

# St. Louis Literary Calendar



## Events in October

All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Author events are followed by signings. All phone numbers take 314 prefix unless indicated.

### Sunday, October 1

Borders in Brentwood presents author **Brian Jacques** to read from and sign his new book, *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* series, *Voyage of Slaves*, 2pm, 1519 South Brentwood, 918-8189.

The **BookClub** holds its 368th discussion on *Just and Unjust Wars*, by Michael Walzer, for time and venue, 636-451-3232.

### Tuesday, October 3

St. Louis Writers Guild and St. Louis Writers Workshops presents "The Whole Truth," an eight-week workshop taught by **Kathleen Finnerant**, classes meet on Tuesdays from 7-9pm, visit [www.stlww.com](http://www.stlww.com) for more information and registration.

Visiting East Asian Professionals Program of Washington University presents **Ko Un**, author of *Three Way Tavern* and *Flowers of a Moment* will be speaking about "The Meeting of Two Literatures: South and North Korea", 5pm, Danforth Campus, Alumni House, 935-8772.

St. Louis Writers Guild and St. Louis Writers Workshops present "Second Drafts: Works in Progress," a workshop led by **Julie Earhart**, classes meet on Tuesdays, visit [www.stlww.com](http://www.stlww.com) for more information and registration.

### Thursday, October 5

LBB presents author **Brian Jacques** who will read from his newest novel, *The Voyage of the Slaves: A Tale from Castaways of the Flying Dutchman*, 7pm at Buder Library, 4401 Hampton Ave, 352-2900.

Washington University Fall Reading Series presents **Marshall Klimasewiski**, short story writer; he will be reading in the Hurst Lounge (Duncker, room 201) at 8pm, for more information, contact David Schuman at 935-7130 or [dschuman@wustl.edu](mailto:dschuman@wustl.edu).

### Friday, October 6

**George R. R. Martin** will read from and sign his book, *The Ice Dragon*, 7pm, Borders Brentwood, 1519 South Brentwood, 918-8189.

### Saturday, October 7

**The Big Read** presented by Centene Corporation will feature publishers, book-sellers, national authors, readings, book signings, panel discussions, workshops, demonstrations and an interactive children's area, 10am-6pm, 7818 Forsyth, Suite 210, 863-0278. Visit [www.bigread.net](http://www.bigread.net) for detailed schedule.

### Tuesday, October 10

Borders Brentwood hosts **John Ashcroft** as he discusses and signs his new book, *Never Again: Securing America and Restoring Justice*, 6pm, 1519 South Brentwood, 918-8189.

The Greater St. Louis Chapter, Sisters in Crime presents **Dr. Ruth Birch** with "Cause of Death: Undetermined," for the monthly meeting. 6:45pm. Held at St. Louis County Library, Samuel C. Saches Branch, 16400 Burkhardt Place, 469-6356.

Authors **Robert Hartley** and **David Kenney** will discuss and sign their new Illinois history book, *Death Underground: The Centralia and West Frankfort Mine Disasters*, 7pm, Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-397-6097.

St. Louis Writers Guild and Dressel's Pub welcome **Jud Miner**, author of *Amos* and *The Wild Welshman* and **Jack Owen**, author of *To Your Heart From Mine*, 7-9pm, 419 N. Euclid, 636-519-8545.

### Wednesday, October 11

**Tory Johnson** will be discussing her new book, *Take This Book To Work: How To Ask For Money, Fulfillment, and Advancement*, as well as doing signings. 7pm at Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

### Thursday, October 12

St. Louis Writers Guild and St. Louis Writers Workshops kick off a 6-week workshop series entitled "Finding Your Fiction: Where Do You Start?" led by **Jeff May**, 7-9pm on Thursdays, visit [www.stlww.com](http://www.stlww.com) for more information and registration.

Author **John Dufresne** will read from his work, 7pm, Gallery 210, UMSL, 44E. Drive, One University Blvd., 516-6845.

LBB presents children's book writer **Graeme Base** who will read from his new book *Uno's Garden*. 7pm at Buder Library, 4401 Hampton Ave., 352-2900.

**University City Great Books Discussion Group** will meet to discuss *The Two Shores* by Carlos Fuentes, 7-10pm, 6800 Waterman, 994-7914.

