



the figure in the carpet

One Civilized Reader Is Worth a Thousand Boneheads

Dr. George Washington Carver

Nancy Berg
Professor of Asian and Near Eastern
Languages and Literatures

Ken Botnick
Professor of Art
Director of Kranzberg Book Studio

Gene Dobbs Bradford
Executive Director
Jazz St. Louis

Elizabeth Childs
Associate Professor and Chair of
Department of Art History and
Archaeology

Mary-Jean Cowell
Associate Professor of Performing Arts

Phyllis Grossman
Retired Financial Executive

Michael A. Kahn
Author and Partner
Bryan Cave LLP

Zurab Karumidze
Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

Peter Kastor
Associate Professor of History and
American Culture Studies Program

Chris King
Editorial Director
The St. Louis American Newspaper

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales
Director
Sheldon Art Galleries

Steven Meyer
Associate Professor of English

Joe Pollack
Film and Theater Critic for KWMU,
Writer

Anne Posega
Head of Special Collections, Olin Library

Qiu Xiaolong
Novelist and Poet

Joseph Schraibman
Professor of Spanish

Henry Schvey
Professor of Drama

Wang Ning
Professor of English, Tsinghua University

James Wertsch
Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts and
Sciences
Associate Vice Chancellor for
International Affairs

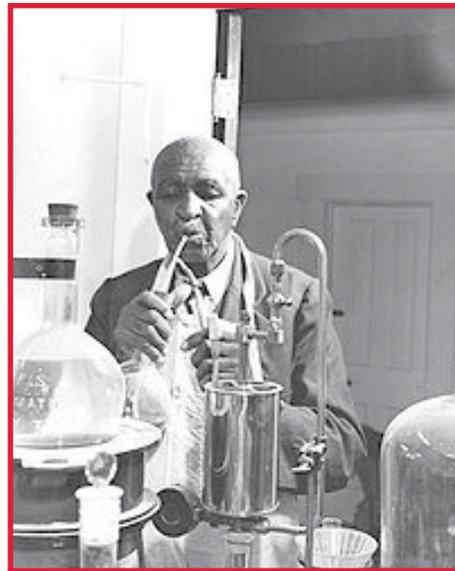
Ex Officio

Edward S. Macias
Provost & Exec VC for Academic Affairs

Gary S. Wihl
Dean of Arts & Sciences

The Center received a beautifully written and illustrated children's book in the mail this week. The book, donated by local author Susan Grigsby, contains a handwritten note on the title page: "To the Center for the Humanities, Washington University. Thank you for supporting children's literature." This volume introduced me to one of the most interesting people I have ever encountered. It also reminded me of an annual project that I seldom anticipate with pleasure, but that I always end up enjoying.

The project is my husband's annual garden. Every spring I criticize him for spending time and money on a garden. Every spring he agrees, yet plants it anyway. He has been gardening since he was in elementary school but does not remember how he got started. He does recall the first few pathetic harvests: a handful of two-inch carrots, pea-sized radishes, and marble-sized beets. This year's garden, however, produced an almost endless supply of full-size cucumbers, tomatoes, and



Dr. Carver at work in his lab.

peppers, as well as green beans and Asian-style eggplant. I don't like the weeding, but I enjoy the homegrown fruits and vegetables.

Grigsby's book reminded me of fresh tomatoes and cucumbers while introducing me to Dr. George Washington Carver (1864 or 1865—1943). *In the Garden with Dr. Carver* (Albert Whitman & Company, 2010) is based on stories and writings by the legendary

American scientist, botanist, educator, and inventor. Grigsby's narrator is Sally, a young African-American girl living in rural Alabama in the early 1900s. Sally meets Dr. Carver when he steps down from a mule-drawn wagon piled high with plants, tools, and seeds. Dr. Carver traveled all over the South teaching struggling local farmers how to repair the soil depleted by years of cotton crops, and to grow new crops like peanuts and sweet potatoes. Charged with bringing education to farmers by Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee University where Dr. Carver taught for 47 years, Carver designed a mobile school called a "Jesup wagon" after the New York

