

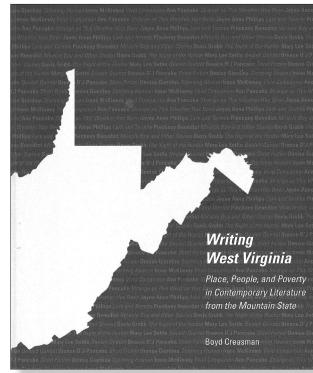
pring is a busy time here at the West Virginia Humanities Council. Grant applications are coming in, our Little Lectures speaker series is in full swing, and our *History Alive!* program is sending historical figures into schools, libraries, and public spaces all around the state. Each year, as warm weather returns, our calendar fills quickly.

Council staff have been on the road quite a bit over the past several weeks. We've made stops in several locations, large and small, where the humanities are being celebrated and shared. And we have several more trips coming up. Nearly every day, somewhere in the state, there's an event, an exhibit, a reading or lecture, a community discussion, or another sort of project we're either supporting, or interested in learning more about.

On our travels we often see small presses, community arts spaces, and local businesses partnering to sponsor reading series or one-time events that help connect writers with the public. Anyone who follows the creative arts in the Mountain State knows that we're living in an enormously productive moment in West Virginia writing. Just now there are several excellent writers with West Virginia connections who are well worth your time and attention, working in a wide array of styles: Scott McClanahan, Aaron Smith, Mesha Maren, Rahul Mehta, Mary B. Moore, Marie Manilla, Jonathan Corcoran, Ann Pancake, and dozens more whose work depicts, with earned insight and compassion, what this place has been, what it is, and what it might be.

These writers, and many others, are not simply "West Virginia writers." No artist is only one thing, as no person is. But they often engage with the realities of West Virginia life, history, and identity as central matters in their work. Mountain State cities, towns, streets, and spaces are as present and as artfully portrayed in their writing as any human character.

In May, as part of our 2019 Little Lectures series, the



Council hosted Dr. Boyd Creasman, Provost of Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD, who delivered a talk on contemporary writing from West Virginia drawn from his 2016 book *Writing West Virginia: Place, People, and Poverty in Contemporary Literature from the Mountain State.* Published by the University of Tennessee Press, *Writing West Virginia* discusses more than 60 years of West Virginia fiction and poetry, including Davis Grubb's iconic novel *Night of the Hunter,* the poetry of Irene McKinney (WV Poet Laureate 1994-2012), and the visionary short stories of Pinckney Benedict. As the first critical study of West Virginia literature to discuss the work of multiple authors, *Writing West Virginia* is important not only as a guide to the first and second "waves" of the state's literature, but also in its insights on some of the elements that make that literature unique:

West Virginia writers have created enduring fiction and poetry that depict a proud people in a land of natural beauty and economic hardship. These writers capture the culture and history of the Mountain State, in which individuals have continually confronted social and economic marginalization in the attitudes of outsiders and physical challenges in their interactions with the land. Creating characters and personae striving for fulfillment

Spring 2019

3 2019 Fellowship

4 What's New

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### The West Virginia Humanities Council

is a nonprofit organization governed by its Board of Directors. The next Board meeting is July 19, 2019, in Morgantown, and is open to the public.

### Charlie Delauder, President Middlebourne

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# In Memoriam

We remember Dr. Charles Hall Daugherty, who passed away on February 25. He served as Executive Director of the West Virginia Humanities Council from 1976 to 1996.

Chuck was a guiding force in many wonderful accomplishments of the Council, such as securing dedicated state funding, private sector donations, and membership based giving; creating

and bestowing the name of our newsletter, *People & Mountains*; establishing the annual McCreight Lecture; initiating and guiding the WV Film Project; and building community relationships and partnerships still honored by the Council today.

We acknowledge with thanks the life and work of Dr. Daugherty, and express our heartfelt appreciation for his friendship and diligent service to our community. He will be missed.

The final **Little Lecture** of the season is on June 23 at 2 p.m. with Marshall University art history professor Dr. Heather Stark talking about "Controversies in Modern Art." Dr. Stark will discuss three works and the controversies they provoked—James Whistler's 1877 libel suit against critic John Ruskin, Constantin Brancusi's 1926 modern sculpture *Bird in Space*, and Maya Lin's design of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. Admission is \$10 and includes a reception after the event. Please call 304-346-8500 to reserve your seat.

We welcome to the Council's **Program Committee** professor and musicologist H. G. Young of WVU-Parkersburg and retired CIA employee and cultural program volunteer Jody Evans of Hardy County, elected by public ballot presented in the Winter issue of *People & Mountains*. Two incumbent members, Elizabeth Spangler of Lewisburg and Jason Gum of Glenville, were re-elected. The Program Committee oversees Humanities Council programs and recommends grants for approval by the Board of Directors.

