

# ARTS ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Upcoming Events: Sept. 14-Oct. 14 "The Missouri Immigrant Experience" Exhibit  
Sept. 17 (6-8 PM) Opening Reception for the 2015 Ozarks Studies Symposium,  
Oct. 16 "Sound of Music" 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sing Along Movie & WPCA 40th Anniversary Celebration  
Nov. 8, (2:30PM) Community Messiah Sing  
Nov. 24-Dec. 20 "Michael Roberts Remembered" exhibit—reception Dec. 12 (2-4 PM)

## "MISSOURI IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE" EXHIBIT TO HIGHLIGHT 2016 SYMPOSIUM OPENING RECEPTION



El Chico Bakery on Cherokee Street in St. Louis by Missouri-based artist Juan Montana

The Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (MIRA) photographic exhibition, "The Missouri Immigrant Experience," explores the lives and history of Missouri's immigrants and refugees, and will be featured at the opening reception for the ninth annual Ozarks Studies Symposium on Thursday, September 17, from 6-8 p.m. on the mezzanine at the West Plains Civic Center.

The exhibit features the works of four Missouri-based artists, focusing on their own communities, as well as historical images. From immigrant workers newly arrived in Missouri at the turn of the last century, to new refugee families celebrating old and new traditions in their adopted home, "The Missouri Immigrant Experience" reveals the depth of our communities' immigrant roots.

"We are pleased to once again participate in this reception for the symposium and hope the exhibit will spark many discussions in line with this year's theme, 'The Lure of the Ozarks,'" said Paula Speraneo, president of the West Plains Council on the Arts.

The reception is admission free and sponsored by the West Plains Council on the Arts with financial support from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

## Ozarks Studies Symposium— "The Lure of the Ozarks" Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19, 2015

The theme of the ninth annual Ozarks Studies Symposium is "The Lure of the Ozarks." All presentations will be held at the West Plains Civic Center, are free of charge, and everyone is invited to attend.

The symposium will feature presentations by about 20 scholars, writers, artists and musicians who will explore such topics as anti-Semitism in the Ozarks; recent archaeological finds in the region; the career of illustrator, artist and writer Rose Cecil O'Neill, creator of popular Kewpie comic characters; the exclusion of the Ozarks from the literary canon; African Diaspora in the Ozarks; a commune established by the Dan Blocker Singers; the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970s; and the career of folklorist Vance Rudolph among others.

Dr. Phil Howerton, assistant professor of English at MSU-WP and symposium coordinator, said the symposium reflects MSU-WP's commitment to serve as a link between the predominantly rural region it serves and the world of higher education and scholarship, facilitating communication between these two communities and fostering a mutually beneficial relationship.



### Keynote Address: The Lure of the Ozarks: What's the Bait and Who's the Fish?

The symposium's keynote address will be given at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, by Dr. Steve Wiegenstein, associate dean for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies at Columbia College. He is the author of two novels, "Slant of Light," which was the runner-up for the 2012 Langum Prize in American historical fiction and a finalist for the 2014 Balcones Fiction Prize; and "This Old World," which was a finalist for the M.M. Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction. *Continued on Page 2*

FALL, 2015

**At the Ozarks Studies Symposium:**

**“Mountain Modernity and Archeology in the Arkansas Ozarks: A Case Study from Van Winkle's Mill”** - Dr. Jamie C. Brandon, *Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station Archeologist and Assoc. Research Prof.*, University of Arkansas. This presentation will provide an overview of archeological investigations at Van Winkle's Mill, the site of a late-nineteenth century sawmill community in the Arkansas Ozarks.

**“Peach Fever”** - Dr. Susan Edens, *Asst. Prof. of Practice in Communications*, University of the Ozarks. This short documentary film will present the story of a five-generation peach-growing family. The Morgan family has operated a successful orchard on the same stretch of land at the base of the Ozark Mountains for over one hundred years. This is the art and science of agriculture, but it is also a lesson in history and land stewardship.

**“Literary Lure in the Ozarks?”** - Charity Gibson, *Asst. Prof. of English*, College of the Ozarks. The Ozarks have received very little attention from major authors. Therefore, when looking at Ozark literature, one must realize that its absence from the canon may be perceived as a political statement about the values and ideologies of the Ozarks. This presentation will explore the literary attention given to or denied to the Ozarks.

**“A Place of Restoration, Recreation, and Safety: The Ozarks in *The Shepherd of the Hills*, *The Bald-Knobbers* and *The Witness*”**- Dr. John J. Han, *Prof. of English and Creative Writing and Humanities Chair*, Missouri Baptist University; and Dr. Aya Kubota, *Prof/ of American Literature*, Dept. of Intercultural Studies, Bunka Gakuen University, Tokyo. This presentation explores the enduring appeal of the Ozarks region by examining three popular novels set in the highland region of the central United States.

**“Re-Creation in the Ozarks: Sue Hubbell's *A Country Year*”** - Dr. Brian Hardman, *Assoc. Prof. of English*, University of the Ozarks. *A Country Year* is considered a contemporary classic in the genre of nature writing and nature writing plays a special role in Ozarks literature. This will connect Hubbell's book to the tradition of nature writing and explain how she is able to come to the Ozarks and "re-create" her life as a farmer and beekeeper.

