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2001 Governor's Awards for the Arts



January 19, 2001 Ceremony



WELCOME

Bill Frazier, Chairman, Montana Arts Council

INTRODUCTION

Greg Cunniff, President, Montana Ambassadors

PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

The Honorable Judy Martz

Represented by Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Agnes "Oshanee" Kenmille, Pablo

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Robert F. Morgan, Montana City

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS

Joanna Barker, Corvallis

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR LITERATURE

James Lee Burke, Missoula

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR MUSIC

Donald Carey, Missoula

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR MUSIC

Eric Funk, Bozeman

2001 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATION

Ralph and Myrna Paulus, Choteau

*Immediately following the presentation, lunch and entertainment
will be provided in the Rotunda.*

Music: Parlor Pickers

Artwork on lunch bags courtesy of Jefferson School Fourth and Fifth Grades

HOMETOWN CELEBRATIONS!

Each of the 2001 Governor's Arts Awards recipients are being honored with a celebration in their hometowns on the dates listed below. Further details will be available in February by contacting the Montana Arts Council.

Joanna Barker, Hamilton – April 9

James Lee Burke, Missoula – September 6

Ralph and Myrna Paulus, Choteau – February 25

Agnes "Oshanee" Kenmille, Pablo – March 16

Eric Funk, Helena – March 4

Donald Carey, Missoula – March 11

Robert F. Morgan, Helena – March 4

Statewide Broadcast: Governor's Arts Awards Program

KUFM/TV, a Montana Public Television station, is producing an hour-long special broadcast of compiled video profiles of each of the 2001 Governor's Arts Awards recipients. Watch for this special program to be aired during the third week of April. The 90-second profiles screened at the Governor's ceremony will also be broadcast, on a rotating basis, throughout the year. Special eight-minute in-depth profiles of each recipient will be screened at their Hometown Celebrations.

2001 Governor's Arts Awards

The Governor of the State of Montana is pleased to present the 2001 Governor's Arts Awards program through the Montana Arts Council and Montana Ambassadors.

Montana Arts Council

The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government charged with promoting and expanding the significant role of arts and culture in our lives through a variety of grant and technical assistance programs which benefit Montanans of all ages and cultures as current or future creators, participants or patrons of the arts.

Montana Ambassadors

The Montana Ambassadors is a statewide service organization comprised of business leaders from across the state who support economic development activities. Their partnership with the Montana Arts Council in producing the Governor's Arts Awards brings together the arts industry and other businesses to celebrate these artists and to recognize the valuable economic impact within the state of Montana by its many fine artists.

Governor's Arts Awards recipient profiles by Kristi Niemeyer. Program compiled by Lively Times.

Agnes “Oshanee” Kenmille

Lifetime Achievement

Deerhides flutter like flags around the home of Agnes “Oshanee” Kenmille. Some fresh hides, brown fur intact, dangle from a rope behind her small workshop in Pablo, on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Others, scraped and soaked, are draped from a clothesline outdoors like rough sheets. Inside her workshop, another batch awaits the final transformation from hide to buckskin. Agnes will repeatedly soak, rub with brain and stretch these hides across her knees until the surfaces are milk-white and butter-soft.

Just a few months shy of her 85th birthday, Agnes sees a winter’s worth of work here – more than enough makings for her famous buckskin vests, moccasins, gloves and pouches.

“It’s hard work,” she says. It’s work she’s been doing most of her life.

Agnes was born in Arlee in 1916. Her father died when she was seven and her mother died five years later. The mother of six children, she has outlived three husbands.

Agnes is a fluent speaker of Salish and Kootenai and remains one of the few people on the reservation to have mastered both languages.

She taught Salish at Two Eagle River School in Pablo and continues to share her tanning talents during twice-yearly classes at Salish Kootenai College. She shares her skills with young and old alike, although “I’d rather have older people. The young people don’t stick with it.”

While tanning is physically demanding, stitching and beadwork also require great skill and dexterity. Agnes is known for both. She displays a pair of soft white moccasins and a beaded vest that are near completion. The stitches that bind the pieces of leather are tiny, almost invisible, while the beadwork splashes color across the soft surfaces.

Her gloves have found their way onto many famous hands, including those of Al Gore, Muhammed Ali, Ted Turner and – during a recent reception in Missoula – the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Bill Ivey.

Agnes is a revered elder among the Salish and Kootenai people. She’s received an Honorary Associate Arts Degree, Distinguished Service Award and the Education Visionary Award from Salish Kootenai College, and a building on campus is named after her. She was also named Indian Elder Of the Year by the Montana Indian Education Association.



