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Humanities

WINTER/SPRING 2021



Digital Humanities

INSIDE:

Arrow Rock's New Frontier

Preserving and Exploring
History Even in Isolation

MH Adapts *Growing Up
with the River* into a
Virtual Storytelling Series

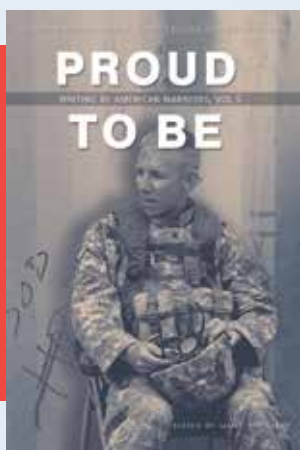
PROUD TO BE: **Writing by American Warriors**

Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is a creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography submissions by and about veterans from across the nation. It is an annual series first released in November 2012.

The anthology preserves and shares military service perspectives of our soldiers, veterans, and their families, spanning generations. Each submission is both a product of self-expression and a historical documentation of our nation's wartime experiences.

Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with Missouri Humanities. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion in the anthology, with a \$250 prize in each of the five categories listed above.

**To submit your work to Volume 10
and learn more about this program:
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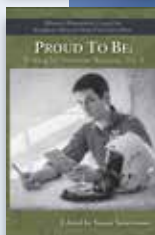
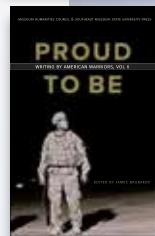
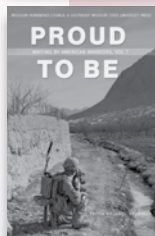


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To enrich lives and
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by connecting Missourians
with the people, places, and
ideas that shape our society.

The Missouri Humanities
Council (MH) is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization that
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the US Congress.

ON THE COVER:

Images shown are from
contributors to this issue,
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Volume 9 (top right).

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Arrow Rock's New Frontier

SANDY SELBY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF ARROW ROCK

Every year since the Friends of Arrow Rock was founded in 1959, visitors arrive by the thousands to the National Historic Landmark village, eager to take guided tours, attend informative lectures, and enjoy the town's festivals. Every spring since 1984, hundreds of schoolchildren descend on the tiny mid-Missouri town to experience history field trips. Then came 2020, and everything that was well-practiced and familiar was put on pause. Like every other organization in the country, Friends of Arrow Rock had to adapt to difficult new realities.

For an organization that prides itself on presenting history lessons in-person, amid its conscientiously restored 19th-century buildings, making the leap to 21st-century technology and embracing virtual experiences could have been paralyzing, but the Friends of Arrow

A favorite activity for school program participants is copying the alphabet using a quill pen.

Rock board and staff welcomed the challenges and responded quickly to develop new online programs.

Living on the edge of an unknown frontier is nothing new for Arrow Rock. The town sprang up atop a Missouri River bluff in the early 1800s, at the intersection of the river and the Santa Fe Trail. Intrepid men and women passed through Arrow Rock in those early days in search of

fortune and adventure. Some of them lingered in the town to build homes, businesses, and reputations that have stood through time. The acclaimed artist George Caleb Bingham hailed from the town, as did "Quinine Doctor" John Sappington and three Missouri governors.

The determined men and women of Arrow Rock's past continue to inspire the Friends of Arrow Rock to use the resources at their disposal to tackle new challenges. When the organization canceled its 2020 spring education programs, the staff went to work on a series of online videos called "Arrow Rock Quick Studies." Each short lesson is accompanied by activities that children can do at home, including art projects, nature studies, and cooking activities. They converted the popular First Saturday Lecture series, an adult education program, into a webinar series that will continue through at least mid-2021.

One long-time goal was fast-tracked in the face of the pandemic. Friends of Arrow Rock will be rolling out its History in a Box program in 2021. Originally envisioned as a way to bring hands-on history lessons to schools that were either too far away or could not afford to make the trip, the program will be offered in lieu of in-person education programs this coming spring and will supplement the organization's in-person programs after that. This initiative centers around a piece of technology out of England called Museum in a Box. The technology uses special stickers that are affixed to objects, photos, and artifacts. When the stickered item is placed atop the box, an audio

BELOW: Youngsters recreate common household chores from the 1800s, including feeding the chickens and gathering eggs.



track plays, bringing that item to life for the students in a fun and memorable way.

Thanks to support from Missouri Humanities, Friends of Arrow Rock has begun developing the third grade Museum in a Box program and plans to expand that offering to other grades over the coming months. By spring, it hopes to have six boxes ready to lend to Missouri classrooms free of charge.

Friends of Arrow Rock events have gone virtual, too, and although its volunteers and staff miss interacting with supporters in person, the membership has embraced the online experiences. The 2020 virtual fundraisers, powered by a company called OneCause, have equaled or bettered the results from previous years. Friends of Arrow Rock has members from 40 states and two foreign countries, and virtual events allow all members, no matter where they live, to participate. The organization envisions that even after the days of quarantining and social distancing are in the rearview mirror, it will continue to incorporate a virtual component in its events.

In 2020, Friends of Arrow Rock had a choice to sit back and wait for things to return to the way they used to be, or to blaze new trails. Like the Arrow Rockers who came before them, they chose to venture into a new frontier, excited about where that road might lead.



The Museum in a Box device plays a prerecorded message that corresponds with the item placed on top.



Preserving and Exploring History

Even in Isolation

MARY ELLEN LOHMANN

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER, BOONE COUNTY HISTORY & CULTURE CENTER

Neighbors helping neighbors. You see it in times of crisis across the centuries. Missourians have rallied to help each other through countless obstacles: floods, fires, wars, and even past pandemics. This is exactly why the Boone County History & Culture Center started the Remembering the Coronavirus Project: to record the triumphs, fears, successes, and challenges of navigating this unprecedented year—together. To ensure our experiences, not just the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, are recorded to help future generations.

“A significant element of why we chose to initiate this collection program is because we have precious few first-person stories about how the 1918–1919 flu pandemic affected the citizens of Boone County. We feel

ABOVE: Teddy bear photo, submitted April 13, 2020 by Philip of Columbia, age 58. Philip commented: “I like the photo because a) it’s got a bear there for kids to claim for the ‘hunts’; b) it contrasts the natural outdoor explosions of spring with the our current indoor containment; c) there’s an odd melancholy in the viewpoint; d) it represents the fact that we are fortunate to BE sheltered.”



Drawing submitted April 13, 2020
by Patton of Columbia, age 11.

we have an obligation to collect the stories that are being made today, from ordinary people, about how this historic event is impacting their lives,” said Chris Campbell, Executive Director of the Boone County History & Culture Center.

After the first local case of COVID-19, the History & Culture Center initiated a completely new collection program from scratch and launched it through its website, BooneHistory.org, in less than a month. Funds provided by Missouri Humanities through the 2020 CARES Relief Act helped make this tight timeline for launching the project possible.

The goal of the Remembering the Coronavirus Project is simple: record daily life. The project encourages individuals of all ages to donate their journals, videos, photos, and works of art in addition to completing an online questionnaire about life in a pandemic.

“We want to give people a chance to record their real life. What was it like to be sheltering in place,

losing a job, to be working from home or homeschooling children for the first time?” Campbell said.

Beautiful, heartbreaking responses were submitted within weeks of the first diagnosis of the novel virus in Boone County. Submissions ranged from 11-year-old Patton, who submitted a hand drawn picture of an essential worker with the note “My Hero Doctor!,” to digital art titled “The Mask” by Sarah, age 63.

Individuals of all ages are sharing their fears, hopes, predictions and advice for the future.

“I am all alone. I lost three of my four sources of income. I have a few Zoom meetings a week and I FaceTime with a few groups of friends....
These are really hard days.”

—Shelley, June 8, 2020



Portrait of Minnie Hobbs, 1919, taken by Henry Holborn at his studio on E. Broadway in Columbia. Holborn immigrated to St. Louis from England in 1880 and took many portraits of people of color, as well as people who appear to be immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe.

“I have likened this experience to my relationship with water. I love to swim and boat; however, I am full well aware that I could drown. Therefore, I have *a healthy respect for water*. I believe that my experience with this pandemic is much the same; I follow the public health suggestions because I have a healthy respect for the risk of disease and death in the face of my love of life.”

—Gloria, age 74, June 9, 2020

“I’ve seen some people complaining at how often their neighbors leave the house... *Everyone has different circumstances*. Maybe your neighbor needs to go for a drive to save their sanity. Maybe that lady going to the store twice a week doesn’t have the funds to stockpile. We need to not forget that everyone isn’t just like us.”

—Kallie, age 28, April 13, 2020

The Boone County History & Culture Center has also worked to provide new ways to explore our vibrant history even while in isolation. Years in the making, the Center launched a free, online, digital archive in June. It consists of a portion of the Center’s vast historic photography collection and the first 20 years of Boone County Court records, dated 1821–1840.

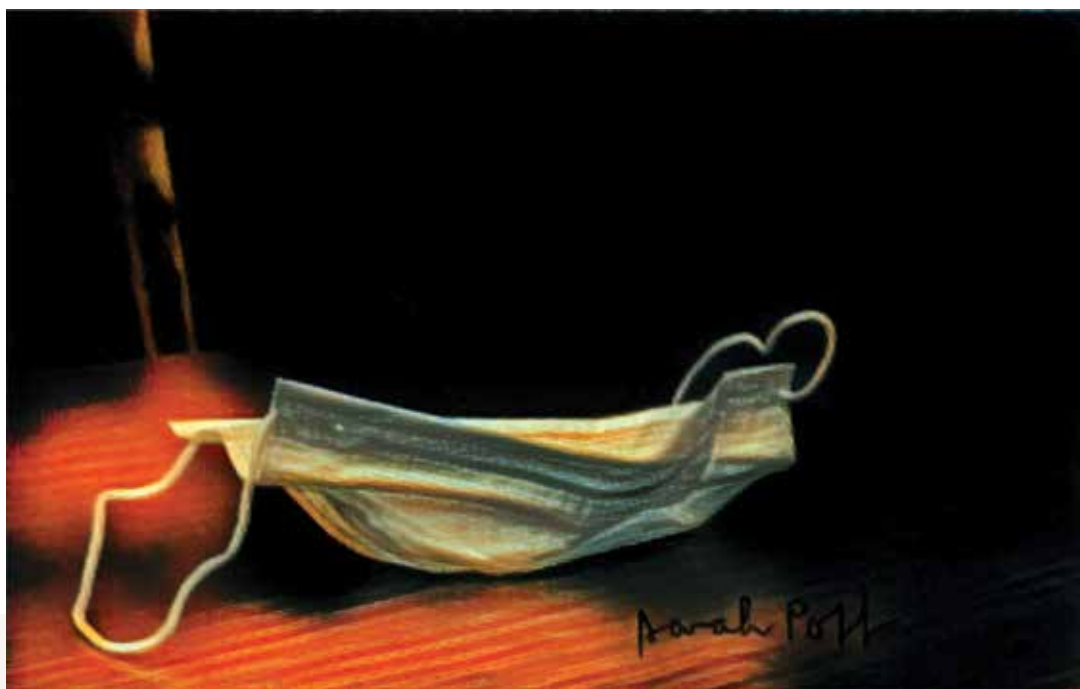


Brian Flanagin, the Henry “Hank” J. Waters III Digital Imaging Lab Coordinator, working in the lab at the History & Culture Center. Photo taken May 15, 2020 by Mary Ellen Lohmann, who added: “After the stay-at-home orders were lifted, our core staff returned to physically working at the Center. Thanks to the hard work of Flanagin and a team of volunteers, the online digital archive, which includes the photography collections, launched in June.”

At its launch, the archive boasted 2,500 photographs from between 1910 and 1936 and 2,000 pages of court records. Bolstered by 2020 CARES Relief Act funding, the dedicated team of volunteers and staff have added another 2,046 images in just six months.

“It is truly something to celebrate for us and for Boone County,” noted Campbell. “We are one of only a few county historical societies in the nation, with a community population of under 500,000, to possess an online digital archive. The volunteers have worked tirelessly to get us to this point and make sure everyone has access to these pieces of our history.”

