

January/February 2008

501 North West Street - Suite 1101A Woolfolk Bldg - Jackson, MS 39201-601/359-6030

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Dear Friends,

I encourage you to attend the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts ceremony on Friday, February 8th at 10:00am. This year, we are presenting awards to this prestigious roster of creative spirits at Galloway United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson. This creative collaboration is an example of the very best of government and showcases the partnership between the executive branch and the state's arts agency. This distinguished and important event, established in 1988, celebrates 20 years of recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding Mississippians. I hope you will join us at this grand event.



The State Capital is a busy place right now and our budget request has been added to the stack. Now is the time for arts advocates to prepare for the work ahead. MAC's Annual Day at the Capital has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, and I encourage you to make an appointment with your legislator on this day and to join us as fellow arts supporters "raise the roof" on this historic Mississippi landmark.

As we celebrate 40 years of service to the arts in Mississippi, I would like to invite you to come by for a visit on the 11th Floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building. We are settled in and have an outstanding gallery space and are currently showing works by artists of VSA arts of Mississippi. Also, as we approach our grant submission deadline of March 1st, please feel free to ask for assistance from our program directors, or just come by for a cup of coffee!

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley Barbour".

Pictured: Governor Haley Barbour and First Lady Marsha Barbour present the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award to the legendary Bo Diddley.

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MAC CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Since 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission has been the state agency responsible for supporting and celebrating Mississippi's creative spirit. The Commission has a year-long celebration planned to mark this important milestone. Stay tuned for more details!

MAAE 2008 ARTS EDUCATION AWARDS

**Deadline for submitting nominations:
February 29, 2008**

The Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education (MAAE) is currently accepting nominations for the 2008 Arts Education Awards. Awards will be presented at a gala Awards Luncheon during The Arts Front and Center Forum, Friday, April 4, 2008, at the MSU Riley Center for the Performing Arts in Meridian. For a list of categories and more detailed information visit <http://www.msartsalliance.com>.

MAC'S ANNUAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL SCHEDULED

Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend **Day at the Capitol**, scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Be sure to contact your legislator prior to the event and set up an appointment to talk with them about the impact the arts make on your community. Contact Susan Dobbs at sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us for more information.



David Lee Durham, a blues guitarist and vocalist from Indianola, as well as a member of MAC's Artist Roster, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 24th. Born in Sunflower, Mississippi in 1943, Durham began playing the guitar when he was twelve and remembered standing on a five gallon bucket to peek into a local juke joint to watch legendary

bluesman Howlin' Wolf perform. He was a regular performer at Club Ebony in Indianola and served as the opening act for B.B. King's annual homecoming for many years. He toured internationally with the late Greenville harmonica player Willie Foster. Durham released his first CD, "Struggling and Straining," in 2006.

pictured: Durham performing with his band at the 2005 Delta Blues & Heritage Festival

Calendar of Events

January

Celebration of African American Ceramics

January 4 - February 22, opening, January 4 from 6-8pm

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, 1596 Glenn Swetman Street, Biloxi

"Reliquary: Images of the Sacred" – Works of Lori Gordon

January 5 - February 28 opening, January 5 from 5-8pm

220 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, MS

Concerto Copenhagen

January 31, 2008

7:30pm

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson

MISHKA'S A.R.T.

Gallery in Jackson

Opening Reception

January 31, 2008

5:00pm

February

Open mike at P.J.'s Coffee House

First Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm

Picayune, MS

Oxford Film Festival

February 7-10, 2008

Times Vary

Malco's Oxford Studio Cinema, Oxford, MS

Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts Ceremony

Friday, February 8

Galloway United Methodist Church, Downtown Jackson

Black History Month & Valentine's Celebration

February 14 & 15, 2008

9:00am

MS TelCom Center, Jackson

MAC ANNOUNCES THE 2008 RECIPIENTS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to announce the outstanding list of recipients for the 2008 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The recipients will accept their awards at the public ceremony to be held on Friday, February 8 at 10:00 am at Galloway United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Leadership in the Arts Mississippi Museum of Art

Due to significant contributions to the arts for more than a century, the Mississippi Museum of Art has been chosen to receive an award for "Leadership in the Arts." At the heart of the museum is its notable collection by Mississippi artists and those with close ties to the state. A permanent installation of their work, *The Mississippi Story*, displays the extensive range of talent in the visual arts that the state has produced. In 2007, the museum opened a dramatic 56,000 square-foot facility, including gallery space to accommodate world-class exhibitions. The museum's artistic development and outreach initiatives are its underlying strengths. Works of current artists are presented in the biannual *Mississippi Invitational* and the museum sends its own exhibits to sites throughout the state, sharing its resources through its Affiliate Network Program. With an eye toward the future, the museum involves students of all ages, especially at-risk students, in creative workshops, art camps and awards programs. The Mississippi Museum of Art is a magnificent facility whose visionary role has brought Mississippians together to celebrate our cultural heritage.



