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Alabama Folklife Association Names 7 Cauthen Fellows *Fellows to conduct original research on Alabama folk traditions*

Mobile, AL – The Alabama Folklife Association (AFA) is proud to award six Cauthen Fellowships to seven individuals to produce original research and writing on Alabama folk traditions. Reflecting the diversity of Alabama folklife, the projects represent a range of cultures and art forms, and will add new depth and knowledge to the field of folklife and traditional arts.

“These projects embody Alabama’s rich history and vibrant folk traditions,” said AFA Director, Emily Blejwas. “We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts for their support and for their vision for preserving and elevating Alabama’s folkways.”

The 2022 Cauthen Fellows and projects are:

- Dr. Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University, *Memory, Memorial, and Bereavement Quilts*
- Sarah Bryan and Hal Pugh, North Carolina Folklife Institute and New Salem Pottery, *Alabama Pottery Traditions*
- Dr. Daniel Levine, University of Alabama, *Jewish Communal Memory Practices in Rural Alabama*
- Burgin Mathews, The Lost Child radio show, *The Fiddles of Earnest Mostella*
- Stefani Priskos, John C. Campbell Folk School, *Sacred Harp Memorial Lessons*
- Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History, *Black Towns of Alabama*

Each research fellowship will culminate in a written article for *TRIBUTARIES*, the annual journal of the AFA. The projects are also poised to contribute to archives, book projects, and multimedia exhibits.

“Fieldwork is the lifeblood of the folklore discipline and the basis for the study, preservation, appreciation, and public presentation of Alabama folk traditions,” said Joey Brackner, Director Emeritus of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture at the Alabama State Council on the Arts. “These fellowships will help to address the abundant need to document underrepresented aspects of Alabama folklife as well as emerging artists of our more rooted traditions.”

Named for Joyce H. Cauthen, first Executive Director of the AFA, the Fellowships were established in 2010 to honor her contributions to Alabama folklife by supporting fieldwork on Alabama traditional music and other folkways. Past Cauthen Fellowships supported research on bare-earth cemeteries, wart healing, community quilt documentation, and occupational folklife.

Folklife encompasses traditions passed down through the generations by families or communities, and includes music, dance, traditional arts, foodways, stories, holidays, and work customs, among others.



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The Alabama Folklife Association was founded in 1980 to document, preserve, present, and promote the folkways of Alabama through research, education, and programming.

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