editor's notes

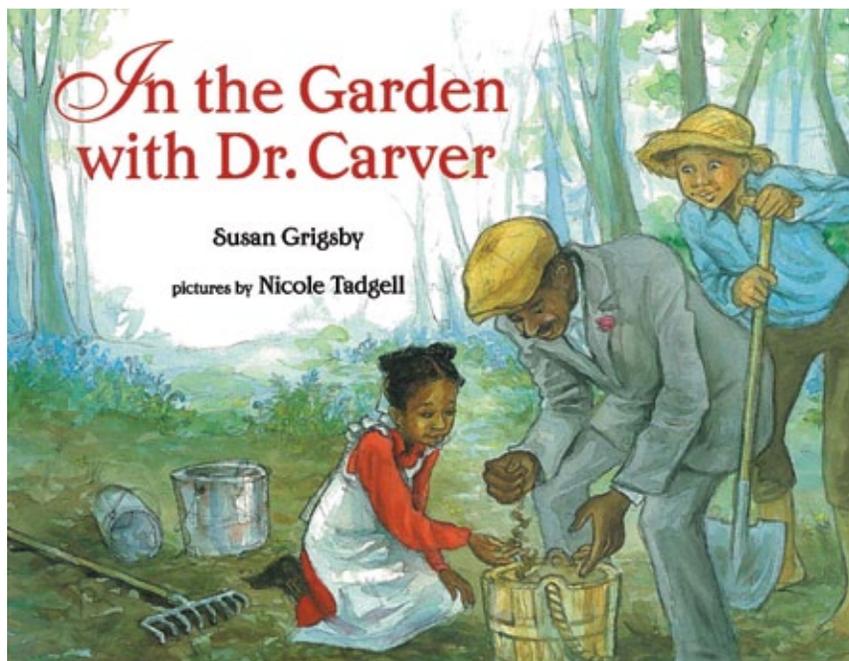
visit our blog site at <http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/pubs/blog.htm>



financier Morris Ketchum Jesup, who provided funding. By 1918, Dr. Carver was running his “movable school” out of the back of a truck.

The fictional offshoot of Carver’s visit to Sally is his decision to stay and help her class with their school garden. Here Dr. Carver’s genius is revealed, and Nicole Tadgell’s color palette, rich with earth tones, brings the story to life. One of the lessons that particularly struck me is provided when Sally’s brother Ben raises a stick to kill a spider spinning a web near the garden. Dr. Carver stops Ben and reminds him that the spider is trapping bugs that want to eat the garden, the moral being, “Before you change or destroy something, make sure you understand why it’s there and how it relates to its natural community.” He teaches the students to restore the soil and respect the balance of nature. He tells them to listen to the plants because they will tell what they need. If you love it enough, anything will talk with you. And he prepares a delicious vegetarian lunch, including “chicken” made from peanuts.

Susan Grigsby’s story illuminates an African-American scientist who was ahead of his time. Dr. Carver was born in Diamond Grove, Newton County, Marion Township, near Crystal Place, now known as Diamond, Missouri, before slavery was abolished. Although there is a monument to him at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Carver is buried near Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee University. During his more than four decades at Tuskegee, Carver’s official publications consisted of 44 practical bulletins for farmers. The first appeared in 1898 and the last in 1943. His most popular bulletin, *How to Grow the Peanut and 105 Ways of Preparing it for Human Consumption*, was published in 1916 and reprinted many times.



He also published six bulletins on sweet potatoes, five on cotton, and four on cowpeas. Other bulletins discussed alfalfa, wild plums, tomatoes, ornamental plants, corn, poultry, dairying, hogs, preserving meats in hot weather, and nature study in schools.

George Washington Carver is said to have discovered three hundred uses for peanuts and hundreds more for soybeans, pecans, and sweet potatoes. Among the synthetic substances he prescribed to southern farmers are adhesives, axle grease, bleach, buttermilk, chili sauce, fuel briquettes (a biofuel), ink, instant coffee, linoleum, mayonnaise, meat tenderizer, metal polish, paper, plastic, pavement, shaving cream, shoe polish, synthetic rubber, talcum powder, and wood stain. All these uses for plants were intended as homemade substitutes for commercial products beyond the budgets of small one-horse southern farmers. We need this kind of vision for people of developing nations today. Moreover, we need this kind of genius for an earth running short of resources. Carver’s application of scientific methods to sustain farmers and help make them independent of the cash economy is summarized in the text on his tombstone: *He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world.* And he, indeed, helped small-scale farmers everywhere.

George Washington Carver Recognition Day is celebrated on January 5, the anniversary of his death.



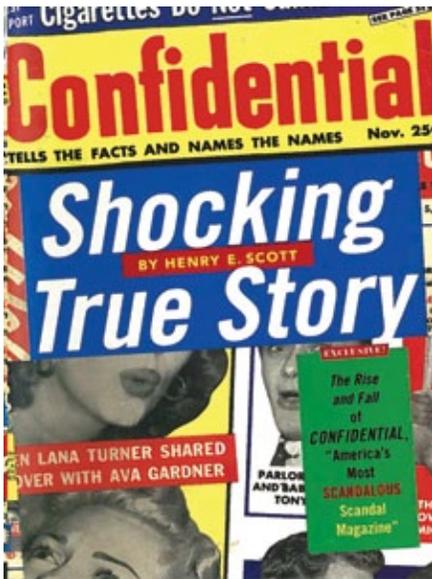
Jian Leng
Associate Director
The Center for the Humanities



