

# ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Ozarks Studies Symposium—September 19-21, 2013—"Survival in the Ozarks"

Gallery At the Center to feature Sessions English Memorial Brasses Oct. 15-Nov. 10

Community Messiah Sing November 3, 2:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church, West Plains



**PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR THE  
OZARKS STUDIES SYMPOSIUM  
RECEPTION**

**What do ghosts, wine and cheese, and Ozarks stories have in common?**

**Find out on Thursday, September 19th at 6 PM when Judge and Mrs. David Evans host a reception at their historic family home, 1006 Grace Avenue, West Plains, to welcome you and the presenters to the Ozarks Studies Symposium.**

**From the home, all are invited to tour the Oak Lawn Cemetery with Dorothea Reavis, local historian.**

Reception Sponsored by Trillium Trust and the West Plains Council on the Arts, with support from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

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## **Ozarks Studies Symposium— Survival In the Ozarks Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, 2013 West Plains Civic Center**

"Survival in the Ozarks" is the theme for the seventh annual Ozarks Studies Symposium. The event celebrates the unique culture of the Ozarks by providing presentations and performances by representatives of the academic world and the public sector that address various aspects of life in the Ozarks. It is being sponsored by the Missouri State University-West Plains academic affairs office, and the Missouri Humanities Council. Admission is free and open to all.

Presentations were requested to include the hardscrabble nature of making a living from the land, surviving natural disasters like the Joplin tornado, surviving in a region that is heavily stereotyped, surviving in an economically depressed region, surviving as a minority in a fairly homogeneous region or the survival of folkways and traditions in a broader culture.

Community members, scholars, professionals and students representing any discipline or field were invited to propose presentations consistent with this theme. For purposes of this symposium, "the Ozarks" is defined broadly to encompass much of Missouri and Arkansas and adjacent portions of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Illinois.

Full schedule available at <http://ozarksymposium.wp.missouristate.edu/Schedule.htm>

**Keynote Address:** The symposium's keynote address, *Readings from Some Kinds of Love: Stories* will be given at 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 20, by Steve Yates. Born and reared in Springfield, Missouri, Steve Yates is an M.F.A. graduate from the creative writing program at the University of Arkansas. He is the winner of the 2012 Juniper Prize in fiction and in April 2013, University of Massachusetts Press published his collection *Some Kinds of Love: Stories*. This April his novella, "Sandy and Wayne" won the inaugural Knickerbocker Prize and will be published in *Big Fiction Magazine*. His novel, *Morkan's Quarry*, was published in May 2010 by Moon City Press. In *Best American Short Stories 2010*, Richard Russo named one of Yates's stories among the "Distinguished Stories of 2009." His fiction has won two fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and one from the Arkansas Arts Council. Portions of Morkan's Quarry first appeared in *Missouri Review*, *Ontario Review*, and *South Carolina Review*. Yates has published short stories in *TriQuarterly*, *Southwest Review*, *Turnstile*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Laurel Review*, *Chariton Review*, *Valley Voices*, and many other journals. He is assistant director / marketing director at University Press of Mississippi in Jackson, and lives in Flowood with his wife, Tammy.



Sometimes the opposite of love is not hate, but depravity. In these twelve stories set in the Missouri Ozarks, New Orleans, and Mississippi, Steve Yates reveals lovers clawing back from precipices of destructiveness, obsessiveness, cruelty, vanity, or greed. They seek escape and yet find new barriers, realizing true love may not be at all what they imagined. From the Ozarks of the 1830s, when locals perceive doomsday in a historic starfall, to the near future at an all-night slow-pitch softball tournament when Armageddon looms yet again, these stories chart the dark side of love, the ties that bind families, and the sweet complications of human desire.

**At the Ozarks Studies Symposium, also on Friday, September 20, 2013**

**Katherina Camenzind Post: Surviving Prohibition in the Ozarks - Michael Dougan**, renowned historical author, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arkansas Historical Association.

In 1929, Katherine (Camenzind) Post, was sentenced to serve 18 months in a federal prison in West Virginia after pleading guilty under the Volstead Act of. The mother of 16 children was convicted (but later pardoned by the governor) after admitting to the sale of two quarts of homemade whiskey. When the 18th amendment was repealed, Katherine established a winery.

**Remembering Yonder Mountain: Storytelling as Cultural Survival - Brian Hardman**, Associate Professor of English at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas

Presentation highlights the significance of storytelling in and for the Ozarks region and how such storytelling preserves cultural history and allows for a marginalized culture and region to maintain traditional values and beliefs, while still negotiating the broader world.

**Survival During the War Years: Reading and Discussion of *Slant of Light* and *This Old World* - Steve Wiegenstein**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri

Wiegenstein's debut novel, *Slant of Light*, (runner-up for the 2012 Langum Prize in American Historical Fiction), tells the story of a fictional group of utopian colonists who settle in the Missouri Ozarks in the 1850's. *Bookish Habits* described it as "an original and engaging story of idealism not quashed by the need to survive, but transformed into something both real and hopeful."