The work first began in the Center’s Henry “Hank” J. Waters III Digital Imaging Lab in autumn 2017 after state-of-the-art imaging equipment was obtained. The first few thousand images were scanned solely through the efforts of volunteers.



Three years later, the hours volunteers have painstakingly spent scanning, researching, and creating keyword searchable metadata has paid off. “The digital archive is a treasure trove of information for those interested in the story of Boone County and its people. It is certainly a work in progress. But we are working to ensure this project continues long-term and that all Boone Countians feel represented as this project rolls out over time,” Campbell said.

The team at the Boone County History & Culture Center has their work cut out for them with more than 500,000 images in the historic photography collection alone, as well as plans to add its permanent art collection and other artifacts to the digital archive. Yet it is a labor of love, preserving “undoubtedly one of the largest collections of a cumulative aggregation of community photography in the nation,” a distinction David Haberstick, the photography curator of the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of American History, gave the collection in 2018.

This digital art, entitled “The Mask,” was submitted on September 9, 2020 by Sarah P., age 63. Sarah said: “Because of the volume this mask takes up, you feel someone has recently taken off this mask. Why is it laying there? Was the person afraid of taking it off? Have they arrived safely to the comfort of their home? Do they need food and drink to replenish themselves? Have they lost their battle with COVID-19? Why would they leave their mask like that?”

“Even though it’s seemed like one long day, this needs to be dealt with one day at a time. It’s easy to feel your pulse rate quicken thinking about a future economic collapse, the death of friends, family, and self, or further loss of freedoms, but *you have finite moments of existence*, so you have to make them real while you’re in them. And ... this is a marathon, not a sprint.”

—Phillip, age 58, April 12, 2020

Learn more and explore the free online archive at BooneHistory.org/Digital-Collections.

Exhibit Technology Evolves with the History Museum on the Square

JOAN HAMPTON-PORTER
CURATOR, HISTORY MUSEUM
ON THE SQUARE

Over 45 years, six locations, and hundreds of exhibitions, the History Museum on the Square has evolved from a small, traditional, artifact-based museum to one that uses technology to showcase Southwest Missouri history in new and exciting ways while still allowing the visitor to experience the authenticity of viewing priceless artifacts in an award-winning facility.

In 1975, the History Museum on the Square was created as a single-year-long local history museum as part of the US Bicentennial Project. Almost immediately, people began to contact the museum about items to donate, which made organizers realize the need for a permanent history museum. Community support, including from influential civic groups like the Junior League of Springfield, allowed organizers to fundraise and recruit volunteers.

For three years, in a small storefront, the museum staff created traditional, artifact-based exhibits and vignettes. Despite the restricted quarters, a variety of changing exhibits were created. From 1978 to 1992, the museum was in a Victorian house. The exhibition focus was split between that of a house museum and a general history museum. There was some use of oral histories in the changing exhibits.

The museum's move into Springfield's Historic City Hall in 1992 began our era of advanced exhibit technology. Despite having been in a government building, the museum was and still is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.





There was space for a dedicated, chronological-based exhibit as well as new, special, changing exhibits. Historic footage, oral history accounts, and custom videos were utilized to enrich the permanent and temporary exhibits, until we relocated in 2012.

In 2012, the museum had the opportunity to move to Springfield's historic Park Central Square. Between 2012 and 2019, the museum exhibition space was in two historic buildings in succession: a former clothing store and a former theater. At the same time, we were working toward the creation of a permanent, technologically advanced museum in a new complex also located on the square. The temporary exhibits utilized historical footage and oral history accounts to an even greater extent. Staff began utilizing archival material, developing videos to let the creators of history speak again. The big screen in the auditorium of our historic Fox Theatre enabled large-scale viewing of multimedia exhibition elements.

LEFT: The History Museum on the Square recently moved into restored historical buildings on the square in downtown Springfield. ABOVE: Guests look at locations throughout Springfield on our "then and now" touchscreen table. All photos taken by Jeffrey Sweet Photography. Used with permission.

When plans began for the facility that is the current home of the museum, it was important to museum staff and the museum's board of directors to have Springfield's history told in ways that would engage a broad audience with different learning styles. After visiting museums across the country, the museum's leadership team hired Gallagher & Associates, a design company that offers museum planning and design services, to oversee the project. It was important to work with a consultant known for incorporating technology. Two other key vendors were Richard Lewis Media group for all video production and animation and Explus, Inc. for exhibit design. We also worked with many local vendors and Casey Architecture, a firm with extensive experience restoring historical buildings.



Children can splash in the museum's interactive, digital creek.

In August of 2019, the History Museum on the Square opened with 18,000 square feet of exhibition space split between six permanent galleries and one temporary. In addition to over 300 artifacts in the permanent galleries, numerous technological features work together to tell the stories of this area.

An interactive shootout where the visitor can try to shoot like Wild Bill Hickock helps the visitor get the feel of the first documented shootout in the Old West. A time-machine experience in our trolley recreation displays 42 videos ranging from 1819, when Henry Rowe Schoolcraft explored the Ozarks, to when Payne Stewart won his first PGA championship in 1989, enabling visitors to explore topics of special interest. There's an interactive creek (created through video projection) that allows visitors to "splash" and interact with frogs and fish.

Visitors try to safely transport a character from St. Louis to Springfield by stagecoach, train, or car on one of the eight video game stations in a one-third-size reproduction of a Frisco train. There are three interactive Civil War map stations and four Route 66 kiosks where visitor-guided, inquiry-based learning can take place. There is a "then and now" touch table where visitors can explore downtown Springfield locations in the past and the present.

Videos tell the histories of topics such as the crossroads of county music, Native Americans in Springfield, parks, transportation, pioneers, the Civil War in Springfield, Wild Bill Hickock, the birthplace of Route 66, and more. These videos extensively utilize archival materials to tell the

stories. There are also audio panels and even a music video used to round out the visitor experiences in the galleries.

Technology is beneficial in a variety of ways for museum exhibitions. Much more material can be made available in the same amount of space. Visitor-directed, inquiry-based learning is much easier. The visitor is given a multi-dimensional experience that breaks up the repetition of a single type of exhibit medium. The multi-dimensional approach might engage visitors who are not engaged by traditional exhibition methods.

Technology also make exhibits more accessible for persons with certain disabilities. For example, each gallery incorporates closed captioned videos. Multiple voice recordings also allow visually impaired visitors to enjoy museum content. Technology also allows lights and sounds to be lowered to accommodate visitors with sensory issues.

The History Museum on the Square has found that technology works to enrich visitors' experiences when paired with traditional museum exhibitions and artifacts. These elements combine to create an immersive experience greater than the sum of its parts to tell the stories of the people who came before, showcase elements of daily life, and engage visitors in historical inquiry.

Digital Indigenous Storytelling: Learning from Our Relatives

KELLIE THOMPSON (SENECA)
DIRECTOR, KATHRYN M. BUDER CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

ERIC PINTO (MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS, ZUNI PUEBLO)
PROJECT COORDINATOR, KATHRYN M. BUDER CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Indigenous histories and knowledge in North American Indigenous communities were passed down from one generation to the next using oral communication. In addition to the information shared, oral traditions among Indigenous communities showcased the values, the beliefs, the relationships, and the humor within the community. Today, this means of communicating is undervalued by mainstream society and often disregarded. One type of oral transmission is storytelling.

The act of storytelling, the content within a story, and the process in which listeners engage with the storyteller are all equally important as knowledge is shared and learned. The ability to tell stories has been impacted by colonial history. However, Indigenous people continue to use this method to collectively preserve and share what has been passed on and known. Storytelling can also be used as a tool to rewrite history, offering an alternative narrative to what is written in textbooks and sharing something that was once unknown to the listeners. In the article “Utilizing Traditional Storytelling to Promote Wellness in American Indian Communities,” (first published in 2002 in the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*), Felicia Schanche Hodge, Anna Pasqua, Carol A. Marquez, and Betty Geishirt-Cantrell describe



Suzanne Jones (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), storyteller for the Digital Indigenous Storytelling Project.

storytelling as one of the earliest ways people and communities communicated with each other. Stories were told to share cultural knowledge, educational messages, entertainment, and other important information; stories are the most important ways for Indigenous people to “transmit the heritage of their most significant lessons from one generation to the next.” This is why Indigenous communities understand storytelling is a gift.

The health and livelihood of Indigenous communities across the nation have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Barriers such as an



Jim Pinto (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Zuni Pueblo), storyteller for the Digital Indigenous Storytelling Project.

underfunded healthcare system, no access to running water, and limited to no access to personal protective equipment continue to highlight systemic inequities. As Indigenous communities reclaim oral traditions and storytelling, COVID-19 is creating additional worries in how we continue to pass on our own histories. The United Nations recognizes that existing healthcare and health disparities, as well as discrimination and racism, put Indigenous populations around the world at greater risk during this pandemic. Due to the heightened risk of developing COVID-19, many communities are no longer able to gather with relatives and friends, adding additional barriers to the most important

way we pass down our cultural and Indigenous knowledge. In one small way, to combat this loss of cultural exchange, the Buder Center created the Digital Indigenous Storytelling Project, which highlights Indigenous culture and heritage and ensures accessibility in this time of COVID-19.

The Buder Center supports Indigenous students at the Brown School and works to advance Indigenous programming through local partnerships and educational events to provide our community knowledge. Indigenous people living in Missouri and Indigenous people who are descended from a tribe traditionally located within the state were asked to serve as storytellers. Interviews were conducted and their stories were preserved and celebrated during Native American Heritage Month on November 17, 2020. The Digital Indigenous Storytelling Project was able to gather and share Indigenous people's voices within the state of Missouri thanks to Missouri Humanities Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding.

There are over 80,000 Indigenous people living in the state of Missouri. Every interview conducted for this project is unique in its own way, as participants share their stories, their life journeys, and their cultures. The interviews tap into the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of a diverse group of Indigenous people, representing many different nations. You'll find that many of the participants did not grow up in Missouri and the tribes they affiliate with are from different parts of the United States.

Throughout each interview, the participants depict how they stay connected to their culture as they speak about practicing language, creating art and music, and sharing traditional knowledge. Suzanne Jones (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), an educator in St. Louis, MO, speaks about all of these topics as a person of Choctaw heritage.

Suzanne explained to us how she became her own advocate to learn more about her Indigenous heritage and the tribe's culture by enrolling in Choctaw language courses, working with tribal storytellers, and creating traditional Choctaw outfits and regalia. In the interview, she shares traditional Choctaw stories about plants and animals, which are not just stories for entertainment but provide Indigenous knowledge and teachings to the Choctaw people.

Indigenous stories not only educate, they also seek to share and develop the values of the people, such as having respect for the environment. Suzanne shared a story about how the bees, wasps, and snakes became poisonous: A poisonous plant existed around the water sources that the Choctaw utilized, and the plant had the potential to hurt the people, causing them to get sick and even die. The plant would call for a meeting with the bees, wasps, and snakes to offer them the plant's poison for self-protection, and then the plant would no longer harm the Choctaw people. As the bees, wasps, and snakes accepted the poison, they would develop aposematic characteristics to warn the people that they were poisonous. Today, many fear bees, wasps, and snakes or view them as a nuisance, but Suzanne explained how this story teaches the Choctaw people respect toward those animals and how they play a crucial role in our ecosystems.

In addition, Suzanne shared that Indigenous stories and teachings can offer a different perspective than the standard Western education that is taught in the classroom today. In fact, you may learn and see Indigenous values and perspectives every day in a variety of ways. For example, the interviews took place during the Halloween season, which led some participants to discuss cultural appropriation. Participants discussed how non-Indigenous people may lack the knowledge and understanding of how the

use of Native American costumes can be harmful and disrespectful to Native people and tribal cultures. For instance, female Native American costumes often oversexualize and stereotype Indigenous women. This can contribute to the mistreatment of Native women and shows us why and how the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic throughout Indian Country is so prevalent. During Halloween, we also see the use of feathers in costumes. This degrades their meaning because feathers are intended to symbolize honor, service, sacrifice, and success of an individual. It is through stories and teachings that we learn the meanings of such things, promote healing, and enhance the livelihood of Indigenous people and cultures.

This project has created space for Indigenous people to tell their stories and share their histories, cultures, and experiences. The Buder Center hopes that you will listen to these individuals to learn from what they have shared and to reflect upon the stories we have told each other. This project gives Indigenous people an opportunity to share their voice.