Washington University Fall Reading Series presents **Steven Millhauser**, a professor from Skidmore College, who will read from his fiction writing in the Hurst Lounge (Duncker, room 201) at 8 pm. For more information, contact David Schuman at 935-7130 or [dschuman@wustl.edu](mailto:dschuman@wustl.edu).

### Friday, October 13

LBB presents author of the best selling book *Tuesdays with Morrie*, **Mitch Albom**, who will read from his new novel, *For One More Day*. 7pm at the Headquarters Branch of the St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 994-3300.

### Saturday, October 14

**Writer's Society of Jefferson County** will meet from 9:30am-12:30pm in Conference Rooms C&D at Jefferson Memorial Hospital, Highway 61S, 636-479-6471.

The **BookClub** holds its 369th discussion on *Wild Grass*, by Ian Johnson. For time and venue call 636-451-3232.

Author and educator **Judy Larsen** will discuss and sign her book, *All the Numbers*. 2 pm at Borders Sunset Hills, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

Borders will host **Michael Spiroff**, who will discuss and sign his latest children's book, *Captain Halloween*. 11am at Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189. Also at 4pm at Borders Sunset Hills, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

**Bob Benner** will sign copies of his latest book, *Think Golf*. 2pm at Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-297-6097.

Author **Melissa Draper** will discuss and sign her children's book, *Holly the Christmas Collie*. 11am at Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-297-6097.

**Marilyn Ayres-Salamon** is going to discuss and sign her book, *A Recipe for Failure: A Year of Reform and Chaos in the St. Louis Public Schools*. 2pm at Borders Ballwin, 15355 A Manchester Rd., 636-230-2992.

Discussing and signing her new book, *For the People I Love and Can't Forget: Poems and Memories of the Holocaust*, **Maria Szapszewicz** will be at Borders Creve Coeur at 2 pm, 11745 Olive Blvd., 432-3575.

Local author **Dennis Owsley** will discuss and sign his new book, *City of Gabriels: The History of Jazz in St. Louis, 1895-1973*. 2pm at Borders St. Peters, 1320 Mid Rivers Mall Drive, 636-278-5000.

### Sunday, October 15th

**Bob Benner** will sign copies of his latest book, *Think Golf*. 2pm, at Borders Sunset Hills, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

**Michael Spiroff** will discuss and sign his newest children's book, *Captain Halloween*. Noon at Borders Ballwin, 15355 A Manchester Rd., 636-230-2992. Also at 4pm at Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-297-6097.

Author **Melissa Draper** will discuss and sign her children's book, *Holly the Christmas Collie* at 11am, Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

Local author and educator **Judy Larsen** will discuss and sign her book, *All the Numbers*. 2pm, at Borders Creve Coeur, 11745 Olive Blvd., 432-3575.

**Dennis Owsley**, local author, will discuss and sign his new book, *City of Gabriels: The History of Jazz in St. Louis, 1895-1973*. 2pm at Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

### Monday, October 16

UMSL presents poet **Carl Philips**, *Body of Risk - A Poetry Reading*, 12:15pm, Room 229, JC Penney Conference Center, One University Blvd., 516-6845.

LBB presents **Governor James McGreevey**. The former governor of New Jersey will discuss his memoir *The Confession*. 7pm at the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, 5007 Waterman Blvd, 361-0595.

River Styx Special Halloween Reading! Reading from the *Chance of a Ghost* anthology, among other poems, will be **Gloria Vando**, **Phil Miller**, **Marjorie Stelmach**, **Jayne Wayne** and more. 7:30pm, Duff's Restaurant, 392 North Euclid, 361-0522.

### Wednesday, October 18

Co-sponsored by LBB, **Robert Mankoff**, cartoon editor of the *New Yorker* magazine, will discuss and sign the *Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker*. 7:30pm at Founders' Theatre at COCA, 524 Trinity Ave., 725-6555 or [www.cocastl.org](http://www.cocastl.org) for more information.

### Thursday, October 19

St. Louis Writers Guild is pleased to present **Mary Troy**, who will deliver "Loving the Unlovable," a lecture on how to be true to one's character. 7-9pm at B&N, 8871 Ladue Road, 821-3823.

LBB presents award-winning author **Kate Atkinson**, who will read from her new book, *One Good Turn*. 7pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

Washington University Fall Reading Series presents author **Steven Millhauser**, who will speak on the craft of fiction in the Hurst Lounge (Duncker, room 201) at 8pm. For more information, contact David Schuman at 935-7130 or [dschuman@wustl.edu](mailto:dschuman@wustl.edu).