Review of

Shocking True Story: The Rise and Fall of Confidential, "America's Most Scandalous Scandal Magazine"

By Henry E. Scott
Pantheon Books, 2010, 222 pages
including notes, bibliography,
index, and photos



Part 1

On September 24, 1953, actress/dancer Rita Hayworth, who had been married to Orson Welles and Prince Aly Khan, wedded singer/actor Dick Haymes, whom *Confidential* would dub “Mr. Evil” for the way he allegedly abused Hayworth. (Haymes’s sympathetic biographer, Ruth Prigozy, takes some exception to those allegations, unsurprisingly, in her book *The Life of Dick Haymes: No More Little White Lies*, published in 2006.) It was, to be sure, not a marriage made in heaven. None of Hayworth’s five marriages was, and she divorced Haymes two years later amidst allegations that he repeatedly slammed her head against the wall on several occasions, which was not hard to believe as Haymes had a severe drinking problem at the time. Before the end of the marriage, however, Hayworth had to

face a New York judge in April 1954 to deal with charges of criminally neglecting her two daughters, Rebecca (Orson Welles the father) and Yasmin (result of the union with Khan) by allowing them to live in squalor in the run-down White Plains home of a babysitter. *Confidential* revived the story in September 1954, complete with shocking pictures of the girls in a poverty-stricken environment, juxtaposed to pictures of Hayworth and Haymes dining out at a fashionable restaurant. (Haymes, twice divorced before the Hayworth marriage, was not known for paying his child support on time or even at all. He was deeply in debt at the time of the Hayworth marriage and was being threatened with deportation.) The photos were taken courtesy of a *Confidential* reporter who represented himself to the babysitter as a potential buyer of the property. Hayworth and Haymes were deeply embarrassed by the story. At the time the story appeared, *Confidential* had a circulation of over one million. The circulation was to get even better before things got a lot worse.

Part 2

Guerrilla/checkbook journalism that exposed the peccadilloes of Hollywood stars and the hypocrisy of Hollywood’s management of its talent was *Confidential*’s stock in trade: its reporters sought out, through all sorts of means, informants and paid them if their information withstood fact-checking. *Confidential* was the predecessor of tabloid sheets like the *National Enquirer* or even *Vanity Fair* (upscale tabloid journalism with just a touch of the *New Yorker*) just as it was the descendant of the *National Police Gazette*, the *New York Evening Graphic*, which helped launch the careers of Ed Sullivan and Walter Winchell, and the sensational journalism of Hearst in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Another 1954 *Confidential* story chronicled how actor Van Johnson battled his homosexuality but finally was able to overcome it in 1943 when he suffered a fractured skull in an

automobile accident that made him, through some sort of brain damage, heterosexual. He then went on to marry Eve, the wife of his best friend, Keenan Wynn, although he seemed closer to Keenan than to Eve. There was the story about the Harvard dorm, all of whose residents were gay, and the lowdown on heartthrob actor Tab Hunter’s arrest with a group of young men who were having something like a gay slumber party. Boldly, in light of what we know now, popular pianist Liberace sued *Confidential* for outing him. The magazine featured lurid stories of black singers like Sammy Davis, Jr., Billy Daniels, Herb Jeffries, and Billy Eckstine and their wild escapades with their white paramours. In its pages, readers learned of Mae West’s affair with her black ex-prizefighter chauffeur and of tobacco heirless Doris Duke’s hanky panky with an African prince.

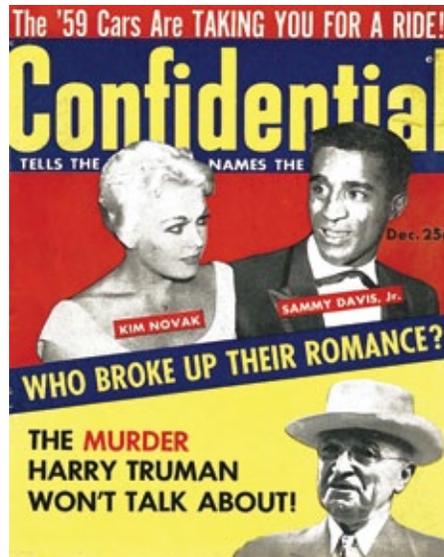
As Henry E. Scott writes in *Shocking True Story*, “Recurring themes in *Confidential* such as homosexuality and miscegenation were good for sales because they pandered to popular fears and pre-conceptions.” As *Confidential* informant and former L.A. vice cop Fred Otash put it when critics complained about the crass nature of the scandal magazine, “Kick all the Communists out of Hollywood, kick out the homosexuals, enforce marital fidelity on both husbands and wives, and you won’t have any scandal—and no scandal magazines.” Of course, believing in the overthrow of capitalism, being gay, or being an adulterer were not crimes. And the first two were not even immoral. But in Eisenhower’s America, many white Americans were concerned about whether Negroes wanted to marry their daughters (the possibility of interracial sex was one of the major reasons white southerners vehemently opposed school integration) and equally concerned about whether “queers” wanted to bugger their sons (homosexuality threatened marriage, manhood, and the home) and whether Communists wanted to brainwash both their sons and their daughters