**Panel on musical instrument making in the Ozarks - Cecil Carroll, Bryan Spence, Marge Slayton, Jessica Collins, and Dean VonAllmen, and Dr. Ed McKinney, moderator.**

Each panel member who makes instruments now will discuss why they do it, and describe some of the problems they encounter in the process, including sources of good quality wood, and adhesives used. Those who have collections will tell what they know about the maker of their instruments, and how they personally regard that maker as important to local history. Demonstrations will be featured.

**Brief discussion of the Ozarks Association - Dr. Brooks Blevins**, Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University in Springfield. Blevins is the author of five books. His most recent book is *Ghost of the Ozarks: Murder and Memory in the Upland South*.

**Survival of Memory in Jewish Springfield - Mara Cohen Ioannides** Mara W. Cohen Ioannides has taught in the English Dept. at Missouri State University for twenty years, and has researched Jews of the Ozarks for 15 years.

Presentation will examine not only the differences between the Jewish community of Springfield, Missouri's memory versus the available historical documents, but to also see how immigration to and emigration from this community affects this communal memory.

**Preserving the Ozarks Folk Heritage in Arkansas: The W.K. McNeil Collection - Jeffrey Lewellen**, Archivist, Arkansas History Commission (The Arkansas State Archives) in Little Rock, Arkansas, with emphasis on Arkansas Music in all its forms. Roughly five years ago, the History Commission received the collection of Bill McNeil, the folklorist at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. Dr. McNeil not only worked with folk and bluegrass music, but also authored a book on African American Gospel and collected large amounts of material on Western (Cowboy) music.

**Resilience of the Russellites: Religious Repression in the Rural Ozarks, 1918-1943 - Dr. Stephen A. Smith**, Professor of Communication at the University of Arkansas.

Religion has traditionally played a significant role in the social and cultural life of the Ozarks. However, tolerance and religious liberty, have been less privileged in practice. While the Jehovah's Witnesses now have Kingdom Halls throughout the region, their experience as the repressed "other" in the region during the early 20th century provides an example for examining values in conflict.

**Presentations on Saturday, September 21, 2013**

**Women Pentecostal Preachers and Two Ozarks Rock Masonry Churches Built for Them -Barbara Williams**, artist and per course faculty member at Missouri State University -West Plains.

Women's involvement in the movement will be traced and compared to men's involvement, and to women's place in other Christian denominations. Will feature photographs of Pentecostal preachers, Zella Green and Islet Oakes, and the rock churches which their families built.

**The May 2009 Derecho - Denise Henderson Vaughn**, completing her Master's degree at the Missouri School of Journalism, with 20-years as a journalist. Denise Henderson Vaughn specialized in environmental stories, winning awards and a reputation for in-depth coverage.

On May 8, 2009, a "derecho," a long-lived, straight-moving storm, , knocked down an estimated 100,000 acres of timber and it tracked some 1000 miles from Kansas into Illinois. But in this area, the ecosystems and the people who depend on them suffered a dramatic, long-lasting jolt. The adaptations and survival responses of the Ozark forest industry in light of these circumstances are an integral part of the derecho story.



**Symposium, Saturday, September 21, 2013 (continued)**

**L.L. Broadfoot: Ozark Visionary Oral Historian - Alex Primm.** Alex Primm has rarely left the Ozarks since childhood. A veteran of Vietnam, Alex has also been a community organizer, newspaper reporter, regional planning commissioner, Vietnam vet and the founding curator of the Ozark Agriculture Museum at Meramec Spring Park, and has conducted oral history projects for public and private clients during the last 30 years.

**Double, Double, Toil and Trouble: Hill Folks--A Resourceful People - Kim McCully-Mobley, M.Ed.,** self-described cowgirl-historian-storyteller.

From literal looks from the past at witches and fortune tellers, to home remedies of the Depression era, to the mode of "going green" today, Ozarkers have always been resourceful, creative, innovative and tenacious. The Witch of Paxton Mountain in Carroll County, Arkansas, played a role in local lore and heritage in the early 1900's. We will also look at a handful of home remedies with roots in science and the recent trend to find clean, non-toxic items to clean, cure and help families save money and be efficient and effective at the same time.

**Ozark Moonshiners and Government Authorities: A Look at a Deadly Raid in the Mountains of Pope County, Arkansas, 1897 - J. Blake Perkins, Ph.D.** candidate in history at West Virginia University and an adjunct professor at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

In 1897, the *New York Times* and several newspapers throughout Arkansas reported on the tragic killing of two U.S. deputy marshals by moonshiners deep in the rugged Ozarks of northeastern Pope County. The presentation seeks to probe beneath the stereotypes and myths surrounding mountain moonshiners and their interactions with and attitudes toward government authority. A close look at this deadly affair in Pope County in 1897, however, reveals that the practical necessities and burdens of a modern commercial-oriented political economy in the Ozarks had more to do with moonshiners' defiance of government authorities than some exceptional anti-government mountain culture.

