

November Newsletter

Even in our high-tech world... where...with the click of a mouse...the arts blossom on our computer monitors ...where the convenience of iPods, YouTube, Kindle, Netflix, Twitter keep us in electronic touch ...we still need the exhilarating experience of live, in your face art, in order to preserve our humanity...The arts sustain us....they endure long past us. And Corby gets that.

Kathleen Benoit, introducing award-winner Corby Skinner, Governor's Humanities Awards, June 4, 2009 (comments continue below)

Thanks for a Fantastic Montana Festival of the Book

We have just completed the 10th Annual Montana Festival of the Book and we must thank all our writers, readers, booksellers, displayers, volunteers, donors, and cultural institutions for supporting, sustaining, building this wonderful event. If you'd like to share your memories and reviews, jump into this [discussion](#) on the Humanities Roundtable.

“Humanities Montana is considering many new programs. Please rate the appeal of the following ideas.”

As part of our five-year Self-Assessment, Humanities Montana has developed a [survey](#) to find out how we're doing and where we might go from here. Click [here](#) and you're good to go—the survey will only take a few minutes. Feel free to encourage others to do so as well. And if you need a paper copy, please let us know your name and address and we'll get that to you. **Our deadline for receiving all responses is December 1, 2009.** We'll share the results next spring.

Letters About Literature—Deadline December 12

Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion program of Humanities Montana and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invites young readers in grades 4 – 12 to enter this year's LAL letter writing competition. Young readers simply write a personal letter to an author explaining how that author's work somehow changed the reader's view of their world.

LAL awards both state and national prizes on three competition levels: Level 1 for children in grades 4 – 6; Level 2 for children in grades 7 – 8; and Level 3 for children in grades 9 – 12. Six national winners will each receive cash awards and will nominate a school or community library to receive a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion grant. Twelve national honor winners will likewise receive cash awards and also nominate a school or community library to receive a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion grant.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, including blackline masters and assessment checklists, at the [LAL website](#). Submission deadline is *postmark* December 12, 2009. State winners will be notified in March 2010 and national winners by mid-April.

“To Each a Key: Unlocking the Door of Interfaith Harmony” Carroll College, Helena, November 4-6

Carroll College is presenting a three-day interfaith quest for those keys that open the beliefs of Christians, Muslims, and Jews to inter-religious harmony. Partly funded by Humanities Montana, the program provides a multi-cultural educational experience for college and high school students, teachers, and other interested Montanans, and as such provides the opportunity to explore interfaith issues both youth and adults in America are presently facing.

For more information, visit [this conference overview](#), contact **Barry Ferst**, or call 406-447-4324.

**“Land of Many Stories:
The People and Histories of Glacier National Park”
Exhibit Opening, November 5, Montana Historical Society**

2010 will mark the centennial of Glacier Park, and the Montana Historical Society, in collaboration with Glacier National Park-National Park Service, has mounted a major exhibit illuminating one of Montana’s cultural and natural wonders. The exhibit will explore the many ways people have used and enjoyed the area from pre-European contact to the present day. This exhibit is made possible by the generosity of the Glacier National Park Fund and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation. Please join the Historical Society staff for the grand opening on November 5—6:30-7:30 pm at the Capitol Rotunda and 7:30-9:00 pm at the Historical Society. And when you’re in Helena, be sure to take in the exhibit.

**Greetings to New Board Members—
Fond Farewell to Departing Members**

Humanities Montana elected five new members and re-elected five current board members at its October 2-3 board meeting in Havre. Thanks so much to those willing to serve—and a heartfelt thanks to our departing board members. You are life-long friends—we hope to see you at many Humanities Montana events.

The new members are:

- **Julie Dial**, executive director, Western Heritage Center, Billings
- **Andrine Haas**, retired library director, Dawson Community College, Glendive
- **James Jarvis**, historic preservation officer, Butte
- **Tom Kotynski**, educator and journalist, Great Falls
- **Will Rawn**, professor, MSU-Northern, Havre

The re-elected board members include:

- **Brian Cockhill**, retired director, Montana Historical Society, Helena
- **Paul Filicetti**, historical architect, Missoula
- **Susan Near**, historian, Montana Historical Society, Helena
- **Kathleen Ralph**, cultural and civic leader, Columbus
- **William Yellowtail**, educator, Bozeman

The board also elected new officers for 2010: chair **Kathleen Ralph** of Columbus, and vice chair **William Marcus**, director, Broadcast Media Center, University of Montana-Missoula. Humanities Montana staff and board also recognized five distinguished members whose terms will conclude at the end of 2009: **Geoffrey Gamble**, retiring president, MSU-Bozeman; **James Heckel**, retired head, Great Falls Public Library; **Carol Smith**, community leader, Hamilton; **Karen Stevenson**, author and cultural leader, Miles City; and **Bonnie Williamson**, head librarian, Havre-Hill County Library.