book of the month continued

(Communism threatened all things American). The journalism of fear coupled with the journalism of envy—the sins, arrogance, and foolishness of the rich and famous unveiled to public ridicule—remains a winning combination. *Confidential*, lacking irony or any bohemian flair, did not in any way condone the behavior of the celebrities; the magazine was four-square for patriotism, Negroes engaging in coitus only with other Negroes, homosexuals being cured or quarantined, and married people not committing adultery. So, it might seem strange at first blush that the magazine was harshly condemned by Hollywood and in most respectable quarters of public opinion (although reading it was a guilty pleasure for many).

The problem was, first, that *Confidential* made money exploiting and sensationalizing the misbehavior that it condemned. It was a cheap, sloppily written publication that appealed to “prurient interests,” as it were, and so was easy for both Hollywood and respectable, middlebrow society to hate. For Hollywood, *Confidential* was bad for business because it was a publication that it could not control as it did the fanzines and the gossip columnists. Second, the magazine violated the privacy of famous people who felt, their careers being at stake, they had a right to fight back, which they did. Whose business was it if they were homosexuals, wife beaters, drunks, commies, adulterers, lechers, leeches, or bad parents underneath the gauzy publicity of fantasy and glamour that Hollywood spun out daily to make the actors seem as large and mythical as the roles they played? Hollywood, through the 1950s, had been the master of subtly appealing to “prurient interests” under the watchful eye of the Catholic Legion of Decency and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. Hollywood at the time, with its self-censoring genuflection to bourgeois morals and its contrary need to titillate its audience with the secret allure of sin and taboo-breaking, was, as one scholar so neatly put it, “a



Jewish-owned business selling Roman Catholic theology to Protestant America.” (Little did anyone know then that revelations of the *Confidential* sort would eventually become routine and do little, if any, damage to the careers of the famous. Often the fires of fame burn ever more intensely because of scandal these days! Even the unknown and the untalented hope that a bit of scandal will land them a reality television show or a six-figure contract to write a memoir.) Launched by Robert Harrison at the end of 1952, *Confidential* saw an extraordinary rise in its stock in the mid-1950s. Indeed, by 1957 the magazine could claim over nine million readers. This was the same year that California Attorney General Pat Brown indicted *Confidential* and Harrison for conspiracy to commit criminal libel and for obscenity. Nothing sours so quickly as the sweet smell of success.

Part 3

Shocking True Story tells of the rise and fall of (Max) Robert Harrison, founder and editor of *Confidential*, born into a Russian Jewish immigrant family in New York in 1904. Harrison was always a disappointment to his father, a coppersmith, who wanted the son to learn a trade. Harrison lacked both the skill and the interest to learn a trade and was attracted to journalism as a boy, creating his first

magazine, a guide to local inns and taverns, when he was twelve. His father referred pejoratively to all endeavors that involved manipulating words as “the air business,” by which he meant hot air or B.S. Selling the unreal to the unwashed was, to Harrison’s father, both irrelevant and contemptible. Harrison dropped out of high school and eventually wound up in Hollywood in 1935, working for Quigley Publishing Company. While working for Quigley in Hollywood, Harrison began collecting cheesecake photos with which he launched the first of many “girlie” magazines. He was fired in 1941 for his sideline enterprise, but with the help of his sisters he kept the girlie magazines going. (Harrison’s publishing was always a family business.) In 1946, with a sufficient number of underground Hollywood contacts like ex-vice cops, prostitutes, madams, press agents, restaurateurs, chauffeurs, maids, bartenders, gardeners, cooks, and private eyes, the underbelly support world of the Hollywood rich, he launched *Whisper*, the forerunner of *Confidential*, as a gossip and scandal magazine to accompany his menu of girlies. *Whisper* morphed into *Confidential*. What Harrison understood was that the public loved exposure of the rich, the powerful, and the famous, no matter how hypocritically they might rail against it through their moral mouthpieces and institutions. What people loved even more than stories of success were the tales of the downfall of the successful.