You can find the Digital Indigenous Storytelling Project at sites.wustl.edu/budercen/indigenous-storytelling-project. If you are an Indigenous person with connections within the state and would like to share your story, please contact us at bcais@wustl.edu.

We would like to thank each of our storytellers: William Harjo (Muskogee [Creek] Nation), Rita Carrington (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians), Suzanne Jones (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), Sherry Taluc (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma), Otoe-Missouri Tribe of Indians), Maria Hussman (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Anishinaabe), Jane Kassanavoid (Comanche Nation), Jim Pinto (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Zuni Pueblo), Neil Lawhead (Pamunkey Cherokee, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Kiowa Tribe, Comanche Nation), Denise Montgomery (Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa [Meskwaki Nation]), Joe Masters (Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians), and members of the American Indian Student Association (AISA) of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.



The Missouri Bicentennial Speakers' Series

JON E. TAYLOR, PH.D.
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

KYLE CONSTANT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TRAILS REGIONAL LIBRARY

JOE MOORE, PH.D.
PROFESSOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI



The Trails Regional Library, which services Johnson and Lafayette Counties and has branches in Concordia, Corder, Holden, Knob Noster, Leeton, Lexington, Odessa, Warrensburg, and Waverly is partnering with the University of Central Missouri's History and Communication programs to produce a virtual Missouri Bicentennial Speakers' Series that will air during Missouri's bicentennial year, 2021.

In consultation with the Director of the Trails Regional Library, Tanya Shelton-Council; Kyle Constant, Assistant Director; and Dr. Jon Taylor, Professor of History at the University of Central Missouri (UCM), it was important that

the series focus on the significant and diverse history of the institutions and people that called Lafayette and Johnson counties home. Dr. Jon Taylor helped the Trails Regional Library staff identify speakers for the series, and two history MA graduate students, Paul Atwood and Paxton Stover, wrote brief background histories of some of the topics covered in the speakers' series. The graduate students also prepared brief histories of the towns that serve as branches in the Trails Regional Library system. This research will be shared with the larger community at the time the series begins airing in August of 2021.

In August and September of 2020, Taylor conducted seven interviews with experts. Greg Olson shared his knowledge of the Native Americans who once called Lafayette and Johnson counties home prior to White settlement. Dr. Amy Laurel Fluker presented on her recently published book about how Missouri has remembered both its Union and Confederate pasts and specifically focused on the history and significance of the Confederate Home in Higginsville. Local historian and author Lisa Irle discussed the importance of Old Drum and its legacy. Jeremy Amick focused on the important military veterans who have served from the area and specifically mentioned the role Sanford Sellers and his sons, Sanford Sellers, Jr. and James M. Sellers, played in developing the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington. Dr. Mary Barile discussed how Warrensburg influenced Blind Boone and how Melissa Fuell Cuther, also from Warrensburg, became the first African American woman to write about the life of a Black musician—Blind Boone. Dr. Sara Brooks Sundberg shared the research that she and her students conducted about the suffrage movement in Warrensburg and specifically explained how Laura Runyon, UCM Professor of History, played a key role not only in the Warrensburg suffrage movement, but in the Missouri statewide movement. Dr. Delia Cook Gillis rounded out the speakers' series by making a presentation on the life, career, and legacy of Felice Hill Gaines, who was the first Black professional staff member at UCM.

The UCM Digital Media Production program, under the direction of Dr. Joe Moore, Professor of Communication, assisted in the production of the finished videos. Jack Mason, 2020 DMP graduate, served as producer for the interviews.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Featured presenter Jeremy Amick. Photo taken by Jon Taylor. ABOVE: The Trails Regional Library Lexington Branch.

There are other people and places in both counties who are just as significant, and Dr. Taylor and undergraduate and graduate students in the UCM history program hope to feature those stories in another Missouri Humanities–funded project, historicmissouri.org, which is also set to debut in August 2021.

The Trails Regional Library will host the virtual speakers' series on the library's YouTube channel and will promote the series on its social media platforms. Airing of the series will begin in August of 2021, just in time to commemorate Missouri's 200th birthday.

The Trails Regional Library and the History and Communication programs at UCM wish to thank Missouri Humanities for funding the project. Without the CARES Act funding, these Missouri stories would not have been able to be told to a wider audience. Every featured expert talked about the critical role Missouri history plays in helping us remember that all local history is important to American history. Dr. Amy Laurel Fluker said it is “fun to think about the place you live and to understand it better” and that local history “helps us understand who we are now in light of who we are no longer.” The Trails Regional Library's Missouri Bicentennial Virtual Speakers' Series accomplishes just that.

Missouri Humanities Celebrates

CLARICE BRITTON
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

This year, Missouri Humanities will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Missouri Humanities Council was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the US Congress to serve as one of the 56 state and territorial humanities councils that are affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). I started working for Missouri Humanities in 1995. Since that time, many things have changed.

Each with a different approach, we have had four Executive Directors in the last 26 years. Under the leadership of our current Executive Director, Dr. Steve Belko, we have seen unprecedented growth with new programs in German Heritage, Native American Heritage, and Archeology. We expanded our presence beyond St. Louis with new offices from Kansas City to Springfield to St. James. Our newest office, in St. Charles, opened just last year.

Veterans Programs continue to flourish as the *Proud to Be* anthology is in its ninth volume. Dr. Belko has helped the organization establish and strengthen partnerships with organizations like the Kinder Institute for Constitutional

Democracy and Magnificent Missouri. Another big change has been the expansion of virtual programs. Digital opportunities at Missouri Humanities really took off in 2020 and allowed us to engage Missourians like never before. I personally enjoyed watching online presentations from the Show Me Speakers Bureau. Like others across the state, the digital format allowed me to participate in programs that I have previously not been able to attend in person.

While there have been many changes over the years, many things at Missouri Humanities have stayed the same. In all my 26 years, Missouri Humanities has remained focused on strengthening communities. We take our calling to enrich the lives

50 years

MISSOURI
HUMANITIES'
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS
HIGHLIGHTS:

of Missourians seriously as we create opportunities to promote life-long learning through public lectures, veterans writing workshops, traveling exhibits, environmental humanities experiences, and exposure to the heritage and history that makes Missouri such a remarkable place to call home.

2021 is shaping up to be a momentous year as we come out of quarantine and commemorate the state's bicentennial. At the same time, we hope to also use our anniversary year to recognize and express our gratitude for all of the individuals, partners, grantees, and organizations who have worked with us over the last five decades. We would love to hear from you! **Please send your recollections, stories, and pictures to me at Clarice@mohumanities.org.**

#MH50Years

Join our virtual birthday party. Share your memories, stories, and well wishes on social media @ MoHumanities throughout 2021 using the hashtag #MH50Years

50th Anniversary Webpage

Visit our website to view some of the incredible programs funded by Missouri Humanities grants over the years. Important anniversary updates will also be posted at mohumanities.org/MH50Years.

Become a Member in Honor of Our 50th Anniversary

For 50 years, we have been working to build a more thoughtful, informed, and civil society. Help us connect Missourians to the people, places, and ideas that shape society for the next 50 years by becoming an MH Member through a sustaining contribution. Contact Claire@mohumanities.org for more information or visit mohumanities.org/membership.

MOmentum Gala

Join us to celebrate in person. This year's event will include a special anniversary commemoration. Save the Date for Missouri Humanities 2021 MOmentum Gala on November 20, 2021 at Forest Park.



MOMENTUM:

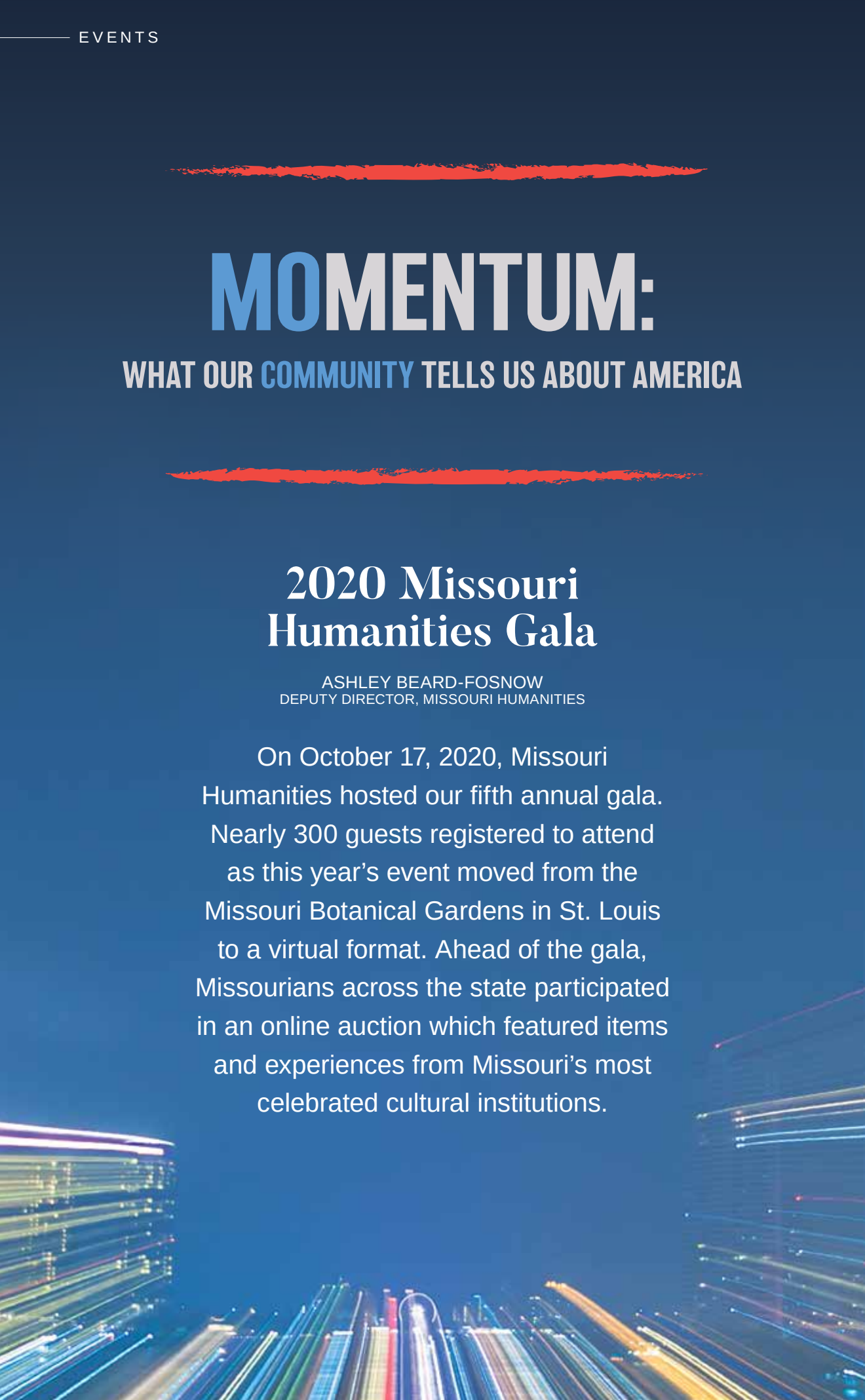
WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TELLS US ABOUT AMERICA



2020 Missouri Humanities Gala

ASHLEY BEARD-FOSNOW
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

On October 17, 2020, Missouri Humanities hosted our fifth annual gala. Nearly 300 guests registered to attend as this year's event moved from the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis to a virtual format. Ahead of the gala, Missourians across the state participated in an online auction which featured items and experiences from Missouri's most celebrated cultural institutions.



The event started at 6:30 PM

and was emceed by Dr. Steve Belko, Missouri Humanities Executive Director. “MOmentum: What Our Community Tells Us About America” was chosen as the theme of the gala to recognize our unprecedented growth and resilience in recent years. The night served as a celebration of the organization’s ability to build community-focused momentum, especially given the challenges of last year. The positive trajectory will continue throughout 2021 as Missouri Humanities celebrates our 50th Anniversary, and it will be a monumental year for the entire state as we commemorate our bicentennial of statehood on August 10, 2021.