Appearing together, **Joellen Gamp McDonald** and **Ruth Nichols Keenoy** will discuss and sign their new St. Louis history book, *Richmond Heights: 1868-1940* at 7pm, Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

### Friday, October 20

LBB and SLCL are pleased to present the author of *Money Ball* and *Liar's Poker*. **Michael Lewis** will discuss his new book, *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*. 7pm at the Headquarters Branch of the St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 994-3300.

### Saturday, October 21

**Writer's Society of Jefferson County** will hold a writing workshop, 10am, Festus Library, N. Main Street, 636-479-6471.

Borders hosts local author **Dennis Owsley**, who will discuss and sign his new book, *City of Gabriels: The History of Jazz in St. Louis, 1895-1973*. 2pm, at Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-297-6097.

### Monday, October 23

LBB presents **Quincy Troupe**, a poet and music historian, who will read from his collection, entitled *The Architecture of Language*. 7pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

### Tuesday, October 24

Saint Louis Poetry Center sponsors Poetry at the Point! A free event with readings by **Ed Boccia**, author of *Moving the Still Life* and author **Matt Freeman**, *The Dogtown Poet*, 7-9 pm at The Focal Point, 636-225-5423.

LBB hosts the author of *Persepolis* and *Embroideries*, **Marjane Strapi**, who will discuss her newest graphic novel, *Chicken & Plums*. 7pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

**Brian Freeman** will discuss and sign his new thriller, *Stripped*, at 7pm, Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

### Thursday, October 26

LBB presents international best-selling author **Malika Oufkir**, reading from her book, *Freedom: The Story of My Second Life*, 7pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

**University City Great Books Discussion Group** will meet to discuss *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois, 7-10pm, 6800 Waterman, 994-7914.

Washington University Fall Reading Series: **In Memory of Charles Newman**, distinguished faculty member at Washington University. Writers, members of the community, and admirers will read from his works. Event begins at 8pm in the Whitaker Auditorium. For more information, contact David Schuman at 935-7130 or [dschuman@wustl.edu](mailto:dschuman@wustl.edu).

### Saturday, October 28

Discussing and signing his book, *Inman's War: A Soldier's Story of a Colored Battalion in WWII*, will be **Jeffrey Copeland**. 2pm at Borders Sunset Hills, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

**Elizabeth Donald** will discuss and sign her new *Ellora's Cave* book, *Nocturne* at 2pm, Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-397-6097.

### Sunday, October 29

LBB presents children's author **Tomie dePaola**. The author and illustrator of *Strega Nona* will read from his new book, *Christmas Remembered*, 4pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

Discussing and signing his book, *Inman's War: A Soldier's Story of a Colored Battalion in WWII*, will be **Jeffrey Copeland**, 2pm at Borders Fairview Heights, 6601 N. Illinois, 618-397-6097.

### Monday, October 30

UMSL presents novelist **John Dalton**, *A Fiction Reading with Q&A*, 12:15pm, JC Penney Conference Center, One University Blvd., 516-6845.

LBB presents the best-selling author of *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, **Mary Roach**, who will discuss her newest book *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*. 7pm, 399 North Euclid, 367-6731.

St. Louis Jewish Book Festival presents **Rabbi Harold Kushner**, signing and discussing his book, *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*, 7:30pm, #2 Millstone Campus Drive, 442-3299

**Tomie DePaola** will read and sign his new book, *Christmas Remembered* at 7pm Borders Brentwood, 1519 S. Brentwood Blvd., 918-8189.

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

## Notices

St. Louis Writers Guild presents **The James Nash Memorial Short Story Contest**, open for submissions beginning October 1. Visit [www.stlwritersguild.org](http://www.stlwritersguild.org) for more information.

**St. Louis Public Library**, in partnership with The Magic House, begins their all-new interactive exhibit, **Once Upon a Time...Exploring the World of Fairy Tales**. Geared toward children ages 3-10, this FREE, hands-on experience will be open from October 2nd to the 30th. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on the 2nd! St. Louis Public Library, central branch: 1301 Olive St. Mon.: 10am-9pm Tues.-Fri.: 10am-6pm Sat.: 9am-5pm, 539-0382 for more information.

The NSN **National Storytelling Conference** will be held July 11-15, 2007, in St. Louis. Call 997-3474 for additional information.