Harrison’s most fateful hire was Howard Rushmore, a Mexico, Missouri, farm boy who wound up an ardent Communist writing for the *Daily Worker*, from which he was fired for writing a glowing review of the 1939 epic *Gone With the Wind*. He subsequently became an ardent anti-Communist and top-notch scandal journalist. Rushmore was Harrison’s best and most important writer. He also turned against Harrison when he testified for the prosecution in the 1957 “Hollywood versus *Confiden-*



Music and Literature Reading Group

tial” trial. Rushmore, an alcoholic and a morose character generally, turned both the left and the right in the world of journalism against him, would wind up murdering his wife and committing suicide in the back seat of a New York taxi cab in January 1958. Gossip columnist Walter Winchell, who loved *Confidential* because it had gone to bat for him in his contretemps with black dancer/singer Josephine Baker, suggested that Harrison make Rushmore an editor.

The State of California v. Robert Harrison, et al. ended in a hung jury, but it effectively killed *Confidential* as many of Harrison’s most important informants were revealed at the trial. Without them, he had no dirt to dish. He eventually sold the magazine. It must be noted, much to Harrison’s credit, that *Confidential* did print investigative features on corporate America and consumer reports that were, indeed, useful. *Shocking True Story* has a chapter on *Confidential*’s story on the bogus tobacco industry claim that filtered cigarettes were safe to smoke because the filters blocked all the harmful effects.

Shocking True Story is a good, though by no means exhaustive or thorough, account of *Confidential*. Those interested in the subject matter might wish to read the book along with Samuel Bernstein’s *Mr. Confidential: The Man, His Magazine & The Movieland Massacre That Changed Hollywood Forever* (2006), which covers much of the same ground but provides many more photos and illustrations, including the covers of most of the magazines that Harrison published. (Bernstein’s book is a biography of Harrison, and *Shocking True Story* is not.) Bernstein’s book also provides a bit more detail about testimony at the trial. His book, however, does not have an index and is not organized in the most reader-friendly way. *Shocking True Story* is put together much better.

The Center for the Humanities is excited to continue the Music and Literature Reading Group, a monthly discussion group that began last October. Led by Drs. Maya Gibson and Matthew Shipe, lecturers at Washington University, the group will consider a wide range of musical genres and literary forms and will explore the ways in which different musical forms and musicians have been portrayed in literature and in recent criticism. The group’s scope and approach is intentionally broad and interdisciplinary, and we hope to attract a diverse audience to enhance our perspective on the works. The schedule for Spring 2011 is as follows:

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011



American Band: Music, Dreams, and Coming of Age in the Heartland
Kristen Laine
Gotham Press, 2004,
320 pages

American Band: Music, Dreams, and Coming of Age in the Heartland is Kristen Laine’s insightful chronicle of a year-in-the-life of the Elkhart, Indiana Concord High School Marching Minutemen, a 240-plus ensemble preparing to defend its state title. The work offers both a powerful portrait of small-town American life and a meditation on the meaning of making music.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011



Appassionata
Eva Hoffman
Other Press, 2009,
272 pages

Published to critical acclaim in 2009, *Appassionata* examines the meaning that music has in the midst of the violence that afflicts the modern world. The novel follows Isabel Merton, an American pianist on tour in Europe, as she becomes romantically entangled with Anzor Islikhanov, a semiofficial representative of war-torn Chechnya, who follows Isabel on her tour.

Hoffman, who studied piano at the Yale School of Music, brings her love and knowledge of music to this chronicle of the decisions that a musician must make in a time of turmoil.

Wednesday, April 6th, 2011



Sway
Zachary Lazar
Back Bay Books,
2009, 272 pages

Taking its title from the second song on the Rolling Stones’ *Sticky Fingers* album, Lazar’s second novel presents an intricate fictionalized account of the Stones and their entourage—in particular, the filmmaker Kenneth Anger, the director of the infamous *Scorpio Rising* (1964), and Bobby Beausoleil, a musician most famous for his involvement with the Manson family—during the political and social turmoil of the late 1960s. Lazar, the author of *Aaron, Approximately* (1998), will be visiting Washington University’s English Department this spring.

Wednesday, May 4th, 2011



Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain
Oliver Sacks
Vintage, 2008,
448 pages

In *Musicophilia*, renowned neurologist Oliver Sacks considers the potential relationship between music and unusual brain disorders. By presenting a series of cases, some bizarre, some uplifting, *Musicophilia* encourages readers to rethink the ways in which music affects the human brain. Throughout this illuminating and entertaining book, Sacks reconsiders music’s role in our lives and suggests how it is integral to our experience as human beings.

The reading group is open to the public. Books will be available at the Washington University Campus Bookstore. Discussions begin at 3:30 pm in Eliot Hall, Room 307. Coffee and cookies will be provided. Please call the Center at 314-935-5576 to reserve a free parking sticker and to reserve a seat.



Events in December

Wednesday, December 1

You are invited to join the **Thornhill Book Chat** as they discuss Richard Paul Evans' *Finding Noel*. 10:30am, **SLCL-Thornhill Branch**, 12863 Willowyck Dr., 994-3300.

