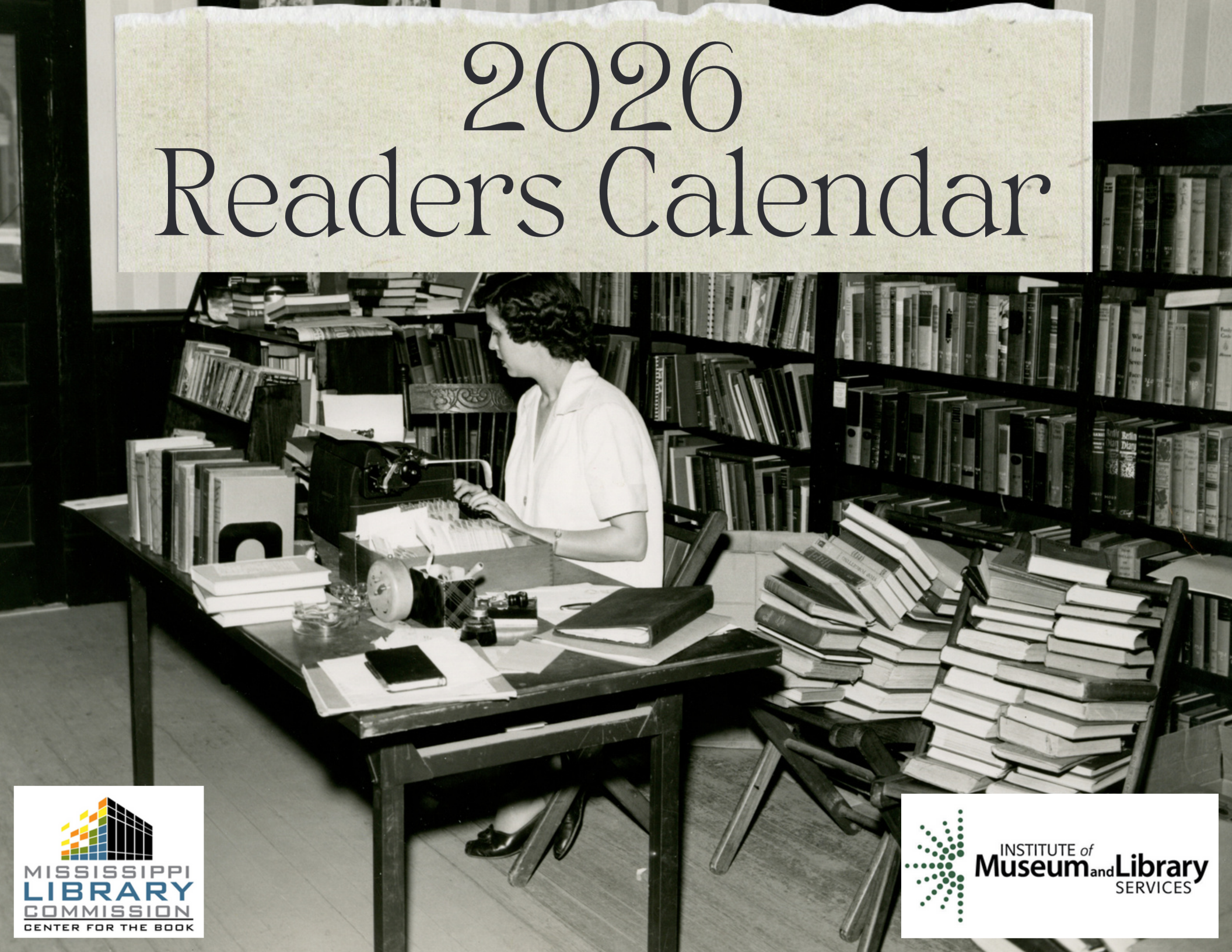
2026 Readers Calendar



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION
CENTER FOR THE BOOK

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES



Columbia Public Library



Ellen Gilchrist

January

January 01/2026

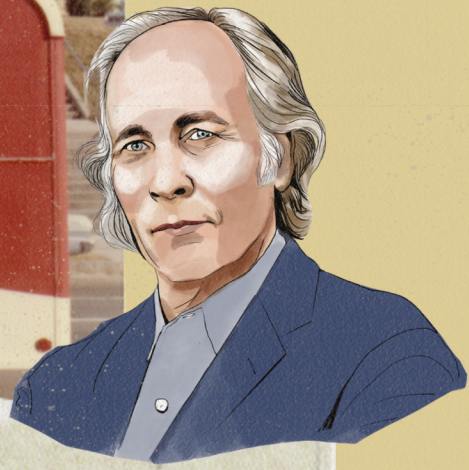
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Nell Neill James is born in 1895 in Gore Springs, Mississippi.	3
4 George Washington Lee is born in 1894 in Indianola, Mississippi.	5	6 Radio Reading Service of Mississippi begins operation.	7	8	9	10
11	12 South MS Regional Library System is established in 1977.	13	14 Howard Waldrop dies in 2024 in Austin, Texas.	15 Ira B. Harkey is born in 1918 in New Orleans, Louisiana.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Patrick Davis Smith dies in 2014 in Merritt Island, Florida.	27	28	29	30 Ellen Gilchrist dies in 2024 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.	31 The first Mississippi Legislature passed a resolution directing the secretary of state purchase law books and maps for the state in 1818.