The groundbreaking film *Eyes on the Prize*, based on the book by Juan Williams, returns to PBS on **AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** this October. Three, two-hour episodes air on consecutive Mondays, October 2-16, 2006, 9-11pm ET.

**Poets & Writers' 2007 Writers Exchange Contest** for unpublished Missouri poets and fiction writers is accepting submissions, for details go to [www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org), **Deadline: December 1, 2006.**

## Abbreviations

B&N: Barnes & Noble; 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, WU: Washington University.

Check the online calendar at [cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu](http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu) for more events and additional details. To advertise, send event details to [lital@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:lital@artsci.wustl.edu), or call 935-5576.

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# the figure in the carpet

One Civilized Reader Is Worth a Thousand Boneheads

Published by The Center for the Humanities at Washington University

## Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes

I have never spent much time reflecting on my life, let alone looked on it as having stages. But two versions of the same momentous event happened this past summer that caused me to consider what I thought life would be like at this age. My daughter was married, not once, but twice. An American-style wedding ceremony was held in New York in April and a traditional Chinese ceremony was held in Beijing in July. While I was thinking about how to capture these emotional events by focusing upon their cultural differences, I was struck by how much life had changed, not only my individual life, but also the lives of every parent at both those ceremonies.



Dr. Jian Leng

What initiated my train of thought was trying to place my daughter's wedding into the context of my own life. When I reached the age to be married in China, the country was in the grip of the Cultural Revolution, and wedding ceremonies were banned as bourgeois. Couples simply visited the local administrative offices and signed the necessary papers. This bare declaration of intent was a world away from the traditional weddings of China, with all their ceremony and rich symbolism. Although they never said much about it, I knew my parents regretted being unable to celebrate my wedding traditionally. Their expectations for the weddings of my sister and me were lost in political events that changed everything for all of us. Celebrating their granddaughter's wedding in Beijing was a belated effort to complete that stage of their lives in a way that they and our extended family would recognize and enjoy.

The New York wedding pushed traditional norms by being outside in a park at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, with Manhattan as a backdrop. The Chinese wedding took place within the boundaries of a wonderful old Ming Dynasty courtyard where, if you stood in just the right place, you could see the skyline of Beijing. At the respective recep-

tions—in a trendy restaurant in New York, and in the great hall of the Ming courtyard—I begin to think about how parenthood has changed, especially parental ideas about life stages before and after children.

In New York, this realization came from several observations: a Chinese American couple struggling to find a reason (other than money) to live together now that their only child was grown; an American mother of several teenagers in a very revealing dress, perhaps signaling the carefree lifestyle she hoped to assume after sending the kids off to university; a crowd of thirty something married wedding guests drinking and dancing like teenagers. Another telling experience was seeing my mother-in-law enjoying a long post-parent stage of life with enough retirement benefits to do things she might not have dreamed would ever be possible.

In Beijing, there was the overwhelming anxiety and distress a couple felt about their only child's disappointing scores on school exams, and the struggles of retired couples trying to find meaning in a life stage for which they were unprepared. They had expected to be cared for while they cared for their grandchildren. But the children and grandchildren are far away, and they live alone in an unfamiliar culture, overtaken by the economic restructuring of older social values.

According to *The State of Our Unions: The Social Health of Marriage in America* (2006) by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead and David Popenoe, Americans increasingly see the parenting years as exhausting. So exhausting, they are doing less and less parenting. Children entail considerable financial burdens, time-consuming responsibilities, and emotional stress and strain on both individual and marital happiness. Formerly in both New York and Beijing the larger share of most adult lives was spent with minor children in the household. Typically, women married soon after their teen years and gave

editor's notes

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birth to the first of several children shortly thereafter. Life after children was often considered the end of productive adulthood and the beginning of old age. At the beginning of the last century, only 41 percent of adults survived to age 65 (currently that percentage is 82 percent). Because of shorter life expectancies, the number of years devoted to child rearing could equal or exceed the number of years before or after a woman's child rearing period.

Our generation saw the first changes in this pattern. For us, the years of life after children are not only more numerous, they are healthier. It is no longer the case that emptying of the nest is followed by arrival of old age and the end of life. After the children leave, many of us have decades of vitality before we experience health problems associated with old age. Even at age 65, according to a recent census report, women can expect most of their remaining years to be active, and some will be going strong at 85 or even 95.