Borders Bookclub in Sunset Hills will be reading *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg. 7pm, **Borders-Sunset Hills**, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

Thursday, December 2

Join the **Trailblazers Book Club** as they discuss *First Family* by David Baldacci. 10am, **SLCL-Jamestown Bluffs Branch**, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 994-3300.

Book Journeys invites you for their discussion of *The Christmas List* by Richard Paul Evans. 2pm, **SLCL-Indian Trails Branch**, 8400 Delpport Dr., 994-3300.

Come to the **Mystery Book Club!** 7pm, **SLCL-Florissant Valley Branch**, 195 New Florissant Rd. Call 994-3300 for this month's book selection.

Left Bank Books will be presenting Antony John as he reads from and signs his most recent novel, *The Five Flavors of Dumb*. 7pm, 399 N. Euclid Ave., 367-6731.

Saturday, December 4

Come join the **Schlafly Branch** of the **Saint Louis Public Library** as they have their Holiday Open House! Noted columnist and author **Bill McClellan** of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* will autograph and answer questions on his new book, *Gently Down the Stream*. 2pm, 225 N. Euclid Ave., 367-4120.

The **St. Louis Writers Guild** will host a Winter Gala to celebrate the end of SLWG's 90th Anniversary festivities. **Bill McClellan**, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* columnist, will be the keynote speaker. 7pm, Orlando Gardens, 8352 Watson Rd. For more information, go to www.stlwritersguild.org.

Main Street Books will be hosting **Steve and Matthew Murrie**, authors of *First Book of Seconds*. 1pm, 307 S. Main St., St. Charles. For more information, contact 636-949-0105 or www.mainstreetbooks.net.

Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club will be hosting a Book Fair where you can buy books for the children in HHBGC. Twenty percent of sales on all other purchases will go to HHBGC. All day, **LBB Downtown**, 321 N. 10th St., 436-3049.

Sunday, December 5

Left Bank Books is pleased to present **Laurence Gonzales**, author of *Lucy*. 7pm, 399 N. Euclid Ave., 367-4120.

Monday, December 6

Join the **Book Bunch** for their discussion of *Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. 7pm, **SLCL-Grand Glaize Branch**, 1010 Meramec Station Rd., 994-3300.

Tuesday, December 7

Come to the **SLPL-Machacek Book Discussion Group**. 10am, 6424 Scanlan Ave. Call 781-2948 for the current book selection.

You are invited to join the discussion of *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks at the **Afternoon Book Discussion Group**. 2pm, **SLCL-Grand Glaize Branch**, 1010 Meramec Station Rd., 994-3300.

Come to a discussion of *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave. 7pm, **SLCL-Meramec Valley Branch**, 625 New Smizer Mill Rd., 994-3300.

Wednesday, December 8

Join the **Bookies** for their discussion of *1984* by George Orwell. 2pm, **SLCL-Oak Bend Branch**, 842 S. Holmes Ave., 994-3300.

Chesterfield Arts presents their 2nd Annual Chesterfield Arts High School Writing Contest Awards Event! This year's theme, "The 16 Challenge," required students to incorporate 16 specific words into their entries. The winners will be announced at the event, and you will have the opportunity to hear their work. 7pm, 444 Chesterfield Center. For more information, visit www.chesterfieldarts.org or call 636-519-1955.

Author **Yunte Huang** will be discussing his book *Charlie Chan*, an absorbing history of the legendary Cantonese detective. 7pm, **Left Bank Books**, 399 N. Euclid Ave., 367-4120.

Thursday, December 9

Come to the **Thursday Matinee Book Club's** discussion of *The Year the Colored Sisters Came to Town* by Jacqueline Guidry. 1:30pm, **SLCL-Natural Bridge Branch**, 7606 Natural Bridge Rd., 994-3300.

Join the **Murder of the Month Club** as they discuss *Crimson Snow* by Jeanne Dams. 3:30pm, **SLCL-Indian Trails Branch**, 8400 Delpport Dr., 994-3300.

Author **Jane Leavy** will be discussing her recent novel *The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood*. 7pm, **SLPL-Schlafly Branch**, 225 N. Euclid, 367-4120.

Join the **Public Contemplations** discussion of *Dismantling Discontent: Buddha's Way through Darwin's World* by Charles Fisher. 7pm, **SLPL-Carpenter Branch**, 3309 S. Grand Blvd. To reserve your copy, call Michael at 772-6586.

Friday, December 10

A Reading of Graduating MFA Fiction Writers **Matt Bell, Gianna Jacobson, Patrick Harned and Leeli Davidson**. 7pm, E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center, **UMSL**, One University Blvd., 771-7391.

St. Louis Poetry Center invites you to second friday notes with poets **Drucilla Wall** and **John MacEnulty** with musical guest, **Mick McLaughlin**. 7pm, Whole Foods Market in Town & Country, Clayton Rd. and Woods Mill Rd., 973-0616.