**“Bootlegger's Ballad and Hard Travelin' Man: Studies in Woodcut”** - Neal Harrington, *Gallery Director and Associate Professor of Art Printmaking*, Arkansas Technical University. Two series of works will be presented to explore the themes of the human condition and to show that the timeless quest for oneself is the truly the eternal struggle.

**“Readings from *Border States*”** - Dr. Jane Hoogestraat, *Professor of English and Literature Coordinator*, Missouri State University. Dr. Hoogestraat will be reading from her recently published book, *Border States*, a collection of poems set in her native state of South Dakota and now Missouri.

**“Seven Images, Seven Poems”** - Dr. Phillip Howerton, *Associate Professor of English*, Missouri State University-West Plains. Seven Ozarks-based poems will be presented, and each will be accompanied by a photograph related to the poem.

**“What brought Frazier Glenn Miller to the Ozarks?”** - Dr. Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, *Senior Instructor of English*, Missouri State University. This paper examines what drew Glenn Frazier Miller to the region and the reactions of both the Jewish and non-Jewish metro-Springfield communities to the anti-Semitic violence he perpetrated.

**“The Dan Blocker Singers and an Ozarks Utopia”** - Dr. Thomas Kersen, *Associate Professor of Sociology*, Jackson State University. In the late 1960s, a nationally known singing group, The Dan Blocker Singers, moved to the Arkansas Ozarks to live communally. After a series of misfortunes as well as hostile local citizens they left the Ozarks in the early 1970s.

**“Open and Sheltered Sites: Late Prehistoric Adaptations along the Western Flanks of the Ozarks”** - Dr. Neal H. Lopinot, *Director of the Center for Archaeological Research and a Full Research Professor*, Missouri State University. Archaeological research during the past 20 years at sites along the western edge of the Ozarks and dating to ca. A.D. 1300–1500 has resulted in the recovery of much new subsistence information.

**The Saltiest of the Old-Timers Are Dead Now”** - Kim McCully-Mobley, *Adjunct Professor*, Drury University. This presentation will be an overview of the career of folklorist Vance Randolph and will include aspects of the language of the Ozarks hillfolk, the Ozarks oral tradition and its connections to Beowulf, the need to collect and preserve stories, modes of storytelling today and the role of music in documenting the topics and themes of the past.

**“Music Panel”** - Dr. Ed McKinney, *Emeritus Professor of History*, Missouri State University-West Plains. Dr. McKinney and a group of old-time musicians will discuss and perform a variety of Ozarks folk tunes.

**“Deep Revolution in the Arkansas Ozarks”** - Dr. Jared M. Phillips, *Adjunct Professor of History*, University of Arkansas. As the nation attempted to recover from the chaos and anger of Vietnam and the backlash against the Great Society during the 1970s, the counterculture began seeking for new ways to live out the Aquarian Revolution.

**“The Big Eddy Site: A Deep, Stratified, Multicomponent Site in the Sac River Valley of Southwest Missouri”** - Jack H. Ray, *Assistant director of the Center for Archaeological Research and assistant research professor*, Missouri State University. Six seasons of field work at the Big Eddy site produced voluminous data on the archaeology of the lower Sac River valley situated on the border between the eastern Plains and western Woodlands.

**“Rose Cecil O'Neill: Inspirations from Her Ozarks Bonniebrook Homestead”** - Susan Scott, *President*, Bonniebrook Historical Society (BHS) Board of Directors and *Acting Volunteer Curator*, Bonniebrook Historical Society Museum and Fine Art Gallery. Ms. Scott will provide a brief biography of artist Rose Cecil O'Neill and will explore how O'Neill's art and writings were inspired by the countryside and folklore of the Ozarks.

**“Hardwood Hop: The Songs of Eric Bogwalker”** - Eric Tumminia, *Adjunct Professor of English*, Missouri State University-West Plains. Bicycle treks in the Pacific Northwest collide with Appalachian anti-coal activism in the songs of Eric Bogwalker, and the Guatemalan Highlands high-five the Ozark Mountains. Eric will give a brief, five-minute introduction and artist's statement and then perform a few songs with the accompaniment of a small band.

**“Readings from *The Teeth of Souls*”**- Steve Yates, *Assistant Director and Marketing Director*, University Press of Mississippi and *Author of *Morkan's Quarry* and *Some Kinds of Love**. The author will read selections from his recently published *The Teeth of Souls*, a sequel to *Morkan's Quarry*. *The Teeth of the Souls* tells the story of a marriage betrayed, a lifelong and secret love and an Ozarks city riven by an Easter lynching.