Dr. Belko gave an introduction and offered the audience a sneak peek of the CARES Act video. In June of 2020, Missouri Humanities announced that 76 organizations received a collective amount of \$535,400 in grants supplied through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. To demonstrate the impact of this funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the short video highlighted some of the recipients of CARES funding for our gala guests.



*View the
CARES
video
series*

After the CARES Act film, Bill Branson of the Plains Cree, Nathan Hooton and Will Hooton of the Cowlitz, and Ed Smith of the Osage performed a variety of Native American dances. The Native drumming and dancing was followed by blues prodigy Little Dylan, who performed from the National Blues Museum in St. Louis.

Dr. Belko announced the Humanities Award winners and then welcomed to the screen the MOmentum gala’s Honorary Chair. Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe highlighted initiatives in his office that are key to community-building in Missouri. Under his leadership, Missourians are supporting seniors, the “Buy Missouri” campaign, and the Missouri Arts Council. The Lieutenant Governor also serves as Missouri’s Veterans Advocate. Before introducing the keynote speaker, the Lieutenant Governor summed up his role serving the veterans community by saying, “I am honored to work for those citizens who have endured hard work and personal sacrifice to strengthen and defend our nation.”



**LT. GOVERNOR
MIKE KEHOE**

Jane Smiley delivered the keynote address for the 2020 MOmentum gala. Her remarks were open to the public, and Missouri college students in humanities departments were specifically invited to listen and learn from the Pulitzer Prize–



JANE SMILEY

winning author. In addition to her life as a novelist, Smiley is an essayist and contributing writer to *The New York Times*. As a native St. Louisan recently returned for her 50th high school reunion, Smiley published a travel piece about her trip to St. Louis in the Times, titled “Jane Smiley on What St. Louis Tells Us About America.” In the article and throughout the keynote address, Smiley shared her interesting perspective of St. Louis that neither ignores the longstanding racial and economic inequities of the city nor dismisses its unique beauty and sense of community.

Smiley called the city “the perfect place for a future novelist to grow up.” St. Louis has a vast array of cityscapes and lessons of history that illuminate the story of America. She said that she grew up with the sense that in St. Louis, everything was possible, as the nation spread out around us. Her world opened up because of conflict and culture, with books and horses adding to her curiosity.

In her talk, Smiley laid out the community’s ebb and flow of setbacks followed by progress. She believes the complexity of St. Louis is depicted by its landscape and its people. Smiley concluded her talk with the following words:

The last chapter of Walter Johnson’s book discusses the resilience of St. Louis and the individuals and organizations in town that are working hard to develop a more sustainable and equitable society. He makes sure that we know that this isn’t a new thing. It’s been going on as long as there has been St. Louis. I hope it works. I hope it spreads up and down the Mississippi, out along the Ohio and the Missouri.

It could end up that the future that is imagined in St. Louis really is our future as a country. I hope that it recreates the pleasures of the city that are what I see when I think of my childhood memories: memories of strange and beautiful houses and neighborhoods jammed up against one another; of green parks; lovely vistas; of a long history; of interesting and accomplished citizens; of great places to visit, like the Art Museum, Circus Harmony, the Botanical Garden, and Forest Park; of friendly people; and good teachers.

No matter what I’ve learned and what the critics say, I can’t get rid of those memories. All I can do is hope that future generations will have the chance to have similar ones.

Feedback from gala guests was unanimously positive.

One viewer said, “The entire program was exceptional. It was well-organized with a wonderful mix of entertainment and education. I don’t know how it could have been better. The opening sequence on the role of MHC was outstanding.” Another guest complimented Jane Smiley, saying, “I do think it helped to have a speaker who is well known and who talks candidly to us, not in some stuffy way. Her sense of humor and curiosity make her lively.” The recording of Jane Smiley’s address and the entire MOmentum program is available online at mohumanities.org/jointhegala.

The 2020 MOmentum gala was a great success. The funds raised at the event will help us continue to offer humanities content and experiences to Missourians in the coming year. We appreciate all of the donations to the auction. We are especially grateful to our sponsors, including Anders CPA, HEC-TV, the Nine Network, and Dan and Connie Burkhardt in support of Magnificent Missouri. We wish to extend our gratitude to everyone who worked behind, and in front of, the camera to make the event a success. Save the date and join us for the next Missouri Humanities gala at the Forest Park Visitors Center on November 20, 2021. We look forward to celebrating the humanities with you in person!

Thank You Sponsors!

GOLD LEVEL



Connie and Dan Burkhardt
in support of
Magnificent Missouri



SILVER LEVEL



Tom Hershewe and
Dollar Burns
and Becker

Dr. Debbie
A. Depew



Kinder Institute on
Constitutional Democracy
University of Missouri



BRONZE LEVEL



Mike & Martha Hagan
Marci Bennet
Gary Gackstatter
John Robinson, III
Jim & Susanne Evens
on behalf of AAA
Translation

Cl. Jordan
Preservation
Marv & Lucy Sillman
Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D.
APRN, BC, FAAN
Laura Dierberg Ayers
& Brock Ayers

THE 2020 Missouri Humanities AWARDS

For 29 years, the Humanities Awards have been given to deserving groups, organizations, and individuals throughout the state who share in our vision for a more thoughtful, informed, and civil society.

The winners in each category demonstrate a commitment to enriching lives and strengthening communities by connecting Missourians to the people, places, and ideas that shape our society. Missouri Humanities Executive Director Dr. Steve Belko announced the winners in each category at the MOmentum Gala on October 17, 2020.

The Literary Achievement award recognizes the scholastic accomplishments of an individual in the area of the humanities. Nominated by Sarah Simone Gellman, the winner of this year's Humanities Award for Literary Achievement is **Vivian Gibson**. Vivian Gibson tells the story of St. Louisans in the Mill Creek Valley neighborhood through the 1940s and 1950s in her book, "The Last Children of Mill Creek." Vivian's book explores all of the wonderful people and events in those blocks, schools, porches,

and churches. Her retelling, through the eyes of a growing girl, makes the people of that community so real and human. This book helps us better understand and connect to one another.

The Excellence in Education award recognizes educators who have demonstrated an exceptional impact in their field and for exhibiting outstanding efforts that inspire students and engage the general public. Nominated by William Garvin, the winners of this year's Humanities Award for Excellence in Education are **Dr. Christopher Panza, Dr. Ted Vaggalis, and Dr. Peter Browning from the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Drury University**. These professors have come together to create a unique class on philosophy and religion, bringing together not only Drury students, faculty, and staff, but inviting members of the general public throughout the Springfield area for lifelong learning. Recent offerings have included works by Richard Rorty, Cicero, Kierkegaard, Alasdair McIntyre, and Nietzsche. The course covers facets of classical, modern, and contemporary philosophers and fosters not only joy in exchanging ideas with others but has engendered friendship, discourse, and understanding in the Springfield community.

The Exemplary Community Achievement award highlights an individual or organization that supports and encourages community betterment through a variety of unique and instrumental approaches. Nominated by Betsy Delmonico, the winner of this year's Humanities Award for Exemplary Community Achievement is **Axel Fuentes**. Axel Fuentes currently serves as the Executive Director of the Rural Community Workers Alliance. He has been a community activist and organizer specializing in helping immigrants in Mid-Missouri for the past 13 years. He has been a schoolteacher, a volunteer, a tutor, and an essential force in organizing festivals highlighting Latino and Congolese music, food, or dance. Axel has been a leader to those seeking mutual understanding and just treatment for workers in Mid-Missouri.

The Partnership in the Humanities award was chosen by the staff of Missouri Humanities and is awarded to an organization who has shown exceptional support and symbiosis with our mission, directly helping us succeed in expanding the humanities throughout the state. This year, we are honored to recognize an organization that has been dedicated, above all, to preserving the Humanities in Missouri. The winner of this year's Humanities Award for Partnership in the Humanities is **Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion**. For forty-five years, Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion has welcomed nearly 50,000 visitors a year from around our state, nation, and the world. Led by Executive Director Rebecca Gordon and working in partnership with Missouri's First Family, their mission is to preserve the Mansion's history through stewardship of the building's interior, historical collections, and educational programs.

The Excellence in Education, Exemplary Community Achievement, and Literary Achievement awards were chosen by a committee of Missouri Humanities Board of Directors members. Special thanks goes to John M. Robinson III and Susanne Evens for their leadership as Chairs of the Awards Committee.

Awards

LITERARY
ACHIEVEMENT
Vivian Gibson

EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION
Dr. Christopher Panza
Dr. Ted Vaggalis
Dr. Peter Browning
– **Drury University**

EXEMPLARY
COMMUNITY
ACHIEVEMENT
Axel Fuentes

PARTNERSHIP IN
THE HUMANITIES
Friends of the Missouri
Governor's Mansion

Upcoming Events

Visit mohumanities.org/events to register and learn more about these upcoming activities. Additional information, extra programs, and event updates for Missouri Humanities programs are posted on our Events webpage throughout the year.

April 8, 2021, 10:00 AM

EXPLORE MISSOURI'S GERMAN HERITAGE, CHAPTER 8: EISWEIN, SAVORING MISSOURI'S GERMAN HERITAGE, Virtual

Missouri Humanities has spent the last several years forming partnerships and developing programming dedicated to commemorating and interpreting Missouri's rich German cultural heritage. In 2019, Missouri Humanities partnered with Missouri Life Publishing to create a "book-a-zine" exploring the many facets of "Germanness" in our state: *Explore Missouri's German Heritage*. Authored by Dr. W. Arthur Mehrhoff, the publication serves as both a travel guide and coffee table book.

April 8, 2021, 12:00 PM

HUMANITIES AWARD LUNCHEON, Virtual

Grab your lunch and join us virtually on April 8th at noon for our first annual Humanities Awards Luncheon. Due to restrictions on large gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will take place virtually. Join us for a celebration of the accomplishments of six Missourians in the areas of Excellence in Education, Exemplary Community Achievement, Literary Achievement, and Partnership in the Humanities. This will be our 30th anniversary of distributing Humanities Awards and our first annual Humanities Awards Luncheon. Our 2020 Humanities Awards winners were announced at our Gala in October, and we look forward to celebrating these recipients and the humanities in Missouri over the past year. The program will begin promptly at noon.

April 15, 2021, All Day

MISSOURI HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM: THE FUTURE OF WORK, Virtual

Workers in the future will be impacted by the public policy decisions that we make today. As Americans rush to respond to our current moment, Missourians are coming together to imagine how to turn this disruption into opportunity. Our fourth annual spring symposium, the Missouri Humanities Symposium: The Future of Work will be a day-long event that will convene students, scholars, and community members to consider how work shapes our shared human experience. This program is presented in partnership with the Humanities and Ethics Center at Drury University. Through a series of interdisciplinary panels, participants will examine workforce development, practices, and the trends that impact how, where, and why we work.

April 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

SHOW ME STATESMANSHIP FILM PREMIER, Virtual

Join us for the online premier of a video featuring a diverse group of former Missouri lawmakers and political experts. Through a series of interviews, Missourians will hear stories about elected officials from past eras who cooperated in a bipartisan fashion, treated their political foes with civility and respect, and remained friends after debate on the floor ended.

Go to: mohumanities.org/membership-program/

BECOME A MEMBER!

Join today to support another 50 years of free exhibits, local history projects, and educational programs for Missourians across the state.



May 20, 2021, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

TEACHER WORKSHOP: LBJ AND VIETNAM AT THE HARRY S. TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Join teachers in a discussion of the words, ideas, and actions of President Lyndon Johnson in relation to the Vietnam War, all through a curated collection of primary source documents. Teachers of American History and government will find historical, constitutional, legal, and political themes and ideas to bring back to the classroom.

July 23, 2021, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL U.S. GRANT SYMPOSIUM, Virtual

Missouri Humanities is up teaming with Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation and others to bring a nationally significant program to Missouri. The Symposium

is intended to highlight and solidify Missouri's position as center point for the study of Grant's military and political life. Grant's Missouri roots are well known to scholars, including his service at Jefferson Barracks, his pre-Civil War years anchored to his wife's family in St. Louis, and ownership of a St. Louis County home and estate during his presidency.