*People & Mountains* is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Please address correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd E, Charleston WV 25301 or email wvhuman@wvhumanities.org. West Virginia Humanities Council Staff Eric Waggoner, Executive Director Kim Duff, Fiscal Officer Emily Hilliard, State Folklorist Mike Keller, *e-WV* Media Editor Victoria Paul, Director of Development Mark Payne, Program Officer Erin Riebe, Grants Administrator Tricia Stringer, Operations Manager

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The Board of Directors welcomes three new members who were elected at the April 12 Board meeting in Huntington: Kelli Johnson of Huntington, Dan McCarthy of Fayetteville and John Unger of Martinsburg. Dr. Kelli Johnson is an Associate University Librarian for Marshall University Libraries and Online Learning and co-directs the University President's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Dan McCarthy is a retired U.S. Navy Officer who oversaw the construction and opening of the Summit Bechtel Reserve. John Unger serves as a West Virginia State Senator (D-16th District). We would like to thank departing Board members Kevin Barksdale, Cheryl Hartley, and Marsha Krotseng for their dedication and years of service. Continued from page 1

in the face of formidable challenges, West Virginia authors have created a body of work that is worthy of study—and celebration.

The high quality of West Virginia literature has not received due recognition, especially outside the state. These authors' work treats quintessential Appalachian concerns: the role of tradition, connection to the land, and leaving the region in hopes of better economic opportunity. The important themes of socioeconomic class and its effect on gender roles drive many of the plots of these works, as characters struggle to transcend dire situations and limited opportunities. In their intense focus on possibilities for transcendence, the state's writers increasingly break with traditional literary forms and explore new possibilities for Appalachian literature.

Transcendence is a key aim of the humanities—developing the ability to think beyond our own private experiences and circumstances in order to recognize the complexity of, and in, the world. But the humanities also reflect us back to ourselves. In the best imaginative writing we see our histories, our struggles, our ways of speaking and thinking and engaging with the wider world, both at home and outside of it.

And "home," however you define it, is a slippery notion. Is it a merely physical space, or something more complicated? How much of you is traceable to where, and how, you grew up? How do you define home's boundaries? How do you recognize when you've left it, and what parts of it do you carry with you even when you're gone? What must you risk to leave, or to return?

For decades, West Virginia writers have explored the fault lines that run through a land in which identity and place are deeply intertwined. As an upcoming generation of writers enlarges our literature, moving it into new and broader terrain, these questions will deepen and take new forms. But the complicated dynamic between place and people in West Virginia offers its artists a rich grounding from which to dream our singular and shared stories—those that are in our past, and those that have yet to be written.

### West Virginia Day Open House

Celebrate with the Humanities Council at our headquarters in the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. In addition to West Virginia Day, we are celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Virginia Humanities Council, founded June 25, 1974. Please join us on Thursday, June 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1310 Kanawha Blvd East. James Froemel will portray our newest *History Alive!* character Charles Schulz at

3 p.m. in the parlor. Traditional musicians Kim Johnson and Bobby Taylor will perform. Light refreshments will be provided, including a WV treat from Rock City Cake Company. We hope to see you here!



### **Fellowships Awarded**

Humanities Council Fellowships are awarded annually to college faculty and independent scholars for research and writing in the humanities. The \$3,000 grants are unique in the Mountain State. The 2019 Humanities Fellows and their subjects are:

### Laura Michele Diener,

Huntington, Seeress of the North: A Biography of Sigrid Undset

### Charlotte Hoelke,

Morgantown, On Queer Happiness: Delight, Disgust, Doing, and Undoing

**Evan A. MacCarthy**, Morgantown, *The Voyage through Montaigne's Ears* 

### Catherine Moore,

Ansted, Union: An Appalachian Revolution

### Zelideth Rivas,

Huntington, Hawai'i as Haven: Healing Peruvian Double Displacement

### Christopher Shrock,

Vienna, Epistemic Freedom: A Reidian Social Epistemology

Vicki Stroeher, Huntington, *Benjamin Britten and the Art of Song* 

Nathan Tauger, Charleston, *Residential* Segregation in West Virginia, 1900-1968

### Michael Woods,

Huntington, *The Business* of Bigotry: John Van Evrie and the Rise of a Racist Publishing Empire

### **Grant Categories**

The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.

Major Grants support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits and lectures. Maximum award: \$20,000. Due: Sept. 1, Feb. 1

**Minigrants** have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning and consultation. Due: June 1, Oct. 1, Feb. 1, April 1

Fellowships of \$3,000 support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars. Due: Feb. 1

Media Grants support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series. Maximum award: \$20,000. Due: Sept. 1

### Publication Grants

are available to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses, and support only the production phase of a completed manuscript. Maximum award: \$20,000. Due: Sept. 1

**Teacher Institute Grants** are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary teachers. Maximum award: \$25,000. Due: Sept. 1

Visit www.wvhumanities. org for applications and guidelines, email riebe@ wvhumities.org or call (304)346-8500.

