Suzanne Marrs** and **David Sheffield**, award winning Hollywood filmmaker

2:15-4:30 p.m. "Everybody Has a Story—How to Get it Told" a panel discussion with Mississippi publishing house executives, moderated by **David Sansing**, Professor Emeritus, University, author of *The University of Mississippi: A Sesquicentennial History*; *A History of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion* (with Caroll Waller), and *Making Haste Slowly: The Troubled History of Higher Education in Mississippi*. Our panel includes **Leila Salisbury**, University Press of Mississippi; **Larry Wells**, Yoknapatawpha Press; **Barney McKee**, Quail Ridge Press; and **Neil White**, Nautilus Publishing Company. Question and answer to follow.

5:30-7:45 p.m. Benefit Cocktail Buffet honoring our speakers and award winners. The Elms, 801 Washington Street, built in 1804 by John Henderson, author of *The Paine Detected, or the Unreasonableness of Paine's Age of Reason* the first book published in Natchez Mississippi (1799). The Elms is the home of professional chef Esther Carpenter—fifth generation owner of the home—and voted one of the nation's top 20 female chefs by USA Today. (\$60 per ticket)

**conference schedule as of February 6, 2016*

Sponsored by

**Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Humanities Council, & Mississippi Department of Archives and History
with support from Natchez National Historical Park**