November 20, 2021

MOMENTUM GALA IN ST. LOUIS

Join us for the sixth annual Missouri Humanities Gala, MOmentum. In addition to the auction and announcement of the new Humanities Awards winners, guests will enjoy a keynote speech and unforgettable performances throughout the evening at the beautiful Forest Park Visitors Center.

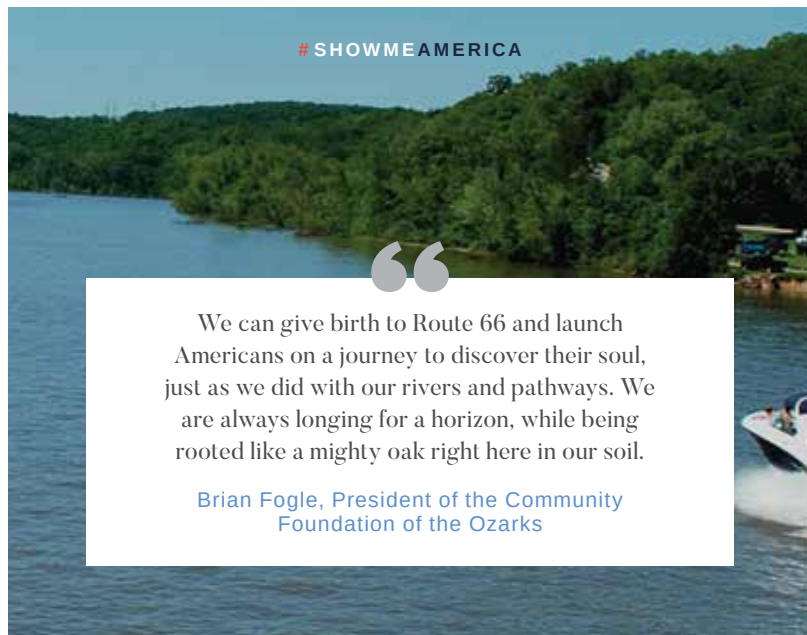
Show Me *Ame*

ASHLEY BEARD-FOSNOW
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

The 2020 MOmentum gala aimed to lift up the people, places, and ideas that contribute to Missouri communities and placemaking through a keynote lecture by St. Louis native Jane Smiley.

Smiley published a piece in *The New York Times* titled “Jane Smiley on What St. Louis Tells Us About America.” Smiley and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe discussed community building in their remarks at the MOmentum gala and helped us consider what each Missouri community might tell us about America.

Missouri Humanities invited mayors and leaders from across the Show Me State to weigh in and share what their communities tell us about the “real” America. Using the hashtag #ShowMeAmerica, they described people, landmarks, and unique features that make Missouri remarkable. We enjoyed submissions from leaders of: Daughters of Old Westport, Springfield, Greenwood, Independence, Missouri Studies, Pleasant Hill, Excelsior Springs, the Village of Caledonia, Lake of the Ozarks, Warrensburg, Chillicothe, Cape Girardeau, Pacific, STL Partnership, Hannibal, and individual Missouri residents. Read them on Twitter @MoHumanities.



#SHOWMEAMERICA

“

We can give birth to Route 66 and launch Americans on a journey to discover their soul, just as we did with our rivers and pathways. We are always longing for a horizon, while being rooted like a mighty oak right here in our soil.

Brian Fogle, President of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks

rica

Greenwood is what America could be if America would just take the time to listen to each other. I have witnessed how Greenwood comes together to help those in our community who are in need. I have witnessed how Greenwood comes together to help other communities in their time of need. I'm not saying we are perfect, but if the country took just a couple of examples from Greenwood, 80% of the issues we see in the media would disappear.

Levi Weaver, Mayor of Greenwood

Westport tells us that history is never forgotten. It lives in our buildings, and through our streets, and reminds us that the 'real' America has deep roots that can be found in every corner of our community.

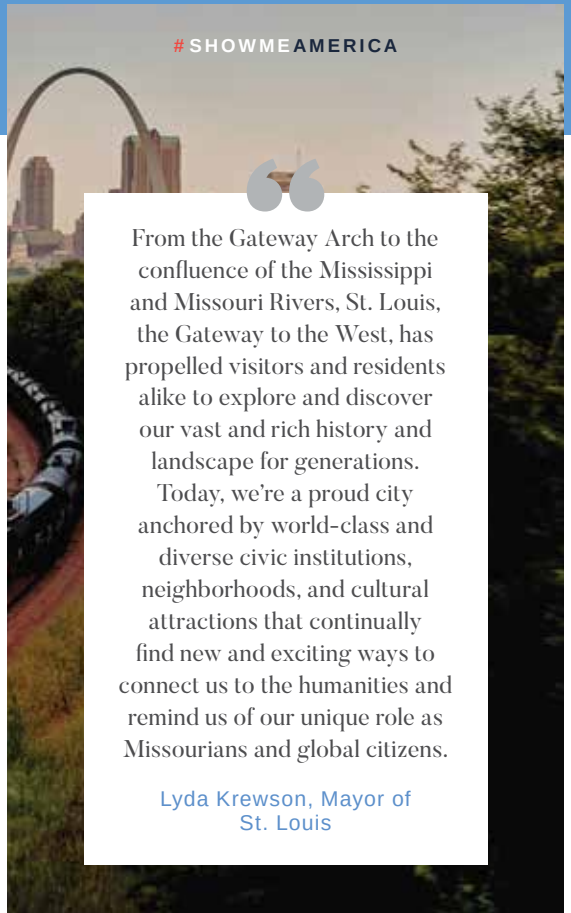
Daughters of Old Westport

Enjoy life's simple pleasures in Springfield, MO, where metropolitan charisma meets Midwestern charm. People here enjoy the amenities of a city yet embrace the beautiful scenery and lifestyle offered by the area's lakes, rivers, forests, and farms.

Tracy Kimberlin, President/CEO at Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

Excelsior Springs, known for mineral water springs, provides unforgettable experiences. Enjoy our quaint town, where exceptional small businesses provide great food, drink, unique shopping, and entertainment. You'll come back again and again.

Molly McGovern, City Manager for Excelsior Springs



From the Gateway Arch to the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, St. Louis, the Gateway to the West, has propelled visitors and residents alike to explore and discover our vast and rich history and landscape for generations.

Today, we're a proud city anchored by world-class and diverse civic institutions, neighborhoods, and cultural attractions that continually find new and exciting ways to connect us to the humanities and remind us of our unique role as Missourians and global citizens.

Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis

Our Springfield residents show us how vital our parks, trails, and natural resources are to those American freedoms we enjoy—as well as our overall health and sense of well-being. Our community is also willing to roll up its collective shirt sleeves and lend a hand in providing direct stewardship to those resources as well—it's a truly reaffirming thing to see!

Bob Belote, Director of Parks for Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Missouri studies is American studies.

Missouri Studies

The Lake of the Ozarks community tells us about American HERITAGE. The foundations of patriotism, caring for each other, honesty, and living life completely are alive and well at The Lake. Each of our communities celebrates our country and teaches our young people that “We are proud to be Americans.” From locals to transplants to second-home owners and tourists, we believe in helping others and standing strong for each other. We witness this in the outpouring of support at our charity events from golf tournaments, boat races, car shows, and more... to pop up occasions to help community members in need. Our Midwestern heritage and beliefs are rock solid.

Betty Coleman, Missouri Humanities Board Member from Lake of the Ozarks

Springfield, Missouri was carved out of the wilderness by hardy pioneers whose Revolutionary War ancestors fought to establish a new land of religious and personal freedom. Springfield settlers weren't perfect, as they brought many gifted, hard-working slaves with them to civilize this wild new land west of the Mississippi. Slaves helped make them prosperous, and Native Americans helped nourish and protect them as they traded for goods and learned to live together. This is the story of Springfield and of America.

J. Howard Fisk, Missouri Humanities Board Member from Springfield

Pleasant Hill is a real, genuine hometown where neighbors help each other and are invested in each other for the betterment of the entire community. It's continually inspiring to see citizens give back to each other and the community.

Shelby Teufel, City Administrator for Pleasant Hill

“The hometown of the 33rd President, Harry Truman, and origin of westward pioneer trails, Independence is a great American story.

Eileen Weir, Mayor of Independence

The Village of Caledonia is a wonderful place to step back in time. Founded in 1819, we have tried to maintain the true Americana charm of the Main Street district, and our citizens really enjoy the rural feel and the open green space. There is little doubt Caledonia loves to have events and showcase our genuine hospitality and rich history. Our local businesses and civic groups host monthly events, and a walk around the village will take you back to a simpler time in America.

John M. Robinson, III, Mayor of the Village of Caledonia & Missouri Humanities Chairman of the Board

#SHOWMEAMERICA

“What Harrisonville, MO tells us about America is the need for a sense of place. For us, that is our Courthouse Square. The Historic Harrisonville Square really is square and is comprised of four lovely brick-lined streets. More than a square though, it is the heart of our community. It makes Harrisonville more than just an address. It makes it a city that is loved. Old memories are shared, and new memories are created as people become connected there.

Judy Bowman, Mayor of Harrisonville

Although Warrensburg is known as the home of “Man’s best friend” from the famous Old Drum Trial in 1869, Warrensburg is also friendly to people. It is home to the University of Central Missouri and Whiteman Air Force Base. We roll out the red carpet to an ever-changing community.

David Pearce, former Missouri Senator representing District 21 & University of Central Missouri Executive Director of Governmental Relations



#SHOWMEAMERICA

Hannibal is a wonderful community with so much to offer to citizens and visitors alike. Hannibal offers a variety of tourist attractions and has a strong representation of the arts. Hannibal also hosts a multitude of festivals and events with a robust park system to satisfy any age.

James Hark, Mayor of Hannibal

Cape Girardeau lies here on the banks of the historic Mississippi River and is home to a plethora of historic diversity and nature.

The hospitality of the community lends to the experience of lasting memories as visitors step back in time and stroll the riverfront or peruse the many antique shops and vintage homes. If you are hiking, walking across a covered bridge, visiting area wineries, viewing the murals, or just spending time at one of our family-friendly attractions, the wonders of Cape will embrace you and move you to want more.

Brenda Newbern, Executive Director of the Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau

Springfield says that America takes care of its own.

Regina Greer Cooper,
Executive Director, Springfield-Greene County Library District

Springfield loves learning and embraces the humanities. With more than four institutions of higher ed, our city manifests the diversity of lifestyles and beliefs central to American democracy.

Etta Madden, Missouri Humanities Board Member & Professor of English & Assistant Department Head at Missouri State University

The humanities help us understand others through their languages, histories, and cultures.

Susanne Evens, Missouri Humanities Board Member from Chesterfield

If you look up the origins of the word “Pacific,” you’ll find it translates to the Latin “peace making” or simply “peace.” So please don’t think it strange if, when you come visit our town, several people greet you or hold a door open for you or try to help you in some way. It’s just how we do things around here. Members of our growing community make visitors feel welcome all the time, and that’s because we are proud of our rich past and excited about the bright future that lies ahead!

Steve Myers, Mayor of Pacific



#SHOWMEAMERICA

Chillicothe, Missouri is actually the home of sliced bread, and we have a mural that lets everyone traveling north or south on Highway 65 know we are.

Pam Jarding, Executive Director of Chillicothe Main Street

St. Louis is vibrant communities, startups, main street businesses, Fortune 500 companies, and talented, innovative people with entrepreneurial spirit from around the world. We celebrate equity and diversity and welcome foreign-born to our region.

Rodney Crim, CEO & President at St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Democracy and the Informed Citizen

ASHLEY BEARD-FOSNOW
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

“Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy.”

—WALTER CRONKITE

On September 22, Missouri Humanities, in partnership with the University of Missouri System, hosted a virtual public program through Zoom. “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” featured a panel discussion that explored the critical role the humanities and journalism play in shaping the judgements and opinions of citizens in a democratic society. The partners brought students together with rural and urban viewers from across the Show Me State, uniting an ideologically diverse crowd around the importance of quality journalism in support of an informed citizenry.

MH expanded its partnerships with humanities departments at University of Missouri System institutions in Kansas City, Rolla, Columbia, and St. Louis. KBIA Public Radio, the Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy, and the Missouri Press Association joined the effort to engage residents in the discussion. Guests were greeted with words of welcome from Missouri Humanities Executive Director Steve

Belko and University of Missouri System President Mun Choi. Michael Gerson, Tony Messenger, and Ruby Bailey served as the evening’s panelists.