# **Mothers of Material**

With support from a Humanities Council grant, the Greenbrier Historical Society recently unveiled a new exhibit, *Mothers of Material: Women and Textile Production in Greenbrier Valley*. The exhibit, which



opened at the North House Museum on April 26, examines the roles of women in textile production in the Greenbrier Valley and how improvements in technology over time have changed the way textiles are produced and accessed.

The new display, arranged chronologically, begins in the late eighteenth century with the story of early quilters such as the enslaved women of the Paxton Plantation, whose tablecloth survives in the historical society's collection; and Jane Travers Gatewood, who in 1795 made one of America's oldest registered quilts. The exhibit continues with displays on woolen mills, sewing machines, fast-fashion (catalog/store shopping), and sewing as a domestic art.

A hands-on room allows visitors to try a loom or spinning wheel, use natural dyes, and see the science behind fibers through the lens of a microscope. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.greenbrierhistorical.org.



## Shepherd University Writer in Residence

Affrilachian writer and Weatherford Award winner Crystal Wilkinson (left) will serve as the 2019 Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence at Shepherd University this September. The program, which began in

1998, honors the work of contemporary Appalachian writers whose writing has evinced a commitment to the understanding of the region's culture, language, history, and traditions. It is supported again this year by a Humanities Council grant.

Past Writers in Residence have included Nikki Giovanni, Denise Giardina, Charles Frazier, and Henry Louis Gates. Wilkinson's residency includes local readings, a discussion of her work, and a book signing. For more information visit www.shepherd.edu/ahwir.

## Save the Date

The 2019 West Virginia Book Festival will be held October 4-5 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention



Center. The McCreight Lecture will headline the events on Friday, October 4, at 7 p.m. This year's McCreight speaker will be Denise Kiernan, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Girls of Atomic City*. The book is the true story of young women living in the top-secret World War II town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, while unknowingly helping to construct the first atomic bomb. For more information visit www.wvbookfestival.org.

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### The Forgotten War

Boy Scouts, school students, veterans, and the general public recently visited Washington Riverfront Park in Ravenswood to pay tribute to veterans of the Korean War. With Humanities Council support,



the Ravenswood Parks and Recreation Department organized a four-day installation of the traveling Korean War Memorial, modeled after the permanent memorial in Washington, D.C.

### **Contemporary American Theater Festival**

The Contemporary American Theater Festival kicks off its 2019 season on July 5 in Shepherdstown. The Council is again supporting humanities programming at the month-long event, including lectures, classes, and a discussion series on themes and issues raised by the performances.

During one class, participants will learn about race and entertainment in the 1930s from Harvard professor and musicologist Carol J. Oja. Her discussion will build on Deborah Brevoort's play *My Lord, What a Night.* The play offers a look into the night internationally renowned singer Marian Anderson was denied a room at a whites-only inn, which led to an invitation from Albert Einstein to stay at his home. Oja will offer a larger historical perspective on the circumstances Black artists faced as they pursued professional careers in the performing arts during this era. For more information visit www.catf.org.



### **Continuing to Make Friends**

Special thanks to Nancy Bulla, Bob Conte, Sharon Rowe, and Elizabeth Spangler for hosting a "friendraising" event in Lewisburg on May 2 at Carnegie Hall. Guests met our new Executive Director, Eric Waggoner, who highlighted some of the programs the Council supports in the Greenbrier Valley area. Jen Iskow and Annie Stroud, participants in the first class of the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program, treated attendees to a fiddling performance. The West Virginia Humanities Council receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, but must match each dollar received from the NEH; therefore, individual contributing members are essential to our work. Look for the next Humanities Council "friendraising" event in a town near you!

### **Briefs**

A **Civil War symposium** will take place August 17 at West Virginia Independence Hall with the support of a Humanities Council grant. The event, associated with Wheeling's year-long sestercentennial (250<sup>th</sup>) celebration, will feature presentations by Gettysburg guide Rea Redd, author Scott Mingus, and retired judge Harry White. The free event will include lunch as well as a guided tour of West Virginia Independence Hall. For more information visit www.Wheeling250.net.

### Philanthropy West Virginia

presented the Humanities Council with its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders' Cup, made by West Virginia artist Renee Margocee, to honor the Council's service as one of the organization's founding members in 1993.

The Humanities Council is again supporting the **West Virginia Wesleyan MFA Visiting Writers Series**. Among others, Wesleyan will host writers Belle Boggs, Cameron Barnett, and Matt O'Wain for a week-long residency beginning July 6. The authors will offer readings from their original works and discussion programs that are open to the public. For more information visit www2. wvwc.edu/mfa/?p=2923.