**Readings from his work in progress, *Bloodroot* -Phillip Howerton,** Associate Professor of English at Missouri State University – West Plains

Howerton will read, with brief commentary, a selection of poems from his work in progress, *Bloodroot*. These poems engage numerous aspects of the theme of survival in the Ozarks, the demise of the small and independent farmer, the inability of outsiders to fully understand native culture, the loss of respect for manual labor, the loss of connection to folkways and traditions, and the diminished sense of place.

**Village Herbalists of the Ozarks: The Golden Light Herbal Study Group as a Model for Community-Integrated Health Care - Sasha Daucus,** master herbalist and energy healer.

In 1994, Sasha Daucus established an herbal study group to help guide students in applying herbal healing in their own lives, and to create a structure where they could exchange knowledge and support. This model was so successful that the group has run non-stop since then. Sasha will give an overview of her personal experiences in teaching and some educational options being considered by Trillium Trust.

**Of Parents and Parenting – Family Creation and Survival in the Ozarks of the Progressive Era - Charles Baclawski, Ph.D.** Candidate at Arkansas State University, Heritage Studies.

This presentation will provide insights into the establishment and maintenance of the family unit in the Ozark and Arkansas River Valley during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The presentation will be based on the observations from the journal of William Jenkins, a Mormon Missionary who served the area from February 1908 through January of 1910.

**30,000 Year View of Marginality in the Ozarks: From the Pleistocene to the Depression - Lou Wehmer,** community historian and archivist from Willow Springs, Missouri. Wehmer specializes in Civil War History in Missouri. His presentation will give a fast glimpse at who and how people survived the environmental, social, and economic changes of the region.

## GALLERY AT THE CENTER TO FEATURE SESSIONS ENGLISH MEMORIAL BRASSES

Lee Burrow with memorial brass of "Sir George Speke" Dowlish Wake Somerset. In armour, c. 1528



The "Sessions English Memorial Brasses" will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from October 15 through November 9, 2013. The collection consists of twelve brass memorial plaques, facsimiles of originals that are housed in English churches, and depict a 350-year period of England's history. Each piece in the Sessions Collection was either acquired or commissioned by Dr. Kenneth Sessions while he was living in England and together, represented a cross-section of brasses found in English churches. The facsimiles were molded on the original brass in the church to give them the exact size and character of the originals. The replicas could be safely rubbed to produce an exact result. It is a simple and beautiful, ages-old art form, easily managed by everyone. Sessions brought his collection to Ava, Missouri, where they subsequently went on loan to the Ava Fine Art Gallery and Museum. When Dr. Sessions left Ava for a home in Waco, Texas, he transferred ownership of the collection to Lee Burrow, president of the Ava Art Guild and co-owner with her spouse Chuck of the Ava Fine Art Gallery, Three Sisters Store, and the Ava Theater. Under Lee's auspices, the brasses were exhibited for a number of years at the Upstairs Gallery, where many children and adults had the opportunity to view the extraordinary artwork and make brass rubbings of their own to take home.

In January of this year, Lee and Chuck made their new home in West Plains, and with them, the Sessions English Memorial Brasses found a new home with the West Plains Council on the Arts.

The WPCA will host a Meet-the-Artist and Thank-You reception for Lee and Chuck Burrow on Saturday, October 26 from 10 am to noon, in the Gallery at the Center. Lee will share background information on the Sessions Collection and lead a hands-on workshop on making brass rubbings for children and adults.

Brass rubbings workshops for school groups will be offered. Those interested in arranging such a workshop should call Paula Speraneo at 417-293-2325.

WPCA NEWSLETTER

**P.O. Box 339**

**West Plains, MO 65775**

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### COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING

West Plains Council on the Arts, revitalizing a tradition, invites everyone to a Community Messiah Sing, scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2013, 2:30 PM, at the First Presbyterian Church, 112 Aid Ave., 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: *Glory of the Lord, And He Shall Purify, Thou that Tellest Good Tidings, For Unto Us a Child is Born, Glory to God in the Highest, His Yoke Is Easy, and of course, the Hallelujah Chorus!*

Directed by Larry Dame, featured artists include soloists Jamie Tapson, Kathleen Morrissey, Ian Tapson and Dr. Christopher Dyer. Elizabeth Grisham and Terrie Pearsall will provide the accompaniment.

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 Profitt-Boys, Carol Bruce, Kathy Campbell, Terri Combs, Jem Duffin, Judy Harden, Marideth Sisco, and Paula Speraneo, and volunteer administrator Kathleen Morrissey.