‘Telling our stories’
Alabama Humanities Alliance virtual event on August 21 will foster rural journalism

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) and its partners invite the public to a special one-day event, “Telling Our Stories,” to be held Saturday, August 21. Due to COVID-19 precautions, this is now a virtual event that will be streamed on Facebook Live.

The goal of this event remains the same: to encourage rural communities to establish, and sustain, their own newspapers and storytelling outlets.

“Telling Our Stories” will feature a keynote address by Maura Casey, a former member of four newspaper editorial boards, including at The New York Times. Casey is a past recipient of the Horace Greeley Award for public service journalism. She also contributed to a series of stories in The Eagle-Tribune (Massachusetts) that earned the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for General News Reporting.

The August 21 event is part of the Alabama Humanities Alliance's Humanities and the Future of Journalism in Rural Alabama program, which explores connections between democracy and an informed citizenry.

EVENT DETAILS
WHAT: “Telling Our Stories”
WHEN: August 21, 2021 | 10–11:15 a.m.
HOW TO ATTEND: Facebook Live stream from AHA’s Facebook page.
COST: Free and open to the public. No registration required.

Casey will also recognize the accomplishments of the PACERS Rural Community News Network. In the past year alone, the PACERS network has produced newspapers in the towns of Pintlala, Camp Hill, Beatrice and Packers Bend, covering local life and people. Intergenerational newspaper staff in each of these communities edit and produce their papers with support from PACERS.

“Telling the wonderful stories of people and places in rural Alabama is more important now than ever before,” says Nan Fairley, lead scholar for this AHA program and an associate professor of journalism at Auburn University. “This event will be a great opportunity to celebrate those stories and the people who share them through community journalism.”

This event is made possible, in part, by the Alabama Humanities Alliance's participation in the Democracy and the Informed Citizen national initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Partners in AHA’s Humanities and the Future of Journalism in Rural Alabama program series include the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, and the PACERS Rural Community News Network.
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Learn more about AHA’s Democracy and the Informed Citizen program:  
alabamahumanities.org/program/democracy-and-the-informed-citizen/

About the Alabama Humanities Alliance
The Alabama Humanities Alliance is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster learning, understanding and appreciation of Alabama’s people, communities and cultures. Learn more at alabamahumanities.org.