The West Virginia Mine Wars Museum is continuing its efforts to raise awareness of the significance of the state's coal mining and labor history. With help from a Humanities Council grant, the museum plans two new exhibits. One exhibit will examine the role of women in the wars. The other, a then-andnow photography series, will showcase historic locations and figures associated with the Mine Wars. For more information visit www.wvminewars.com.

# **Council GEMs**

Just over a year ago, Paige Richardson of Portland, Oregon decided to start giving a monthly donation to the West Virginia Humanities Council. To Paige, born and raised in West Virginia, the Mountain State is more than just a place on a map; it is a way of life. "West Virginia is a beautiful and culturally rich place filled with people who have the most generous spirit," explained Paige.

Through Paige's example, the Council established a monthly giving program. Our GEMs (Give Every Month) are doing a very simple but powerful thing: making regular, manageable, monthly contributions to the West Virginia Humanities Council's work. These steadfast supporters believe deeply in our mission, share a love for

"The humanities help people to think creatively and critically, to value personal connections and knowledge and to preserve the past while embracing the future." – Paige Richardson

West Virginia, and want to see the legacy of West Virginia shared with the world. "What could be more enlightening and enriching than the culture and creativity of our species? Every program supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council opens my eyes to a different viewpoint and new knowledge that broadens my mind, challenges my perceptions, and stimulates my understanding," explained Jill Wilson, a longtime supporter of the Council who recently became a GEM.

We believe that West Virginia – its people, its history, its future – is worth investing in. A small monthly donation can make a huge impact on our work throughout the state. Monthly giving is safe, secure, and automatic, allowing us to put more of your contribution to work on programming by cutting administrative and overhead costs. "It's a great way to avoid that embarrassing excuse that I forgot my checkbook," joked Board member Patrick Cassidy, who joined the GEMs last summer.

Want to enjoy the convenience of regular payments, automatic renewal, and all the benefits of ongoing membership? Contact Victoria Paul at 304-346-8500 or v.paul@wvhumanities.org to get started.

### Donations November 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

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In addition to monetary donations, we accept suitable gifts of art and furnishings on a limited basis. The Council would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Michael Harpold for his recent West Virginia glass donation in memory of Peggy Harpold. Items from his late wife's prized collection are on display throughout the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House.



Items from the Harpold glass collection.

McOwen



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The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.

# **Legends and Lore**

**S** tories of West Virginia's rich folklore and cultural heritage will be featured on roadside markers at sites across the state, thanks to a new partnership between the West Virginia Folklife Program and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

The West Virginia Folklife Program at the West Virginia Humanities Council will serve as a grant evaluator for the Pomeroy Foundation's national Legends & Lore Marker Grant Program—already active in New York and North Carolina—in the state of West Virginia. The Legends & Lore marker program was created to help promote cultural tourism and commemorate legends and folklore as an important part of every community's cultural heritage.

Legends & Lore marker grants are available to 501(c)(3) organizations, nonprofit academic institutions, and municipalities in West Virginia. Selected applicants will receive an attractive, wellcrafted metal road sign, resembling a historic marker, to commemorate a story, figure, or tradition important to their community's cultural heritage. The Pomeroy Foundation will cover the costs of manufacturing the marker, the pole, and shipping. Grant recipients will be responsible for the installation of the marker (and, if required by their local transportation department, for the cost of a breakaway pole).

This program recognizes traditional customs and practices, tales and stories (whether based in historical fact or fiction), sayings, foodways, music, dance, and art or craft forms shared and passed on by a community. "West Virginia's folklore and cultural heritage are among the Mountain State's greatest assets," says state folklorist



# COMMEMORATING LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE NATIONWIDE

WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION®

Emily Hilliard. "These living traditions belong to all West Virginians and showcase our unique history and vibrant creativity. We look forward to working with the Pomeroy Foundation to bring awareness to these stories through partnerships with diverse communities across the state."

"The Pomeroy Foundation is thrilled to partner with the West Virginia Humanities Council on our expanding Legends & Lore program," says Bill Pomeroy, founder and trustee of the Pomeroy Foundation. "We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the folklore near and dear to West Virginia. We're proud to work with your communities in celebrating and preserving your folklore and legends."

The first round of grant applications were received May 1, 2019. The next grant deadline is **October 1**, **2019**. For more information visit wvhumanities. org/programs/west-virginia-folklife-program, or contact Emily Hilliard at hilliard@wvhumanities.org or (304)346-8500.

The **West Virginia Folklife Program** was awarded our annual folklife partnership grant from the National Endowment for the Arts via the West Virginia Department of History, Arts and Culture. We will receive these funds, supporting the state folklorist position and Folklife Program, from WVDHAC each year for the next three years, when we will be required by the NEA to reapply.

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