



## 'Telling our stories'

### Alabama Humanities Alliance 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 on Saturday, August 21, inside the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The goal is to encourage rural communities to establish, and sustain, their own newspapers and storytelling outlets.

"Telling Our Stories" will include breakout sessions and 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 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Alabama Department of Archives and History  
624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104

**COST:** Free and open to the public. No registration required.

Boxed lunches available for \$10.

**LIVESTREAM:** Keynote address by Maura Casey (10:30 a.m.) will livestream on [AHA's Facebook page](#).

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 Packer's Bend, covering local life and people. Intergenerational newspaper staff in each of these communities edit and produce their papers with support from PACERS.

Breakout sessions at the August 21 event will cover topics such as:

- Ethics and professional standards
- Sustaining a community newspaper
- Connections between education and community newspapers
- Documenting community through the arts and humanities

"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.

**For more information:**

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Learn more about AHA's Democracy and the Informed Citizen program:

[alabamahumanities.org/program/democracy-and-the-informed-citizen/](http://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](http://alabamahumanities.org).