Saturday, December 11

Main Street Books will host its second annual **Chicken Soup for the Soul, Canned Soup for the Body Food Drive**. There will also be a book signing, featuring local authors who write for the *Chicken Soup* series. Bring in a canned food item, purchase a *Chicken Soup* book and receive 20% off your entire purchase. 1pm, 307 South Main St., St. Charles. For more information, call 636-949-0105 or visit www.mainstreetbooks.net.

Join this week's discussion of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. 1pm, **SLPL-Buder Branch**, 4401 Hampton Ave., 352-2900.

Join the **Saturday Afternoon Book Club** for a discussion of *The Moonflower Vine* by *Jetta Carleton*. 2pm, **Webster Groves Public Library**, 3232 S. Brentwood, 961-3784.

Sunday, December 12

The **BookClub** invites you to their 419th discussion. This month they will discuss any book by Lemony Snicket. Contact Lloyd Klinedinst at 636-451-3232 for details about time and location.



Monday, December 13

Join the **Monday Book Discussion Group** that meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. 1pm, **SLCL-Weber Road Branch**, 4444 Weber Rd., 994-3300.

Do you like to chat with friends about your favorite books? You are invited to join the discussion of *The River Wife: A Novel by Jonis Agee*. 7pm, **SLCL-Prairie Commons Branch**, 915 Utz Ln., Hazelwood, 994-3300.

Tuesday, December 14

The **Foreign Literature** group will discuss *The Pilgrim Hawk* by Glenway Westcott. 7:30pm, Washington University's West Campus, 7425 Forsyth, 727-6118.

You are invited to this week's discussion of *Tinkers* by Paul Harding. 6:45pm, **SLPL-Kingshighway Branch**, 2260 South Vandeventer Ave., 771-5450.

You are welcome to join the **Pageturners'** discussion of the *Painted Veil* by W. Somerset Maugham. 7pm, **SLCL-Tesson Ferry Branch**, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr., 994-3300.

Wednesday, December 15

St. Louis County Library invites you to the Tuesday Afternoon Book Group as they discuss *Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger. 2pm, **SLCL-Cliff Cave Branch**, 5430 Telegraph Rd., 994-3300.

SLPL-Schafly Branch will have its **Central Book Discussion** one week early due to Christmas. New members are welcome! This month, the discussion is on the book *Knit the Season* by Kate Jacobs. 4pm, 225 N. Euclid Ave., 367-4120.

As the Page Turns Book Discussion Group invites you to join in their discussion of Mignon F. Ballard's book *Hark! The Herald Angel Screamed*. 7pm, **SLCL-Weber Road Branch**, 4444 Weber Rd., 994-3300.

The **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion Group** invites you for a lively discussion of *The Guemsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. 2pm, **SLCL-Cliff Cave Branch**, 5430 Telegraph Rd., 994-3300.

Join the **Eureka Hills Book Discussion Group** for a discussion of *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. 6pm, **SLCL-Eureka Hills Branch**, 103 Hilltop Village Center, 994-3300.

Trailblazers After Dark invites you to a

discussion of *Rules of Deception* by Christopher Reich. 7pm, **SLCL-Jamestown Bluffs Branch**, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 994-3300.

Truman Capote was known for many things, but he was a master of short fiction. Join the **Wednesday Night Book Discussion Group** as they discuss *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and three other short pieces, including *A Christmas Memory*. 7pm, **SLCL-Cliff Cave Branch**, 5430 Telegraph Rd., 994-3300.

Join the **Evening Book Discussion Group** for a discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen. 7:30pm, **SLCL-Oak Bend Branch**, 842 S. Holmes Ave., 994-3300.

The **FV Evening Book Discussion Group** will discuss *The Shack: A Novel* by William P. Young. 7:30pm, **SLCL-Florissant Valley Branch**, 195 New Florissant Rd., 994-3300.

Thursday, December 16

SLPL-Schafly Branch will have its **Book Discussion** one week early due to Christmas. New members are welcome! This month's book is *Supreme Courtship* by Christopher Buckley. 4pm, 225 N. Euclid Ave., 367-4120.

The **Regional Arts Commission** presents **Mary Troy**, who will discuss her short stories and novels including her latest novel, *Beauties*, the first in a new series of novels of the Midwest. 7:30pm, 6128 Delmar, 863-5811.

The **Book Journeys** invites you to a discussion of *Push: A Novel* by Sapphire. 2pm, **SLCL-Indian Trails Branch**, 8400 Delpport Dr., 994-3300.

NB Ladies of the E*Stallions Book Club invites you to a discussion of popular and sometimes controversial books. 7pm, **SLCL-Natural Bridge Branch**, 7606 Natural Bridge Rd., 994-3300.