Robert Morgan Lifetime Achievement

This is a Montana story: spacious as the Helena Valley and as contoured as the Elkhorn Mountains – rough-hewn and energetic, bold and unpretentious. Bob Morgan, at 71, is all these things.

The artist, who lives and works near Montana City, was raised in the Helena Valley. In 1948, he married his high-school sweetheart, Genevieve. They have five

children and celebrated their 50th anniversary two years ago.

As a teenager, Morgan designed window displays for Fligelman’s Department Store in Helena. He eventually put those skills to work at the Montana Historical Society, where he was hired in 1952 to design displays. After a stint as a warrant officer for the National Guard, Morgan returned to the Historical Society in 1962 and spent the next decade as exhibits designer and curator.

In addition to his in-depth knowledge of the society’s collections, Morgan earned a reputation as an expert on his childhood idol, Charlie Russell. He retired from the Historical Society in 1972 to pursue a thriving career as an artist. His many accomplishments have included painting a series of 20 murals for the Billings Sheraton Hotel and recreating local history in mural projects for the Ag Museum in Fort Benton, the bank in Anaconda and the Helena airport.

In the mid 70s, he invited several prominent western artists to participate in the Northwest Rendezvous Group. They continue to show and sell their work at the annual Western Rendezvous of Art held in Helena each summer.

Although much of his time is spent at the easel, Morgan also volunteers at the Historical Society, serves on its board of trustees and remains its curator emeritus. He was also instrumental in helping the Historical Society secure the vast collection of his long-time friend, sculptor Bob Scriver.

Morgan is also currently involved in an effort to build the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison. In honor of his many contributions, the Montana Museum Association gave him its Peter Yiegan Award for 2000.

His paintings typically evoke the artist’s fascination with history. He’s portrayed several Helena landmarks that no longer exist, including the old train depot and the Marlow Theater. Sales of prints, derived from original Morgan paintings, have been used to raise funds for a host of Helena organizations, including local churches, the symphony, and the American Legion.

“The art that survives is the art that depicts time and place,” the artist believes. “That’s why I think some of the things I do are worthwhile.”



Joanna Barker

Visual Arts

Joanna Barker deftly dabs red paint on a porcelain plate. In moments, a wild rose appears.

Using an eraser-like tool, she delicately shades the petals, exposing the white surface of the porcelain for highlights. When she fires the plate, paint will fuse with the porcelain underglaze. She'll add more color or perhaps a luster, and fire again. She'll paint, erase and fire over and over until the surface reflects the image in her imagination.

The Corvallis artist has been painting on china since the early 1970s. Her technique and style have earned accolades from throughout the United States. She has two pieces on display at the World China Painters Association's museum in Oklahoma, and a large plate adorned with the seal of Montana is on permanent display at the International Porcelain Artists Association museum in Dallas, TX.

She teaches seminars throughout the United States and Canada and has authored seven instructional videos and 17 booklets. Several articles describing her work have appeared in *China Decorator* and other magazines devoted to the art form.

Her showroom is brimming with accomplishments, including a blue iris on a black background that took best of show at the Oregon State China Show and a large tile totem that won best of show in the Fine Art Division at the Washington State Show last May.

She is also active in state and national organizations. She served as president of the Montana China Painters Art Association, helped organize the Western Montana Porcelain Artists Association and served twice as president of that group. She's superintendent of porcelain art for the Ravalli County Fair and has judged porcelain displays at fairs throughout Montana. She has also been a judge for the Oregon and Idaho state china shows and the Florida State Fair.

Barker teaches theory and basic porcelain-painting techniques at the Pueblo Art Institute, held every two years in Colorado and sponsored by the World China Painters Association.

Her mother, Evelyn Stall, first introduced her daughter to china painting. "She just kept pushing me and pushed me right into something I liked," Joanna says.

In her own work, Barker thrives on challenge. "I love working on a big piece where I can create and grow, where I'm struggling with it."



James Lee Burke

Literature

Like a proud parent, Missoula writer James Lee Burke is unabashedly pleased with his progeny. *Purple Cane Road*, his latest thriller featuring Detective Dave Robicheaux, is "as close to a perfect game as I'll ever get."

And his new book, *Bitterroot*, due out this year and set in Montana, "is a wammeroo," he says. "It's quite a book."

Within the broad banks of Burke's career, these superlatives flow perfectly. "No other living writer has been more influential

on the contemporary crime novel than James Lee Burke," said author Michael Connelly. "His work has set the watermark so high that I don't think anyone else will ever reach it."

