



About us

Founded in 1974, the nonprofit and nonpartisan Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) serves as a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through our grantmaking and public programming, we connect Alabamians to impactful storytelling and lifelong learning — and to the vibrant and complex communities we call home. We believe the humanities can bring Alabamians together and help us all see the humanity in each other. Learn more at alabamahumanities.org.

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On the cover:

Flag Quilt by Mary Maxtion (American, 1924–2015), about 1996–1997, cotton and cotton/polyester blend. Courtesy of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA), gift of Kempf Hogan in honor of Stewart and Susan Green, 2005.9.6. *Flag Quilt* was part of MMFA's America250 exhibition, "We the People ... " in the summer of 2026. Maxtion was a Black Belt quiltmaker whose work has been displayed in exhibitions and become part of museum collections across the country. She was born in Sumter County in 1924 and died in Boligee, in Greene County, in 2015.

Above: *Cloud Line Panorama*, oil on gessoed paper, by Amy Feger.

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Special insert:

Americans exhibit guide

Caity Bell is an archivist who works with Landmarks of DeKalb County, among other groups statewide. She writes a profile of her fellow Fort Payne native, Randy Owen, in this issue.

Donna Dahl & Andrea McCaskey are facilitators in AHA's Healing History initiative. Together, their piece examines how we build bonds and cultivate hope.

Kathryn H. Braund, Ph.D., is Hollifield Professor of Southern History Emerita at Auburn University. Her expertise lies in the intersection of Creek and early American history in the South, which she writes about in "Revolutionary Travelers through Creek Country."

Kate Campbell is an acclaimed singer-songwriter of the South. Here, she writes about fellow musician Will Kimbrough, a 2026 Alabama Humanities Fellow.

Philip J. Carr, Ph.D., is an archaeologist specializing in the pre-history of the Southeast United States, and a professor at the University of South Alabama. He writes about "Alabamians, Americans, and American Indians" in our *Americans* exhibit guide.

Anita Smith Hargett Flanagan, of Tuscumbia, is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and vice president of the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. She writes the lead essay for our roundtable conversation on "The Future of the Florence Mound."

Wayne Flynt, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of history at Auburn University. In this issue, he profiles his longtime colleague, Kathryn Braund, Ph.D., who now joins him as an Alabama Humanities Fellow.

Burgin Mathews is a writer, radio host, and founding director of Southern Music Research Center. For *Mosaic*, he writes a profile on funk and jazz legend, Fred Wesley.

Col. Alan Miller, J.D., is a retired colonel of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He serves as CEO of American Village and is an AHA board member. His essay, "Colors," explores patriotism, remembrance, and the daily work of citizenship.

Allison Moorer is an award-winning musician, writer, and native of southern Alabama. In this issue, she writes a profile of musician Emmylou Harris, a 2026 Alabama Humanities Fellow.

Anil A. Mujumdar, J.D., is assistant professor of law in residence at the University of Alabama Law School. For this issue, he examines the life and career of former Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley, a 2026 Alabama Humanities Fellow.

Callie Outlaw is a historian and educator who teaches in Tuscaloosa. For this issue, she writes about "Silent Heroes" and working alongside her students to uncover the lives of a pair of World War II heroes.

Sam Calhoun is a Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, geoscientist, and nature photographer who lives in Elkmont. His poem in these pages, "At the Soldier's Grave," won the Expressions of Freedom state poetry contest, organized by the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission.

Brian Steele, Ph.D., is associate professor of history at UAB, specializing in early American intellectual and political history. His essay, "Between Promise and Fulfillment," explores the evolving meaning of America's Declaration of Independence.

Jacqueline Allen Trimble, Ph.D., is poet laureate of Alabama and chair of Languages & Literature at Alabama State University. She contributes a profile of poet Ashley Jones, a 2026 Alabama Humanities Fellow.

Mosaic

Mosaic magazine is published annually by the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

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