Mississippi Library Commission Bookmobile



Tennessee Williams



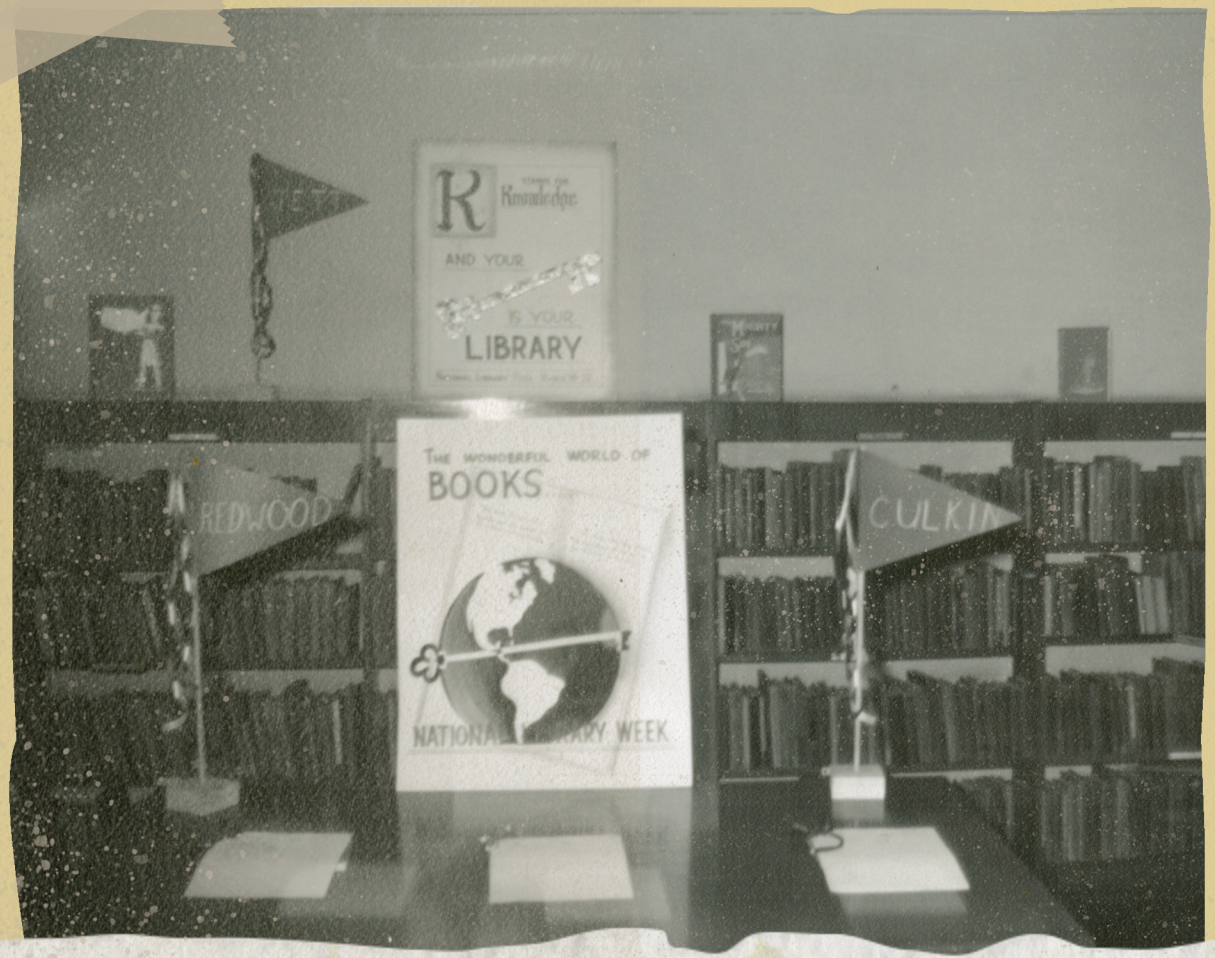
Richard Ford

February

February

02/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 The Mississippi Library Commission moves to a room in the Capitol in 1929.	2 Gordon Weaver is born in 1937 in Moline, Illinois.	3	4 Andrew Marschalk is born in 1767 in New York City, New York.	5 Anne (Essie Mae) Moody dies in 2015 in Gloster, Mississippi.	6	7
8 John Grisham is born in 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas.	9	10 Paige Mitchell dies in 2010 in Los Angeles, California.	11	12	13	14 Joseph Lee Campbell, the subject of *Brother to a Dragonfly*, dies in 1967 in East Fork, Mississippi.
15	16 Richard Ford is born in 1944 in Jackson, Mississippi.	17	18	19	20 Ellen Gilchrist is born in 1935 in Vicksburg, Mississippi.	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



National Library Week Display at the Vicksburg Public Library



Barry Hannah

March

March

03/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 The Pratt-Smoot Act becomes law.	4	5	6	7 Rick Bass is born in 1958 in Fort Worth, Texas.
8	9	10	11 Eliza Jane Poitevent Holbrook Nicholson is born in 1843 in Gainesville, Mississippi.	12	13 Margaret Abigail Walker Alexander receives becomes a full-time employee of the WPA.	14