Burke has written 20 novels and is one of only two writers to receive two Edgar Awards. His work is lauded by critics and colleagues alike for its complexity, passion and atmospheric descriptions of his beloved Louisiana.

The author, who spends half a year in his hometown of New Iberia and the other six months in Missoula, is equally enamored with his adopted state. "If you don't fall in love with it, either you're spiritually dead or your heart has been surgically removed," he says. "Montana is as close to heaven as it gets."

Burke first spent time beneath the Big Sky from 1966-1969 when he was an instructor at The University of Montana. He and his wife, Pearl, continued to spend summers here until 1989 when his career had blossomed enough to allow him to live and write full-time in Missoula.

Burke's path to success has not always been paved with blockbusters. He published his first short story at 19 and had three novels in print by the time he was 34. Then his career took a nosedive.

The Lost Get-Back Boogie, also set in Montana, collected more than 100 rejection slips during the nine years it made the rounds of publishers. Finally the Louisiana State University Press "put me back in the business," publishing a collection of short stories titled *The Convict* in 1985 and *The Lost Get-Back Boogie* a year later. The novel that was once disdained by publishers has since been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and the author who was completely out of print 15 years ago now has millions of books in circulation throughout the world.

"As an artist," he says, "it's survival that's most important – surviving and enduring and staying in the game for the whole nine innings."

Donald Carey

Music

In the past 50 years, Donald Carey has traveled much of the globe, spreading the gospel of choral music and recruiting choirs for Missoula's International Choral Festival.

In a sense, he's continuing the work of his mentor, the great choral director and arranger Robert Shaw. Carey says "He spoke of music as being an absolute necessity to mankind – not just as decoration or entertainment".

"The arts provide communication and humanness that's not available anywhere else," Carey adds. "The arts are inclusive."

Certainly, the choral festival meets those criteria. Every three years, choirs from around the world travel to Montana, where their voices soar above barriers of language, custom or religion. It's peace-making at its best.

And it's just one strand in the many musical fibers that Carey has woven into his life. The retired University of Montana professor was head of choral studies for the music department for many years and continues to oversee a semester of study in Vienna, offered every three years to UM students. He's also director of the Missoula Symphony Chorale and Missoula Mendelssohn Club.

Carey earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from the University of Kansas, punctuated by his stint with the Robert Shaw Chorale. For Carey, conducting and teaching were always more appealing than performing.

Carey first came to Missoula in 1964 and spent a year as visiting choral director at UM. Four years later, he accepted a teaching position at UM in choral studies and music education.

The International Choral Festival was born in 1987 and has gone on to gain a reputation throughout the world while forging deep friendships between musicians. "The experiences individual singers have with their colleagues from around the world are powerful and ongoing and completely without language barriers."

"Music unifies us in ways that are familiar to musicians of any culture," he adds. "And vocal music uses our most intimate form of expression – the human voice – to bring immediacy to an experience that language alone cannot bring."

Since his arrival in Missoula more than three decades ago, Carey has steadily given back to his community - as a teacher, conductor and musical emissary to the world. He's especially pleased to see his students now teaching choral music at schools around the state. "It's very gratifying to see the line of inspiration, motivation and commitment that seems to continue," he says.



Eric Funk

Music

Although he's conducted orchestras throughout the world, the spaciousness and grandeur of Montana are never far from the music of composer and musician Eric Funk. "I make sense here," he says.

Funk was born in 1949 in Deer Lodge, the third child of two musicians, and spent much of his childhood in Montana. The family moved to Portland during Funk's senior year and his musical life suddenly accelerated. He was performing in nightclubs

as a jazz pianist and began studying composition at Portland State University. His teachers included Tomas Svoboda, a native of the Czech Republic, and Sandor Veress, a compatriot of Béla Bartok. He also took private lessons from the famed Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

From the onset, he envisioned himself as a composer. "It's what I'm best at," he says. "Composition is definitely the most sophisticated involvement I have with my own mind."

After teaching and heading music departments at colleges in Oregon and Texas, Funk returned to Montana in 1985 as composer in residence for the Bozeman Symphony. He also began to work on the opera "Pamelia," which debuted in 1988 at Carnegie Hall and was performed a year later by the Billings Symphony.

In 1994, his Symphony No. 2 was performed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Washington and the Kuzbass Philharmonic in Kemerovo, Russia. He's recorded four CDs on the MMC (Master Musicians Collective) label with the Prague Radio Symphony, the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and the Latvian National Opera Chorus. His catalogue includes more than 80 works.