Monday, December 20

Come to the **Let's Talk** book discussion group, where you can hear reviews of books and movies people are enjoying—and give your own review! 11am, **SLPL-Baden Branch**, 8448 Church Rd., 388-2400.

The **Monday Matters** reading group will have its final fall meeting where they will discuss *Bloodletting and Vampire Cures* by Vincent Lam. 7pm, **University City Public Library**, 6701 Delmar Blvd., 727-3150.

Tuesday, December 21

Come to the **SLPL-Machacek Book Discussion Group**. 10am, 6424 Scanlan Ave.

Call 781-2948 for the current book selection.

FV Afternoon Book Discussion Group invites you to a discussion of Velma Wallis's *Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival*. 2pm, **SLCL-Florissant Valley Branch**, 195 New Florissant Rd., 994-3300.

The **Tuesday Evening Book Club** invites you to a discussion of the book *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. 7pm, **SLCL-Thornhill Branch**, 12863 Willowycck Dr., 994-3300.

Monday, December 27

Join the **Monday Book Discussion Group** for a discussion. Visitors are welcome. 1pm, **SLCL-Weber Road Branch**, 4444 Weber Rd., 994-3300.

Upcoming Events & Notices

The **Missouri Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** meets every month in three locations. The St. Charles group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Mid Rivers Barnes and Noble. For more information, contact Stephanie Bearce at smbearce@charter.net. The Florissant group meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Florissant Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact Sue Bradford Edwards, suebradfordedwards@yahoo.com. The St. Louis City group meets the third Sunday of the month at SLPL-Buder Branch at 2:30 pm. For contact information, email Jessica Saigh, jessicasaigh@swbell.net.

Call for Submissions: The Lindenwood Review, the literary journal of Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, is currently accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, and personal essays for Issue 1, to be published in Spring 2011. Submission deadline is Dec. 15, 2010. Guidelines are available at <http://TheLindenwoodReview.blogspot.com>.

Abbreviations

STL: Saint Louis; B&N: Barnes & Noble; KPL: Kirkwood Public Library; LBB: Left Bank Books; SLCL: St. Louis County Library; SLPL: St. Louis Public Library; SCCCL: St. Charles City County Library; UCPL: University City Public Library; UMSL: University of Missouri—St. Louis; WU: Washington University; WGPL: Webster Groves Public Library.

Check the online calendar at cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu for more events and additional details. To advertise, send event details to litalc@artsci.wustl.edu, fax 935-4889, or call 935-5576.





Missouri Arts Council
The State of the Arts

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the Regional Arts Commission.



REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION of ST. LOUIS

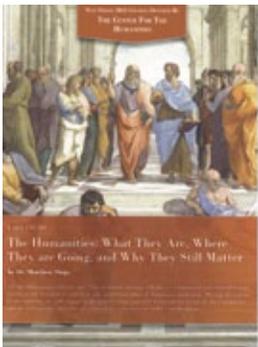
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 2535



ARTS & SCIENCES

The Center for the Humanities
Campus Box 1071
Eliot Hall, Suite 300
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
Phone: (314) 935-5576
email: cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu
http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu

The Center for the Humanities
Will Launch New Courses for Spring 2011

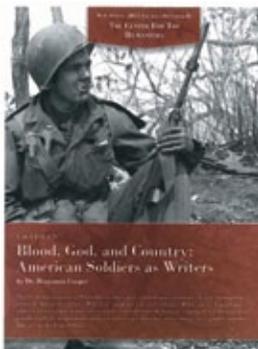


The Humanities: What They Are, Where They Are Going, and Why They Still Matter (L56 CFH 101)

by Dr. Matthew Shipe

Are the humanities still relevant? This freshman seminar will present a historical and cultural examination of the

humanities and their past and future place in American universities. During the course of the semester, we will engage in the debates that currently surround the future of the humanities, and we will consider the value of a liberal arts education in today's marketplace.



Blood, God, and Country: American Soldiers as Writers (L56 CFH 121)

by Dr. Benjamin Cooper

This freshman seminar will consider literary and cultural representations of war through

the voices of American soldiers. Who may speak for war and violence? What can we learn from soldiers' writing that cannot otherwise be learned from the broader canons of war literature we usually read? Such questions intersect with larger anxieties surrounding race, gender, and the military in the United States.



Children and Childhood in World Religions (L56 CFH 341)

by Dr. Wendy Love Anderson

This course will explore a wide range of teachings about children and childhood from across the world's major religious traditions. We will examine beliefs and practices involving child deities, child martyrs, childhood innocence, childhood responsibility, and rituals marking the beginning and end of childhood.

We will also question the extent to which contemporary "secular" concepts of childhood have been constructed with—or against—religious foundations.