15	16 The first National Library Week begins in 1958.	17 Myrlie Beasley Evers-Williams is born in 1933 in Vicksburg, Mississippi.	18 In 1926, the bill creating the Mississippi Library Commission was signed by Governor Henry Lewis Whitfield.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Ida Bell Wells-Barnett dies in 1931 in Chicago, Illinois.	26	27 The Tougaloo Nine stage a sit-in at the main branch of the Jackson Public Library to protest segregation in 1961.	28
29	30	31				



Jesmyn Ward



Carnegie Clarksdale Public Library Bookmobile



Natasha Trethewey

April

April

04/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	Gordon Weaver dies in 2021 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 2	3	4
5	6	**Lena Young de Grummond is born in 1900 in Centreville, Louisiana.** 7	Greg Iles is born in 1960 in Stuttgart, Germany. 8	9	10	11
12	Eudora Welty is born in 1909 in Jackson, Mississippi. 13	The Carnegie Public Library is established in 1914 in Clarksdale, Mississippi. 14	15	16	Al Young dies in 2021 in Concord, California. 17	18
19	20	21	22	The first Southern Literary Festival occurs in 1937 at Blue Mountain College. 23	24	25
Natasha Trethewey is born in 1966 in Gulfport, Mississippi. 26	27	28	29	30		