Kathleen Benoit’s Comments Continued

Throughout his life, Corby has never taken for granted the sustaining value art contributes to our lives. I am reminded of an incident immediately following 9/11...Out of respect for a grieving nation stunned by too many questions and no logical

answers, it was suggested the Theater go dark for a few days. . . . Corby, true to form, passionately backed the Symphony director's insistence that the concert go on as scheduled. It did....the Saturday after that dark Tuesday morning - and the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale played to a standing room-only house. As always, Corby recognized that art has the power to lift us up from the ordinary and to help us put shape to inexplicable events, when mere words fall short.

Grants Awarded, October, 2009

The Write Question, The University of Montana, Missoula, \$8,000. A weekly radio program, expanding this year to 30-minute episodes exploring writing and publishing in the Western United States.

Winter in the Blood, Earthboy, Bonner, \$8,000. A feature-length narrative film based on the novel by James Welch to be shot on location in and around the Fort Belknap Reservation in northern Montana in late Spring/Summer 2010.

Reflections West Radio Segment, Montana Poetry Project, Alberton, \$7,990. A five-minute radio program that fuses history, culture, and literature of the West.

The Last Standing Bear, Great Bear Foundation, Missoula, \$8,000. A one-hour documentary film about the life and work of Dr. Charles Jonkel, a pioneer of bear biology.

Montana County History Online, Montana Historical Society, Helena, \$8,000. The selection and digitization of 23 published county histories (for those counties that will celebrate their centennial in the next decade) which will be made available through the Montana Memory Project.

Upcoming Grant Proposal Deadlines

Our next grant proposal deadline **for regular grants** (\$5,000 or under) is **November 20**. Our next deadline for **major grants** (over \$5,000), **fellowships**, and **book subvention grants** is **December 20**. Full information on grant guidelines and deadlines is available at [Grants](#).

November Humanities Montana-Supported Events

- November 4-6, 2009, *To Each a Key: Unlocking the Door to Interfaith Harmony*, Carroll College, Helena. Centennial Interfaith Symposium focusing on those cultural conditions and philosophical ideas that offer keys to the successful coexistence and prospering of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Through a variety of events, the program surveys the ethical, social, and political philosophies and practices that have made interfaith harmony a reality in the United States.
- November 5, 2009, 1:00 pm, *Mark Twain in Montana*, Michael Delaney, Presbyterian Women of Missoula, Missoula
- November 6, 2009, 7:00 pm, *Experiencing Yellowstone Park in the Era of Horses*, Mark M. Miller, Beaverhead County Museum, Dillon
- November 7, 2009, 7:00 pm, *Montana's Heritage in Symbols*, Carla Wambach, University of Montana Western, Dillon
- November 7, 2009, 1:00 pm, *War Poetry: The Poetry is in the Pity*, Lisa Simon, Missoula Art Museum, Missoula
- November 10, 2009, 7:00 pm, *Charlie's Top Hands Lecture Series*, CM Russell Museum. A series of four lectures at the CM Russell Museum in Great Falls, focusing on Western issues

- November 11, 2009, 6:00 pm, *Experiencing Yellowstone in the Era of Horses*, Mark M. Miller, Billings Elks Club, Billings
- November 12-13, 2009, *Carroll College Literary Festival*, Carroll College, Helena. A literary festival organized by students and faculty of Carroll, featuring students and members of the community reading their own writing, including Helena-born author Maile Meloy
- November 14, 2009, 2:00 pm, *Eastern Montana Through the Eyes of a Homestead Family*, Russell Rowland, Whitehall Community Library, Whitehall
- November 14, 2009, 1:00 pm, *War Poetry: The Poetry is in the Pity*, Lisa Simon, Missoula Art Museum, Missoula
- November 19, 2009, 7:30 pm, *People v. Thomas W. Cover*, Gary Forney, Bozeman Lodge #18 AF & AM, Bozeman
- November 19, 2009, 12:00 pm, *Mavericks: The Lives and Battles of Montana Political Legends*, John Morrison, Western Heritage Center, Billings
- November 21, 2009, 1:00 pm, *War Poetry: The Poetry is in the Pity*, Lisa Simon, Missoula Art Museum, Missoula

Donate to Humanities Montana

Funding for our work is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and a variety of other agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals. Your gift—whether through Humanities Montana’s annual fund drive, its endowment with the Montana Community Foundation, or some other way—will bring the humanities, their insights and joys, to ever more Montanans, now and in the future. We especially welcome planned gifts, which often qualify Montana donors for generous tax credits. Gifts are tax-deductible under the IRS 501(c)(3) category of non-profit educational organizations and may be donor-restricted to specific programs or purposes. Gifts may also be matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities or other funding entities. If you would like to donate today via credit card [click here](#) or contact **Ken Stolz**.

Thanks to our Generous Supporters October 2009

Missoula Art Museum
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***Current Board and Staff Members**

****Former Board and Staff Members**

For More Information...

Humanities Montana is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the humanities to Montana, enriching the intellectual, cultural, and civic lives of its residents. Much more information on Humanities Montana and its many programs and services is available on our [website](#). Write us at 311 Brantly, Missoula, MT, 59812-7848, or info@humanitiesmontana.org, or call us at 406-243-6022, toll-free in Montana, 1-800-624-6001.

Learn ■ Reflect ■ Together