Arts Patron Emma McCain

Community arts programs cannot be sustained without local support. Because of her outstanding contributions to the arts in Meridian, Emma McCain has been chosen to receive recognition as "Arts Patron." She has been called a shining star, a world-class philanthropist, and a patron saint for the arts to East Mississippi. She has dedicated her energy, talents, and financial resources to promoting artistic and educational endeavors in her community. A lifetime lover of classical music, Ms. McCain played violin with the Meridian Symphony and was a valuable member of the Symphony Board for many years. Her love of education and music led her to endow an artistic enhancement fund for the Meridian Symphony as well as fund free annual concerts for school children. The community of Meridian is fortunate to have someone with such generous and selfless dedication to the arts.



Artistic Achievement Lallah Miles Perry

There are many Mississippi-born visual artists who are internationally recognized. This year's recipient of "Artistic Excellence" is one of those artists. Lallah Miles Perry was fourteen years old when she had her first drawing lesson and in the sixty-seven years since, she has been tireless in creating imaginative artistic expressions and sharing her gifts with others.



Chris Brubeck & Triple Play in concert

February 22, 2008
7:00pm
First United Methodist Church, Gulfport

Doubt, A Parable by John Patrick Shanley

February 26-March 9
7:30pm & 2:00pm
New Stage Theatre

Hungry: an Irish story, a human drama

February 29
8:00pm
Powerhouse Community Arts Center, Oxford

Visit the Calendar page on the MAC website to have your event listed!

Listen to MAC's "Mississippi Arts Hour" every Thursday at 5:00pm on Jackson's WLEZ - 103.7FM

Podcasts are now available of MAC's Mississippi Arts Hour on WLEZ.

Visit the MAC website to listen or for more information on how to download the podcasts to your MP3 player from iTunes.

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive from where we started and know the place for the first time.

- t.s. eliot

She is responsible for an amazing body of work that has been exhibited, published and collected widely. She has toiled equally hard to support other Mississippi artists and to nurture aspiring new artists. In 1964, Ms. Perry began yet another artistic endeavor – teaching art – first in the Choctaw schools, and later in public schools. She spent fourteen years on the faculty at Delta State University and nine years at Meridian Community College. Her mastery of different media – oil, watercolor, acrylic, fabric and mixed media – has brought her widespread acclaim.

**Literary Achievement
Natasha Trethewey**

The 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning poet and Gulfport native, Natasha Trethewey, was chosen to receive the award for "Literary Excellence." Her work has been given many contradictory descriptions...tough; elegant; emotionally charged; restrained. Her life is marked with complexity, but her verse transcends the challenges of her experiences and offers lessons in reality and triumph. An enthusiastic lover of words, she majored in English at the University of Georgia. After receiving her M.F.A. in poetry at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1995, she began teaching at Auburn in 1997. In 2000, her first book of poetry, *Domestic Work*, was published and is a collection of personal and reflective portraits about life in Mississippi. The following year, she joined the faculty at Emory University, where she today holds the Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry and is Professor of English.



**Lifetime Achievement
Charley Pride**

The recipient of the award for "Lifetime Achievement" represents a true Mississippi success story. Country music great, Charley Pride, grew up in the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta with incomparable talent and dreams of making it big! He bought his first guitar at fourteen and taught himself to play listening to the Grand Old Opry. Born to sharecropping parents from Sledge, Mississippi, he left home at seventeen to play baseball in the Negro American Leagues. An injury ended his baseball career, and he spent the following two years in the Army. His music was never far from his thoughts, and he was "discovered" in Montana in the early 1960's. After moving to Nashville, he signed with RCA Records and in 1972 he was the Country Music Association's Top Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year.



Poetry Out Loud

There will be a student workshop for all registered school winners at New Stage Theatre on Friday, February 15th from 12:30pm to 3:30pm

The Regional Semi-Finals will be held as follows:

Southern Region at Hattiesburg High School on February 26th at 6:00pm

Central Region at Power APAC in Jackson on February 21st at 3:00pm

Northern Region at Oxford High School on February 28th at 3:30pm

Poetry Out Loud State Finals will be held at New Stage Theatre in Jackson at 1:00pm on Friday, March 7th.