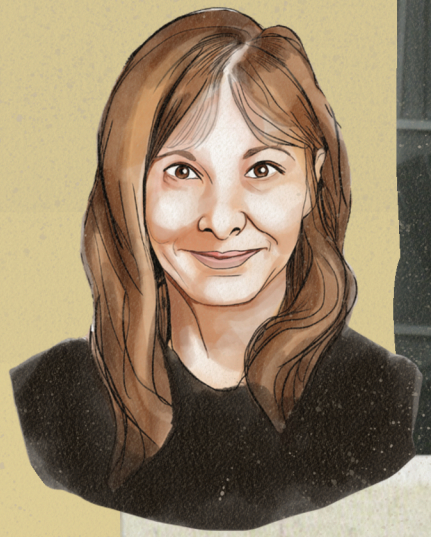
Mississippi Library Commission

Walker Percy

May

May 05/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 The University Press of Mississippi is established in 1970.	2
3	4	5 Deborah Wiles is born in 1953 in Mobile, Alabama.	6	7	8 Jack Butler is born in 1944 in Alligator, Mississippi	9
10 Walker Percy dies in 1990 in Covington, Louisiana.	11	12	13	14 Russell Keaton is born in 1909 in Corinth, Mississippi.	15	16
17 David Herbert Donald dies in 2009 in Boston, Massachusetts.	18	19	20	21	22 William Faulkner's house is added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1968.	23
24	25 ***The Mississippi Encyclopedia* is first published in print in 2017.**	26	27 The first Children's Book Festival takes place in 1968 at the University of Southern MIssissippi.	28 Walker Percy is born in 1916 in Birmingham, Alabama.	29	30
31 Al Young is born in 1939 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.						



Beth Henley



Mississippi School for the Blind Library



Ellen Douglas

June

June 06/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Will Davis Campbell dies in 2013 in Nashville, Tennessee.	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 William Johnson, the Barber of Natchez, dies in 1851 in Natchez, Mississippi.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 James Meredith is born in 1933 in Kosciusko, Mississippi.	26	27 Shelby Foote dies in 2005 in Memphis, Tennessee.
28 William Ellis "Ace" Atkins is born in 1970 in Troy, Alabama.	29 Wirt Williams dies in 1986 in Los Angeles, California.	30				





Brad Watson

Mississippi Library for the Blind and Handicapped



Margaret Walker

July

July 07/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 William Cuthbert Faulkner dies in 1962 in Byhalia, Mississippi.	7 Margaret Abigail Walker Alexander is born in 1915 in Birmingham, Alabama.	8 Wilton Brad Watson dies in 2020 in Laramie, Wyoming.	9 Larry Brown is born in 1951 in Oxford, Mississippi.	10	11
12 Ellen Douglas is born in 1921 in Natchez, Mississippi.	13 Louis Rudolph Harlan is born in 1922 in West Point, Mississippi.	14	15 The Mississippi Library for the Blind and Handicapped opens in 1970.	16 Ida Bell Wells-Barnett is born in 1862 in Holly Springs, Mississippi.	17	18 Will Davis Campbell is born in 1924 in Amite County, Mississippi.
19 Elizabeth Spencer is born in 1921 in Carrollton, Mississippi.	20	21	22	23 Eudora Welty dies in 2001 in Jackson, Mississippi.	24 Wilton Brad Watson is born in 1955 in Meridian, Mississippi.	25 Angela Jackson is born in 1951 in Greenville, Mississippi.
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Mississippi Library Commission



Kiese Laymon



Lewis Nordan

August

August

08/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Mississippi's first poet laureate, Leet Prenshaw, is designated.
2 William Weaks "Willie" Morris dies in 1999 in Jackson, Mississippi.	3	4 The first Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference is held in 1974 in Oxford, Mississippi.	5	6	7	8 Andrew Marschalk dies in 1838 in Natchez, Mississippi.
9	10 Beverly Lowry is born in 1938 in Memphis, Tennessee.	11	12	13	14	15 Kiese Laymon is born in 1974 in Jackson, Mississippi.
16	17	18 The Eudora Welty House is added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.	19 The updated Mississippi Literary Map is unveiled in 2017.	20 The Mississippi Library Commission is established in 1926.	21 Wirt Williams is born in 1921 in Goodman, Mississippi.	22 The first Mississippi Book Festival takes place in 2015 in Jackson, Mississippi.
23 Lewis Alonzo Nordan is born in 1939 in Forest, Mississippi.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Mississippi Library Commission