Michael Gerson is the author of *Heroic Conservatism*. He is a nationally syndicated columnist at *The Washington Post* who appears regularly on the *PBS NewsHour* and *Face the Nation*. Until 2006, Gerson was a top aide to President George W. Bush, serving as Assistant to the President for Policy and Strategic Planning.

Tony Messenger, by contrast, offers a progressive commentary for the St. Louis region as a reporter and columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. His reporting on Ferguson following the death of Michael Brown made him a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2015. His win in 2019 recognized him for “bold columns that exposed the malfeasance and injustice of forcing poor rural Missourians charged with misdemeanor crimes to pay unaffordable fines or be sent to jail.”



Ruby Bailey is a professor at the University of Missouri–Columbia. She serves as the Executive Editor at the *Columbia Missourian* and Missouri Community Newspaper Management Chair at the Missouri School of Journalism. Bailey worked for the *Detroit Free Press* for 16 years and became a Washington correspondent, where she covered news of interest to Michigan readers. After that, she joined the *Sacramento Bee*. Bailey has experience covering and editing all aspects of local news, including business, entertainment, and feature coverage.

The moderator of the discussion, Janet Saidi, Assistant News Director at KBIA

radio, guided the panelists through a conversation about the increasingly polarized media landscape. She also asked the panelists about the importance of media literacy, the Supreme Court, the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 protests, and the Thomas Jefferson statue on the University of Missouri’s campus.

To start, Tony Messenger talked about polarization as a unique challenge to reaching new readership. One approach to addressing the problem is to look for common ground. “One of our biggest challenges as journalists is just to be honest to our readers,” Messenger said. He also said that common ground reminds readers of



MICHAEL GERSON



TONY MESSENGER



RUBY BAILEY

the role of journalism in democracy. “I try to find issues that could unite people to develop a relationship with those readers who would typically disagree with me—encouraging them to continue reading what I write and remind them we aren’t the enemy of the people,” Messenger said.

Ruby Bailey echoed his thoughts, saying, “It’s the duty of journalism not to try and create the narrative ourselves but to do the due diligence, reporting, and offer context that let our audience know what this means for us as a nation.” She went on to say, “It’s important that we provide context for a community, not simply write headlines that speak to the worst moment of an event or movements. We must choose how we frame stories.”

“Journalism is the first rough draft of history.”

—PHILIP L. GRAHAM

The panelists tackled the challenges of social media, specifically Twitter, in combatting misinformation. Gerson said that Twitter, like many social media platforms, has the unfortunate ability to “increase the velocity of lies.” “I’m a conservative but also a supporter of mainstream media, because the media fact-checks. It’s a profession, not an activity. There are consequences for inaccurate reporting, and things are corrected and confronted,” Gerson said.

Diversity was the final point of discussion for the evening. Bailey brought up that the idea of diversity is not just aiming for a specific number but achieving true inclusion, from policies to workflows, but especially with sourcing. She said, “If we are doing our jobs correctly, we will help folks have a voice of their own. We will help to amplify those voices if we are stepping outside of the parts of the community that we are comfortable with or that we tend to gravitate toward for whatever reason.”

Tony Messenger called for truth in reporting and elevating stories of communities that are often underserved by the media. Gerson ended the event on a similar note, bringing the conversation full circle by speaking to the importance of good journalism in a democratic society:

One of the rarest, most valuable commodities in any political community, particularly in democracy, is empathy,” Gerson said. “I think journalism plays a very important role in imagining ourselves in other circumstances. In some of the best journalism, you can put yourself in someone else’s shoes. And I think that’s an underestimated element of what journalism does for a free society.

Presented By



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Missouri Humanities Online

CARES Act Impact

In June 2020, Missouri Humanities announced that 76 organizations throughout Missouri received a collective amount of \$535,400 in grants supplied through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This funding was made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities. To demonstrate the impact of this funding through Missouri Humanities, we created a short video which highlights just a few of the many recipients of CARES funding. **Learn more at mohumanities.org/cares-act.**



View the
CARES
video
series

Virtual Bicentennial Exhibit: Missouri's Struggle for Statehood

Missouri's application for statehood in 1818 unleashed boiling tensions that threatened westward expansion and raised difficult issues our Founding Fathers struggled to resolve.

Missouri shook the United States like no other new state before and made the issue of slavery unavoidable for the nation. This crisis unfolded for nearly three years and could only be resolved by a dangerous compromise, which kept the union together by dividing it into two halves: "slave" states and "free" states. The Missouri Compromise held for a few decades, but it also set up a sectional conflict in which Missouri would find itself divided as the nation plunged into Civil War. **Learn more at mohumanities.wixsite.com/struggleforstatehood.**



Take the
Virtual
Exhibit
Tour

Uniting a Polarized Nation

Our nation is torn by partisan distrust, disinformation, exclusion, and coarsened public discourse. Through the **Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation** initiative, Missouri Humanities is exploring the lasting scars of polarization on our democratic practices and civic participation. We are uniting Missourians through the power of connecting, listening, and learning. Take the #CivilityChallenge to listen to someone who doesn't think like you; hear from the authors of *The Upswing* about how America came together a century ago and can do it again; learn from a panel of historians in the film *A Nation Divided*; or, on April 29th, check out our film *Show Me Statesmanship*, featuring former Missouri lawmakers and officials from this century sharing stories and observations from past eras of bipartisan cooperation, leaders who treated their political foes with civility and respect, and partisan opponents who remained friends after public debate. **Watch the program recordings and join the movement to unite at mohumanities.org/Uniting.**



Watch the
authors
of **The**
Upswing

Why It Matters: Uniting a Polarized Nation is part of the Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Missouri Humanities Adapts *Growing Up with the River* into a Virtual Storytelling Series



“Parakeets and Passenger Pigeons” by Bryan Haynes, featured on the cover of *Growing Up with the River*.

CAITLIN YAGER
DIRECTOR OF HERITAGE PROGRAMS,
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS,
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Like so many others, COVID-19 presented us with a challenge that resulted in a shift in the way we operate as an organization. We took the opportunity to get creative and turned to virtual programming. In welcoming the challenge to expand our reach and collaborate across programs, we created “Growing Up with the River—A Virtual Storytelling Journey.”



Growing Up with the River: Nine Generations on the Missouri River by Dan and Connie Burkhardt allowed an opportunity to combine two of our programs: Heritage and Family. We loved that the book was family-centered and full of humanities-based content.

Across 10 chapters, the book explores Missouri's rich cultural heritage through the eyes of nine generations of children growing up in river towns along the Missouri River Valley. What initially began as a discussion of a one-time virtual book reading quickly turned into a ten-part storytelling series. To capture the essence and richness of the book, curated in partnership with the St. Louis Storytelling Festival, we invited 10 storytellers to uniquely narrate chapters from the book.

As we continued exploring the stories, we realized there was a wealth of information. We found ourselves asking, "How can we dive in deeper?" With this, the series really started to flourish; by combining both storytellers and subject matter experts, we were able to make each chapter presentation more interdisciplinary, engaging, and educational by bringing in topics like history, archeology, and conservation.

With the blessing of the authors, we kicked off the series on July 29th and invited families to join us each week as we presented the program over 10 consecutive Wednesdays on Facebook Live.

*"When we wrote *Growing Up with the River*, it was our hope that it would find an audience beyond the pages of the book, and what MH did to bring these stories to life exceeded our expectations. The diversity of voices that MH assembled, from storytellers to musicians to expert commentators, added richness, color, and another dimension to the stories in our book."*

—DAN AND CONNIE BURKHARDT,
BOOK AUTHORS



CHAPTER ONE: **1806: La Charrette**

Guest Storyteller:

Robert Lewis

Special Guests: Emily Koeltzow, K-12 Museum Educator at the Missouri Historical Society, and Erin Whitson, Historical Archaeologist for Missouri Humanities

Raffle Item: *Growing Up with the River* book donated by Dan and Connie Burkhardt



CHAPTER TWO: **1832: Femme Osage**

Guest Storyteller:

Jim "Two Crows" Wallen

Special Guest: Edward Spevak, Ph.D., Curator of Invertebrates and Director for the Center for Native Pollinator Conservation at the Saint Louis Zoo

Raffle Item: Native Foods, Peoples, and Pollinators baseball cap donated by Saint Louis Zoo



CHAPTER THREE: **1862: Hermann**

Guest Storyteller:

Bobby Norfolk

Special Guest: Paul Schwartzkopf, retired parish pastor and storyteller

Raffle Item: Katy Trail T-shirt donated by ARB Signs

The first Chapter, “1806: La Charrette” was presented by Robert Lewis, award-winning Native storyteller of Cherokee, Navajo, and Apache descent. Then, Emily Koeltzow, a K–12 Museum Educator with the Missouri Historical Society, took us through one of Lewis and Clark’s journals, followed by a presentation on how to piece together Missouri’s Native history by our staff archeologist, Erin Whitson.

We concluded the chapter episode by raffling a copy of “Growing Up with the River” and offering a printable journal activity—inviting families to get outside and, like Lewis and Clark, make observations through writing and drawing. With each chapter following, we presented in this same format: a narration by a storyteller, interpretation by one or two experts, a raffle, and a fun, chapter-related activity to do at home.

Ultimately, we wanted to create an engaging program that invited viewers, many stuck at home due to COVID-19, on a virtual storytelling adventure to connect with our state’s rich cultural and natural history. The Burkhardts portray the events and history of the Missouri River Valley in such a charming and imaginative way, it felt like a perfect collaboration. We hope the series inspires viewers of all ages to get out and experience our majestic River Valley, historical sites, and green spaces and take action in protecting our rich resources by stewarding our natural environment for future generations to come.

Thus far, the series has had 6,289 viewers! Help grow our views! To watch each episode, visit: mohumanities.org/programs/growing-up-with-the-river.



**CHAPTER FOUR:
1883: New Haven**

Guest Storyteller:

Brian “Fox” Ellis

Special Guests: Jeanne Damschroeder, Innkeeper for the Central Hotel, and Annalies Corbin, archaeologist and CEO of the PAST Foundation

Raffle Item: *Explore Missouri’s German Heritage* book donated by Missouri Humanities



**CHAPTER FIVE:
1904: Marthasville**

Guest Storytellers:

Dan and Connie Burkhardt

Special Guests: Ralph Pfremmer, Executive Director for Magnificent Missouri, and Steve Schnarr, Executive Director for Missouri River Relief

Raffle Item: Prairie socks donated by Magnificent Missouri



**CHAPTER SIX:
1932: Washington**

Guest Storyteller:

January Kiefer

Special Guests: Dr. Peter H. Raven, President Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden; George Engelmann, Professor of Botany at Washington University; and Shane Borth and Envee from the band Ziggy and the Neptunes

Raffle Item: Assorted souvenirs donated by the Missouri Botanical Garden

“Storytelling is a meaningful way to preserve cultural stories, and by incorporating personal experiences, it helps humanize abstract concepts, like environmental and historical change. The stories contained within this project are representative of this process, and each storyteller brought their own unique interpretation to the project, resulting in a richly layered and nuanced experience.”

—LISA OVERHOLSER, DIRECTOR,
ST. LOUIS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



CHAPTER SEVEN:
1959: St. Charles

Guest Storyteller:

Barnes M. Bradshaw

Special Guests: Caitlin Yager, Director of Heritage Programs for Missouri Humanities, and Nicki Wheaton, Naturalist with the Missouri Department of Conservation

Raffle Item: Aluminum water bottle donated by Missouri Humanities



CHAPTER NINE:
2016: Chesterfield

Guest Storyteller:

Sahara “Sista SOLS” Scott

Special Guests: Bill Spradley, arborist and owner of Trees, Forests and Landscapes, Inc., and Ken Buchholz, Director of the Audubon Center at Riverlands

Raffle Item: T-shirt donated by Audubon Center at Riverlands

This program was made in partnership with Magnificent Missouri, HEC-TV, St. Louis Storytelling Festival, and the Missouri History Museum.

A very special thanks to artist Bryan Haynes for allowing us to share his beautiful book illustrations and to Dan and Connie Burkhardt for entrusting us to share the stories within.