Schedule subject to change—full, updated schedule available at

<http://ozarksymposium.wp.missouristate.edu/Schedule.htm>



"Godiva", by Michael Roberts

## THE LIFE AND ART OF MICHAEL ROBERTS

In memory of artist Michael Roberts and to honor the impact his life and art had on our area, West Plains Council on the Arts invites everyone to view a multi-media exhibition of pieces of his artwork, loaned from private collections. The exhibit will be displayed at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from November 23 to December 20, 2015. The Gallery, on the mezzanine, is open to the public during regular Civic Center hours.

Michael Roberts was a well-known and much liked local artist who worked in a wide range of media. When he died in West Plains, MO 25 years ago he was working as a Special Education teacher. Before moving to West Plains, he had also worked as an art teacher for 10 years on an Indian reservation in Arizona. He was the first in the area to die of HIV/Aids; his work is included on the original Aids Quilt.

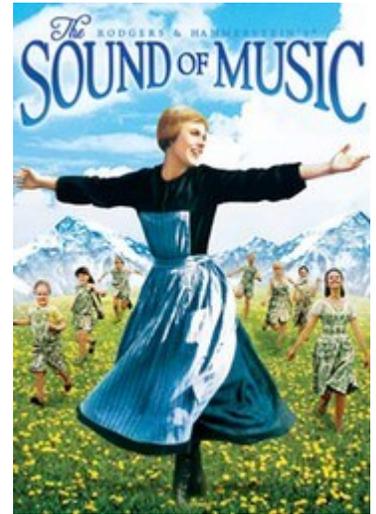
Roberts was best known for his quirky drawings, elaborate horsewear for Arabian horses, and pastel drawings for the local Wesson Ranch. At least six of the paintings commissioned by the Wesson Ranch will be included. Roberts' work is known to include drawings in pencil, watercolor, oil, crayon, stained glass, and fabric. On display will be whimsical pencil drawings titled "Don Quixote," "Of Eagles," "Dawt," "Icarus," and "Godiva." The exhibit will also include stories and anecdotes written by those who knew him and were influenced by him. His children have endorsed the exhibit and will be providing some of the loaned items.

If you have a work you would agree to have displayed, please contact exhibit coordinator Gene Weinbeck at 417-274-0876, or by email at [gene.weinbeck@gmail.com](mailto:gene.weinbeck@gmail.com)

WPCA will host an Exhibit Reception on Saturday, December 12, from 2-4 p.m., in the Gallery at the Center. All are invited to attend, view and discuss these wonderful pieces. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the West Plains Civic Center and West Plains Council on the Arts, with partial funding provided by Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

## SOUND OF MUSIC SINGALONG

The "Sound of Music" is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a special singalong showing of the film will be held October 16, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the West Plains Civic Center Theater. This performance is billed as "a wildly fun, interactive experience for audiences of all ages."



The classic film will be shown with on-screen lyrics so that everyone can sing along. Prop bags for the special scenes and a costume contest complete the festivities. Attendees can dress up as anything represented in the film..... or not, as they choose. It really adds to the fun.

The Story - Maria (Julie Andrews) joins the von Trapp family as a governess in Austria, right before the Nazi occupation. She teaches the von Trapp children music, while also falling in love with the Captain von Trapp. A story about love, music, joy, and fighting for what is right, *The Sound of Music* is a film for all ages. Sing along with Julie! Wave your Edelweiss! And join in earnest choruses of My Favorite Things!

The film is admission free and co-sponsored by the West Plains Civic Center and the West Plains Council on the Arts, with financial support from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.



**West Plains Council on the Arts**  
**40 Years serving our arts community**

West Plains Council on the Arts became official in 1975, and has continuously served the West Plains arts community since that time – community theater and performing arts, visual and traditional arts, and the Old Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival with its many facets, have all benefited from the efforts of countless volunteers over the past 40 years.

A celebration will be hosted by WPCA board members in conjunction with the performance of The "Sound of Music" singalong October 16, 2015, in the West Plains Civic Center Theater. Join us before or after the film to celebrate. Scrapbooks will be available for review, organizers will have photos from the West Plains Daily Quill archives, and refreshments for all.

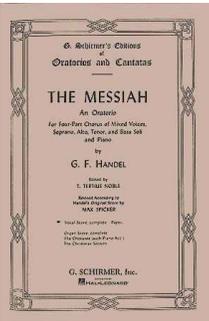
WPCA NEWSLETTER  
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## COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING



West Plains Council on the Arts invites everyone to a Community Messiah Sing directed by Larry Dame, scheduled for Sunday, November 8, 2015, 2:30p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 112 Aid Avenue in West Plains, Missouri.

The Christmas portion of "Messiah", using the G. Schirmer score, will be performed. The audience is invited to sing along in these favorite Messiah choruses.

Practice CD's and scores are available. Call Kathleen Morrissey at 417-293-7751 if interested. Bring your own score, or borrow one of ours.

Open seating; no advance reservations required. Non-singers are also welcome to listen and enjoy!

Sponsored by West Plains Council on the Arts, with partial funding provided by Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

West Plains Council on the Arts board members include Cathy Proffitt-Boys, Carol Bruce, Kathy Campbell, Terri Combs, Judy Harden, Marideth Sisco, and Paula Speraneo, and volunteer administrator Kathleen Morrissey.