Anne Moody



Richard Wright

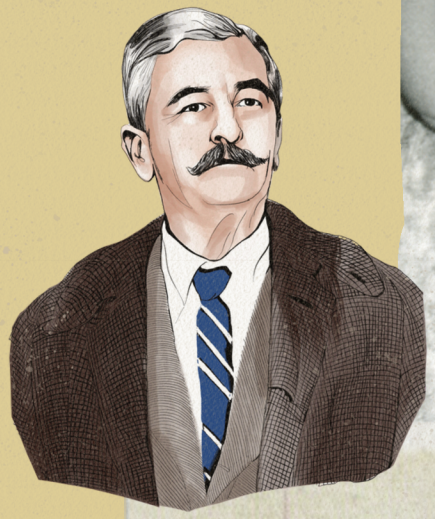
September

September 09/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 James William "Jimmy" Buffett dies in 2023 in Sag Harbor, New York.	2	3	4 Richard Nathaniel Wright is born in 1908 in Roxie, Mississippi.	5
6 MLC opens its first headquarters in the Merchants Bank Building in 1928 in Jackson, Mississippi.	7	8	9	10	11	12 David Lewis Cohn dies in 1960 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
13	14	15 Essie Mae "Anne" Moody is born in 1940 in Wilkinson County, Mississippi.	16	17	18 Ricks Memorial Library is the first public library in Mississippi to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.	19
20 Angie Thomas is born in 1988 in Jackson, Mississippi.	21	22 William Thomas Harris is born in 1940 in Jackson, Tennessee.	23	24 Jim Henson is born in 1936 in Greenville, Mississippi.	25 William Cuthbert Faulkner is born in 1897 in New Albany, Mississippi.	26
27 Bertha Louise "Cid" Ricketts Sumner is born in 1890 in Brookhaven, Mississippi.	28	29 Walter Inglis Anderson is born in 1903 in New Orleans, Louisiana.	30			



Monticello Public Library



William Faulkner



Eudora Welty

October

October 10/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 The Greenwood-Leflore Public Library is established in 1914 and the Sharkey-Issaquena Co. Library is established in 2004.	2 Edwin Corley is born in 1931 in Bayonne, New Jersey.	3
4	5	6	7	8 Patrick Davis Smith is born in 1927 in Mendenhall, Mississippi.	9	10 Frederick Barthelme is born in 1943 in Houston, Texas.
11	12 Loyse Youth “Borden” Deal is born in 1912 in Pontotoc, Mississippi.	13	14	15 Bertha Louise "Cid" Ricketts Sumner dies in 1970 in Duxbury, Massachusetts.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 The Mississippi Library Association is established in 1909.	30 The Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Library System is established in 1948.	31



Bolivar County Public Library



Willie Morris



Larry Brown

November

November 11/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 The Bolivar Co. Library System is established in 1958.	6	7 Ellen Douglas dies in 2012 in Jackson, Mississippi.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Shelby Foote is born in 1916 in Greenville, Mississippi.	18	19 William Alexander Attaway is born in 1911 in Greenville, Mississippi.	20	21
22 James Wilford Garner is born in 1871 in Pike Co., Mississippi.	23	24 Larry Brown dies in 2004 in Yocona, Mississippi.	25	26	27	28 Richard Nathaniel Wright dies in 1960 in Paris, France.
29 William "Willie" Weaks Morris is born in 1934 in Jackson, Mississippi.	30 Margaret Abigail Walker Alexander dies in 1998 in Chicago, Illinois.					



Greenwood-Leflore Public Library



Donna Tartt



Elizabeth Spencer

December

December 12/2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 James Wilford Garner dies in 1938 in Urbana, Illinois.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 L.C. “Lula” Dorsey is born in 1938 in Tribbett, Mississippi.	18	19
20	21	22 Elizabeth Spencer dies in 2019 Chapel Hill, North Carolina.	23 Donna Tartt is born in 1963 in Greenwood, Mississippi.	24	25 James William “Jimmy” Buffett is born in 1946 in Pascagoula, Mississippi.	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The Mississippi Library Commission's Center for the Book developed this calendar to celebrate notable dates related to the art of reading.

While this calendar may not be all-encompassing, we hope it serves as a reminder of the great people, events, and innovations that have helped develop Mississippi's literary heritage and encourage a love of reading for all.

Feel free to add dates to our Readers Calendar to make it your own!

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