“I liked learning interesting information about the state of Missouri, including about specific places, nature, and early people while using the book with its wonderful illustrations and information. The storytellers and people with expertise on various topics made the presentations all the more interesting and fun.”

—PROGRAM VIEWER



CHAPTER EIGHT:
1986: Augusta

Guest Storyteller:

Sherry Norfolk

Special Guests: David Kelly, Deputy Director for Missouri State Parks, and Dan Burkhardt, Founder of the Katy Land Trust

Raffle Item: Train whistle donated by Missouri Humanities



CHAPTER TEN:
2040: The Missouri River Valley

Guest Storyteller:

Nartana Premachandra

Special Guests: Lesley S. Hoffarth, P.E., President, and Executive Director of Forest Park Forever, and Meredith Perkins, Executive Director of Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

Raffle Item: Picnic-themed goodie bag donated by Forest Park Forever

Since 2017, Missouri Humanities has provided Cultural Heritage Workshops in rural communities throughout the state. The goal of these programs is to provide participants the tools and resources necessary to evaluate cultural heritage assets in their communities in an effort to increase programming, tourism, and economic development opportunities. To date, we have hosted day-long workshops in over a dozen communities across the state.

Cultural Heritage Workshops

— Gone Virtual!

Caitlin Yager
Director of Heritage Programs,
Missouri Humanities

Our 2020 plans included workshops in Savannah, Warrenton, Kirksville, Camdenton, and Poplar Bluff. When COVID-19 hit, we had to pivot from in-person programming to virtual programming, and we risked losing one of the most important aspects of these workshops:

creating partnerships with small communities in our state, especially in rural areas.

Still, we knew that engaging with Missourians in whatever way we could was crucial to maintaining an audience during a very complicated time, so we quickly set out to transform these workshops from their hands-on, participation-heavy format to a virtual presentation setting. In the past, topics and presenters during these workshops were chosen in partnership with the host community, and were based on that community's specific needs. Now that we were presenting these to a wider audience, they couldn't necessarily be focused on a single community. Instead, we decided that each series of presentations would be based on a theme. A typical Virtual Cultural Heritage workshop this year included three separate Zoom webinars in a day, which maintained the setting of a day-long workshop but allowed for breaks and for participants to come and go based on their availability.

So far, the virtual workshops have grown our average attendance from 30 participants to about 50 participants per session.

We hosted three Virtual Cultural Heritage Workshops in 2020. The first, in May, had presentations following the theme of “Place.” The first presentation was “Place and Placemaking” by Arthur Mehrhoff; the second was a presentation about the Missouri Main Street program by Keith Winge of Missouri Main Street Connection; and the third was a panel discussion about Small Town Tourism, focusing on changes due to COVID-19.

The theme of the second workshop, held in June, was “Documenting Your Personal History,” with presentations by Sean Rost (from The State Historical Society of Missouri [SHSMO]) on Documenting Oral Histories, AJ Medlock (also from SHSMO) on Personal Digital Archives, and Marideth Sisco on Storytelling.

The third and final workshop of the year focused on the theme of Historic Preservation and was held in September. Sean Rost returned for an encore of his well-received

“Documenting Oral Histories” presentation in addition to presentations by Bill Hart (of Missouri Preservation) on Historic Preservation Advocacy and Kelsey Matson (from the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office) on Historic Preservation Strategies for Rural Communities.

We are incredibly thankful to all our partners and presenters who helped us continue to bring Cultural Heritage Workshops to Missourians in 2020, albeit in a different way. While we are thrilled with the growth we’ve seen in the program’s audience, we are excited to get back into Missouri communities to continue building connections and sharing resources. Because of the success of the virtual workshops, we plan to continue to offer workshops both virtually and in person throughout 2021 (pending COVID-19) so we can build off the different benefits each setting offers. We also hope to transfer more of the in-person content to the virtual setting, such as creating downloadable toolkits with handouts and worksheets.

If your community is interested in hosting a workshop in 2021 or 2022, or if you have a topic or presentation suggestion, contact Director of Heritage Programs Caitlin Yager at caitlin@mohumanities.org.



NATIVE HISTORIAN SYMPOSIUM: INDIGENOUS RESURGENCE

MELODY DELMAR
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR, MISSOURI HUMANITIES



JOHN LITTLE

JENNIFER
DENETDALE



In November 2020, Missouri Humanities' Native American Heritage program established the Native Historian Symposium: Indigenous Resurgence. The theme of its first year (held virtually) was "The Future of the Past: The Next Generation of Native Historians." Indigenous Resurgence is our stories as we keep, live, and breathe them now, in a good way. Topics for this inaugural symposium will be geared toward younger historians in the field while recognizing elders, where presentations and discussions are targeted to contemporary audiences and those seeking to create a resurgence in these spaces.

Topics for the symposium are related to Indigenous Resurgence, meaning Native-held stories as they are lived and kept now, in a good way. These topics are based on the paradigms serving as a framework of Indigenous Discourse, such as interconnectedness with the land or with Indigenous Lifeways (ancestral knowledge, oral histories, etc.), Indigenous identity as sovereignty; Indigenous histories lived now, or Futures of the Native historian narrative.

Through careful review and recommendations through their contemporaries, presenters Dr. John

Little, Dr. Jennifer Denetdale, Dr. Angel Hinzo, and Mike Barthelémy (Ph.D. Candidate) were selected for their expertise on topics in these areas.

Dr. John Little (Standing Rock Dakota), started the symposium with his presentation "Spinning Records: Building a Contemporary Indigenous Music Archive." Dr. Little discussed his passion for thinking of the different ways music records are intimately connected to his personal archives as a tool to both Indigenize and challenge traditional Western archives. "When you think about archives, they are oftentimes colonized spaces.... When I say they're colonized, I'm referring to them being written by one side," he said, touching on the historical impact of residential schools when reflected in historical archives. Dr. Little is the co-director of the award-winning film *More Than A Word*. He recently accepted a post-doc fellowship at the University of South Dakota in their Native Studies department and the South Dakota Oral History Center.

Director of the University of New Mexico's Institute for American Indian Research (IFAIR), Dr. Jennifer Denetdale (Navajo) shared her current and ongoing work "Photographs of Diné—The People: Visual Representations of Lived History."



ANGEL HINZO



MIKE BARTHELEMY



Dr. Denetdale’s presentation discussed the photographs of Milton Snow, “a photographer who came to Navajoland (ancestral lands of the Navajo people) between 1937 and 1957 and took over 12,000 images. These historical images become a source for thinking about the construction of Diné and Indigenous histories and intersections of history, capitalism, development, and traditional knowledge.” Photographs taken during this time resulted in a deep and intimate reflection of connection to land, culture, and transition to Westernized standards of economic leadership.

“Restoring Native Histories and Navigating Settler Archives,” presented by Dr. Angel Hinzo (Ho-Chunk, enrolled citizen of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) shared her research in navigating Settler Archives (Westernized approaches to historical archived databases) and her experience in working with them. Dr. Hinzo relays her experiences as a Native researcher through relating to the Indigenous knowledge of Dian Million (Tanana Athabascan), “Those whose subjective history this is must speak it, since its emotional resonance still lives through them; because *we are who we are* because of this history that continuously haunts our storied bodies and lands.”

Honing in on the historical narratives established by colonial settlers serves as an important tool for both restoring and preserving Native histories.

Mike Barthelemy, a Ph.D. student in history at the University of New Mexico, rounded out our symposium with a presentation focused on the history of the Mandan and Hidatsa in the late nineteenth century as a historical case study integrating language, Native oral history, culture, kinship, Native landscapes, and the inclusion of Western disciplines to draw a more complete history of Native people. Mike intricately presents these intersections using his traditional language as a means to Indigenize oral histories, emphasizing that “it’s living out the values that are imparted to us.”

We look forward to continuing this annual event in 2021, as we anticipate a hybrid physical and virtual event in St. Louis. Each year, we strive for our Native Historian Symposium to encompass current events and the future of the field by highlighting leading researchers contributing their valuable expertise. **If you’d like to learn more or stay connected, please visit mohumanities.org.**

Annual Veterans Anthology—

WINNERS FOR PROUD TO BE,

LISA CARRICO

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Missouri Humanities is pleased to announce this year's winners of the annual anthology series, *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, now in its ninth installment. Released on November 11th and published in partnership with Southeast Missouri State University Press, *Proud to Be* features writings by veterans, military personnel, and their families. Missouri Humanities funds a competition for each volume with a prize of \$250 for the top submissions in the following categories: essay, poetry, fiction, interviews, and photography.

Volume 9 is edited by Dr. James Brubaker, Assistant Professor and Director of University Press, with copyediting support from Dr. Susan Swartwout, Professor Emerita of English, Founder and retired Publisher of Southeast Missouri State University Press.

This year's foreword, written by Leonard Adreon, opens with, "I waited sixty years before I said one word about my combat experiences in a war that was called The Forgotten War." Leonard served during WWII in the US Navy in 1944 and 1945. He was then recalled to active duty in 1950, assigned to the First Marine Division, and fought in the Korea War in 1951 and 1952. Leonard is a former contributor to *Proud to Be*, and in 2017, he published the first edition of *Hilltop Doc, A Marine Corpsman Fighting Through the Mud and Blood of the Korean War*. Leonard's piece brings to light the process of healing and breaking silence by sharing war-time experiences through the practice of writing.

This year's volume features 53 contributors, including our first oversea winner currently residing in the United Kingdom. Thanks to all the contributors for putting your words on paper and for having the courage to share your stories, and special thanks to the judges who volunteered their time to read submissions. Without further ado, the *Proud to Be*, Volume 9 winners and judges are as follows:

ESSAY WINNER:**"GOING TO WAR" BY TROY D. ALLAN**

Judge: Elizabeth Engelman holds an M.F.A. from the University of Tampa, an M.A. in Poetry from Lancaster University, and is a recipient of the Marianne Russo Award and a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Grant to Ireland. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times* and *Endeavor Magazine*. Her poems have been published in Yale's literary and art journal LETTERS. She currently resides in Florida and works at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Her debut book, *The Way of the Saints*, will be published in 2021.

POETRY WINNER:**"ROASTING HATCH CHILES"****BY SARAH COLBY**

Judge: Jason Poudrier is a 2018 Pat Tillman Scholar. He is a poet, novelist, essayist, and Purple Heart recipient of the Iraq War. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English Education at the University of Oklahoma and is author of two poetry collections: *Red Fields*, which received the Sangria Summit Society's Poetry of Modern Conflict Award, and the chapbook *In the Rubble at Our Feet*. His poems have appeared in *World Literature Today* and *Blue Streak*. He is a Fiction Winner for *Proud to Be*, Volume 6.

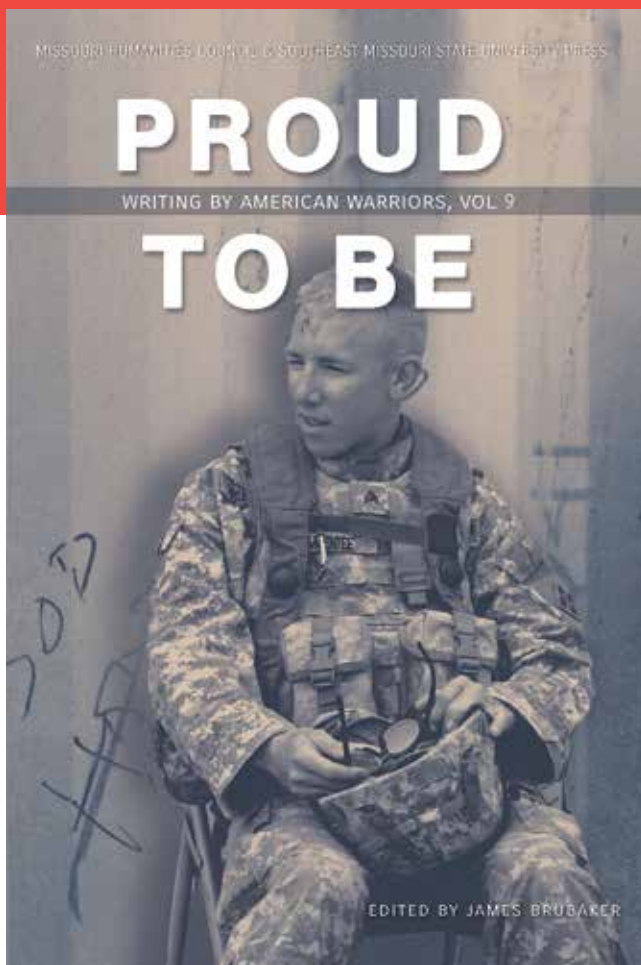
Volume 9

**FICTION WINNER:
“WHAT WON’T STAY
BURIED” BY BILL GLOSE**

Judge: Lyndsey Ellis is a fiction writer and essayist who’s passionate about intergenerational resilience in the Midwest. She was a recipient of the San Francisco Foundation’s Joseph Henry Jackson Literary Award in 2016 and the Money For Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund in 2018. She is a Kimbilio Fiction Fellow and her writing appears in *The Offing*, *Joyland*, *Entropy*, and *Shondaland*. She currently resides in St. Louis and her debut novel, *Bone Broth*, will be published by Hidden Timber Books in spring 2021.