Recent compositions have included a one-act solo opera based on the life of the Russian poet Akhmatova and a massive score in five movements that celebrates poems by Russian writer Osip Mandelstam. In 1996, Funk received a prestigious composition fellowship in Brandenburg, Germany. "I got to be a diplomat for Montana," he says.

Funk continues to conduct the Helena Symphony and play jazz on a regular basis. But his favorite role remains that of composer. "If I had my choice, I'd just write," he says.

"The composer – except for having to take a bow at the end – is sort of the lone ranger who throws the silver bullet then gets the hell out of there."

Ralph & Myrna Paulus

Performing Arts Presentation

For the past two decades, farmers Ralph and Myrna Paulus have helped fertilize and grow the arts in their hometown of Choteau.

Ralph is a third-generation Montanan whose grandfather homesteaded the family grain farm. He and Myrna have been married nearly 34 years and are the parents of three adult sons.

They've been involved with the Montana Performing Arts Consortium since its inception in the 1980s. The group is an important resource for artists and performing arts presenters throughout Montana.

They also helped launch Choteau's Performing Arts League, which has brought musicians, actors and storytellers to Teton County for extended residencies, including visits to local schools and nursing homes.

In addition to a vital performing arts series, Choteau has been involved in an unusual oral history project that has spawned two original plays and a renewed interest in family stories. In 1995, the community's theatre group, the Prairie Mountain Players, staged an original play, "The Coming Home: The Anniversary," in several remote Montana communities.

Next, the Choteau troupe received a \$20,000 Arts and Rural Community Assistance grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Forest Service to finance a theatre exchange between Choteau and Kentucky. The Prairie Mountain Players crafted another play, "The Coming Home: The Reunion." This time, 25 community members traveled to a rural area of Virginia and Kentucky and presented their new production. In turn, The Mullins Family, renowned for telling the history of Appalachia in songs and stories, came to Choteau and performed.

"Although we tend to think stories from our own communities are unique, many were true of all these communities," says Myrna. "There's a unity of human spirit that just pervades – that's probably the greatest gift of all of this."

The small town with big mountains on its doorstep continues to stretch its horizons. Residents have refurbished the old Roxy Theatre and debuted a community production of "Scrooge" on its stage last year. More original plays are in the works and a video of previous productions was recently completed.

Ralph believes Choteau's recipe for bonding art, history and community can help revitalize small towns. "You go outside to get expertise and use it to develop talent in your hometown," he says. "As we extend beyond our community, the boundaries of our community have expanded."



Previous Governor's Arts Awards Recipients

Dance

Michael Smuin

Cartooning

Stan Lynde

Folk & Traditional Arts

Wally McRae

Bernie Rasmussen

Kevin Shannon

Harold & Virginia

Sprague

Agnes Vanderburg

Thomas Yellowtail

Literature

Stephen Ambrose

Ivan Doig

Dorothy Johnson

William Kittredge

Norman Maclean

Thomas McGuane

James Welch

Media Arts

Myrna Loy

Music

Philip Aaberg

Eugene Andrie

Judith Blegen

Mary E. Moore

Christopher Parkening

Mary Agnes Roberts

Edmund Sedivy

Performing Arts

Montana Repertory Theatre

Presentation of the Arts

Arnie Malina

Service to the Arts

Francis Bardanoue

Archie Bray Foundation

Robert & LaDonna

Fehlberg

James Haughey

Elmer Jakob

Terry Melton

Montana Institute

of the Arts

U S WEST Foundation

Special Recognition Award

Montana Power Company

Theater

Bigfork Summer Playhouse

Fort Peck Summer

Theater & Fort Peck

Fine Arts Council

Missoula Children's Theatre

Shakespeare in the Parks

Visual Arts

Rudy Autio

Dana Boussard

Ray Campeau

Russell Chatham

Gennie & Robert DeWeese

Edith Freeman

Walter Hook

Isabelle Johnson

Lyndon Fayne Pomeroy

James Poor

Gary Schildt

David Shaner

Peter Voulkos

Yellowstone Art Museum

Governor's Awards for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

Literature

A.B. Guthrie, Jr.

Music

John Lester

Service to the Arts

Jo-Anne Mussulman

Dr. Joseph Mussulman

David Nelson

Miriam & Joseph S. Sample

Shirley & Benjamin Steele

Susan & John Talbot

Visual Arts

James Kenneth

Ralston

Robert Scriver

Frances Senska &

Jessie Wilber