**PHOTOGRAPHY WINNER:
“CH-53D RAMP GUNNER”
BY ANNE BOADEN**

Judge: Lance Thurman has 20-plus years of experience as an international photographer and visual storyteller. He excels in every aspect of professional photography and provides service to hundreds of businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, including but not limited to photographing events, weddings, and portrait sessions. Lance also teaches professional photography workshops.



**INTERVIEW WINNER: “HOMETOWN HERO:
MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT CARROLL W.
BRAXTON” BY CHARLEETAH LANKFORD**

Judge: Mikall Venso is the Military and Firearms Curator for the Missouri Historical Society and Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, Missouri. He has held positions with St. Louis County Parks, Laumeier Sculpture Park, and the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum at Washington University. Prior to his museum career, Mikall was a photojournalist for 18 years and worked for several newspapers across America. He earned a B.A. in print journalism from Kansas State University and an M.A. in history and museum studies certification from the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

For more information on the anthology or to purchase *Proud to Be*, Volumes 1–9, please visit mohumanities.org/programs/proud-to-be-anthology-series. To make submissions to Volume 10 before the May 2, 2021 deadline, please visit semopress.com.

Missouri Humanities' Veterans Writing Workshops Go Virtual

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS
PROGRAMS, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

In partnership with libraries and veteran support organizations, Missouri Humanities (MH) has been hosting Veterans Writing Workshops across the state to cultivate the writing skills of veterans, military personnel, and their families. With the emergence of COVID-19 and ongoing safety precautions, MH quickly redirected and moved the writing workshops online.

MH hosted its first Virtual Veterans Writing Workshop in mid-April with St. Louis facilitators Kent Walker, an Army combat veteran, and his wife, Stacey Walker, a university professor. They both hold M.F.A.s in writing and have been facilitating the St. Louis workshop for several years. As a professor, Stacey was already adjusting to teaching online, and they both enthusiastically jumped at the chance to facilitate the Veterans Writing Workshop via Zoom.

While slight adjustments were made, we kept many of the same parameters of the in-person workshop—free of charge and taking place over several sessions in a small-group setting. We wanted

to ensure that the facilitators (and guest instructors) could still guide participants through writing exercises with meaningful and individualized feedback.

While many of the participants joked about the lack of free coffee and donuts and endured the occasional technical difficulty, the overall experience was positive. In reviewing evaluations, the virtual workshop successfully accomplished the goals of an in-person workshop: to improve writing skills, build camaraderie in an inclusive space, and encourage a writing lifestyle for participants to improve overall health and well-being.

MH went on to host a second Virtual Veterans Writing Workshop in the early summer in collaboration the St. Louis Public Library, and another one in the fall with the Kansas City Veterans Writing Team. Both have been longstanding partners in providing creative writing opportunities for veterans in their regions.

The Kansas City Veterans Writing Team (KCVWT), a program supported by Moral Injury Association of America (MIAA), provides learning opportunities, tools, and confidence to military veterans and their family members. By using reading and writing exercises to explore deployment,



war-time, and post-deployment experiences—fear, boredom, anxieties, thrills, brutality, tears, and beauty—attendees learn how to write their stories in compelling and healing ways. The team’s Executive Director, Marine Corps Veteran, and Youth Programs Coordinator at VFW National Headquarters, Nick Lopez, had this to say:

“For several years, MH and the KCVWT have presented in-person performances and multi-week writing workshops at the Kansas City Public Library–Plaza Branch, and this year, we did not let COVID get in the way! The workshop consisted of three sessions—Writing to See, Writing to Connect, and Writing to Hear. The quality of the instructors, Trish Reeves, Aisha Sharif, and Sam Zeff, who are all KC-based writing professionals, allowed for learning opportunities and, surprisingly, a highly engaged group of remote attendees.... To kick-off the workshop, we produced a virtual Veterans Reader’s Theater featuring six members of the Vets Writing Team. Presented live on Zoom, and directed by George Pettigrew, a team member and US Navy veteran, the reading comprised original prose and poetry representing life before, during, and after military service. With the support of MH, both events were a huge hit, and we were even able to reach new attendees in the Ozarks, California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Virginia.”

It’s an understatement to say that in the “days of COVID” we miss the dynamics of face-to-face workshops, but we have been grateful to still convene veteran writers. In the words of one of our workshop participants, “This is just one more way to connect with people during this ‘new normal’ period of time. I loved seeing people who were in the workshop last year and enjoyed seeing new faces.” MH could not agree more! Over the course of the three workshops, we served close to 50 participants, both new and returning, and as we look into 2021, we will continue connecting veterans, military personnel, and their families to one another and to their writing, whether it be in-person or virtually.

To learn more about our Veterans Writing Workshops, visit: mohumanities.org/veterans-writing-workshops.

Smithsonian Water Exhibition Winds Its Way Through Missouri

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

In the words of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, “Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it.” Though COVID-19 has provided us with a few challenges, with a little rearranging and flexibility, we were still successful in bringing the Smithsonian exhibition *Water/Ways* to Missouri.

In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street (MoMs) Initiative, the exhibition explores water’s effects on landscape, settlement, and migration and its impact on culture and spirituality. It highlights contemporary and historical issues impacting Americans’ relationships with water—locally, nationally, and within a larger context.

In partnership with St. Joseph Museums, Inc., Remington Nature Center, and the Missouri Department of Conservation, *Water/Ways* opened on July 29th at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, a historic, Gothic-style mansion overlooking the Missouri River. According to Sara Wilson, Executive Director of St. Joseph Museums, “the setting was beautiful, and we were able to augment the exhibit with water-themed items in our personal collection and bring them out on display in novel ways.”

From St. Joseph, this multifaceted and interactive exhibit went on to the Discovery Center of Springfield and then to The Kellerman Foundation for Historic Preservation in Cape

Girardeau before traveling to sites in Linn and Kirksville, Missouri.

Hosting of the exhibition was based on an application process, and The Kellerman Foundation was a perfect fit, seeing that it is located near a flood gate entrance along the Mississippi River. Dr. Mary Ann Kellerman, Founder of The Kellerman Foundation, explained: “as an organization that fosters the protection and preservation of historic architecture and the stories behind it, we felt that the Museum on Main Street criteria fit us perfectly. Our town has an extensive history revolving around Mississippi River transportation due to the presence of the Erlbacher family and their businesses—Missouri Dry Dock and Missouri Barge line.” Kellerman went on to say, “We have developed an extensive exhibit on the Erlbacher river boat history. It’s a three-generation story where we have completed interviews with one of the remaining Erlbacher family members and have been allowed access to their company’s historical records and photographs. We are excited to educate the general public about the families’ innovative and grand history.”

In addition to the Erlbacher display, the Foundation held a COVID-friendly *Water/Ways* kickoff event in the museum parking lot featuring a dozen exhibitors, including fishermen, kayakers, a watercolor artist, a demonstration on erosion, a boat display, a shipwreck

book author, and a church group doing clean water projects overseas. They have also offered a series of rotating, local-specific exhibits—from Mississippi River–related boat replicas, art from Missouri artist M. Charles Rhinehart, to a community water-related photography and art competition for adults and children.

By way of all of the complimentary programming, Dr. Kellerman goes on to say, “*Water/Ways* has become a catalyst for local groups to share their collections, interests, and activities and has strengthened our relationships with other history and art-related entities. We have had collaboration with the Conservation Department, Parks and Recreation, The Glenn House, the River Heritage Museum, Southeast Missouri State University, Old Town Cape, and the local Chamber of Commerce.”

Dr. Kellerman concludes, “These programs have strengthened the quality of the educational material that we are able to offer, have broadened our grassroots interest, and have inspired community involvement. And even in the time of COVID, when masks are required and social distancing applies, the local people are thrilled to see a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit in our area. The broad approach of the *Water/Ways* has been a perfect way to assist people in our region to be more aware of the importance of water in our daily lives.”



Water/Ways has been made possible in Missouri by Missouri Humanities.

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

Water/Ways was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org) and the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul (www.smm.org), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, Sao Paulo, Brazil; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; San Diego Natural History Museum; and Science Centre Singapore with PUB Singapore.



WATER/WAYS HOST SITE LOCATIONS

[St. Joseph Museums, Inc. / Remington Nature Center](#)
St. Joseph, MO

[Discovery Center of Springfield](#)
Springfield, MO

[The Kellerman Foundation for Historic Preservation](#)
Cape Girardeau, MO

[State Technical College of Missouri](#)
Linn, MO

[A.T. Still Memorial Library at A.T. Still University](#)
Kirksville, MO

WATER/WAYS PROGRAM PARTNER SITES

[Aurora High School Youth Empowerment Project](#)
Aurora, MO

[St. Charles City-County Library District](#)
St. Peters, MO

The exhibit will travel throughout Missouri through spring 2021. To learn more, visit mohumanities.org.

GRANTS AWARDED *August 1, 2020 - November 1, 2020*

GRANT DESCRIPTION	ORGANIZATION	COUNTY
Missouri Main Street Connection Bicentennial Passport 2021	Missouri Main Street Connection	Taney
COCA Presents Speaker Series	COCA	Saint Louis
Dyani White Hawk	Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art	Jackson
Moscow Mills Bicentennial	City of Moscow Mills	Greene
A Portrait of the Ozarks: Oral History Interview in Shannon County	Missouri State University Research Administration	Greene
Funeral Folkways in Plagues and Pandemics	Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City	Jackson
Missouri Bicentennial Music Celebration	Missouri State University	Greene
Scholarly Ambassador Series	Ragtag Film Society	Boone
The Traveling Tablet	Laura Ingalls Wilder Home & Museum	Wright
Show Me Missouri: Examining the State's History Through 200 Objects	Curators of the University of Missouri–Kansas City	Jackson
Donald Pharis: Conservationist, Humanitarian, Innovator	Friends of the Pharis Farm	Clay
Living Questions	Project Lab St. Louis	Saint Louis City
River Styx Reading Series	Big River Association (River Styx)	Saint Louis City
Public Access to a Private Neoplatonic Library: Digitizing the Johnson Library Card Catalog	Missouri State University Research Administration	Greene
Big Stories from a Small House: Reaching New Audiences	Sappington House Museum	Saint Louis
American Conflicts in Uniform	Cass County Historical Society, Inc.	Cass
Confluences: Religious Diversity in Missouri, The First 200 Years	Curators of University of Missouri–Columbia	Cass
Junior Historian Activity for St. Louis County Parks	St. Louis County Parks	Saint Louis
An LGBTQ History Month of Healing with Humanities with The Justice Fleet	Saint Louis University	Saint Louis City
Liberty African American Legacy Memorial	Clay County African American Legacy, Inc.	Kansas City
Saving Our History, Sharing Our Story: Will Mayfield College 1878–1934 Video	Will Mayfield Heritage Foundation	Bollinger
Eight Days in April: The Story of the 1968 Kansas City Uprising Opening Event	University of Missouri–Kansas City Foundation	Jackson
Monument / Anti-Monument	Creative Exchange Lab	Saint Louis City

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*Complimentary books include:

- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann
- *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past* by Jennifer Tegee with Nikola Sellmair
- *Yesterday* by David Douglas Duncan



NEXT ISSUE
FALL 2021

Missouri
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