Today, our children get married much later, they have fewer offspring, and, thankfully, they live and are healthy even longer. Their generation expects to spend a smaller share of their life trajectories in households with children, and a larger share of their lives in households without children. In fact, it is life before and after children that American culture now portrays as the most satisfying period of adulthood. Moreover, in America, life without children is emerging as a social reality for more and more young couples. Such attitudes have not yet reached full force in China, but the economic and social developments giving rise to them are growing at an astonishing pace, so before long these same social expectations will be written in Chinese characters.

A further change inextricably linked to those just noted is the resulting demographic logic that affects entire nations and ultimately all humankind. As children become more expensive and our expectations about child rearing and adult identity change, there will be fewer couples having fewer children and, thus, fewer people entering the workforce. Just as companies in America are shedding pension plans because they employ too few people to fund them, the enormous social cost of supporting a growing group of retirees from the contributions of fewer and fewer young workers will force hard choices. I often wonder what kind of choice we as individuals have in these matters. Perhaps when our daughter's child gets married, I will look up at the skyline of a very different kind of city, one full of lofts designed for singles and workplaces spread out along vast wireless connections. Or maybe I will see a city of homes filled with multigenerational families combining the strengths of their various life stages. In any case, like every parent, I will be responsible in some small way for the next social transformation.



*A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*

By Michael Kazin

Knopf, 2006, 374 pages including index and photos

William Jennings Bryan is largely remembered today as the emblem of religious fundamentalism, nay, as a religious reactionary and antimodern obscurantist because of his unfortunate and misguided association with the Scopes "Monkey" Trial of 1925, certainly one of the most famous cases in 20th century American history. Bryan, despite his "elder" status at age 65 as a national politician, was still one of the most famous men in America in the mid-1920s, and he joined the prosecution, mostly at the urging of the leadership of the World's Christian Fundamentals Association, not the prosecutors themselves, who did not want him, in Dayton, Tennessee, in a case pitting the state against a high school teacher named John Scopes over the issue of pedagogy and belief. Scopes had been hired to teach math and physics and to coach the Dayton High School football team but, while substituting for the regular biology teacher, took up the subject of evolution, a violation of the Butler Bill that forbade the teaching of evolution in the public schools of the state, which had passed the Tennessee legislature two months before Scopes broke the law. Apparently, the politicians who passed this law did not take it seriously and never thought it would be enforced.

It was no accident Scopes broke the law, as the American Civil Liberties Union was looking for a test case to challenge the statute and Scopes agreed to the idea. Moreover, as historian Michael Kazin, Bryan's latest biographer, notes in *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*, "Scopes gladly agreed to stand trial for the good of the local economy." Some of Dayton's leading boosters thought the trial would bring in tourists. They were right. As Bryan himself said after the trial, "Here has been fought out a little case of little consequence as a case, but the world is interested because it raises an issue and that issue will some day be settled right, whether it is settled on our side or the other side." On the one hand, this can be seen as a free speech, First Amendment case, pure and simple. Another way of looking at this issue was in the way journalist Walter Lippmann framed it when he wrote, "If it is wrong to compel people to support a creed they disbelieve," how can one "compel them to support teaching which impugns the creed in which they do believe?"

Largely, Bryan is remembered for this trial because of the famous play and film *Inherit the Wind*, a fictionalized and highly distorted dramatization, where, in the end, the light of liberalism triumphs over the darkness of fundamentalism (without ever posing the real questions of why fundamentalism wants to challenge the world that liberalism has wrought or why liberalism perhaps ought to be challenged as a political and especially a moral idea). Bryan is remembered as a foolish, narrow-minded old man, cross-examined on the stand by defense attorney and agnostic Clarence Darrow and so befuddled by Darrow's questions that he finally answered one question, "I do not think about things I don't think about." To

which Darrow retorted, “Do you think about the things you do think about?”

The great journalist and critic, Baltimore “Bad Boy” H. L. Mencken, had as much to do as anyone with how we think about Bryan today, as he covered the Scopes trial (although he left before Bryan was cross-examined). In his obituary/thought piece about Bryan (Bryan died suddenly ten days after the trial), Mencken wrote: “He seemed only a poor clod like those around him, deluded by a childish theology, full of an almost pathological hatred of all learning, all human dignity, all beauty, all fine and noble things. Mencken was a peasant come home to the barnyard.” Kazin rightly points out the irony that liberals today have taken Mencken’s view of Bryan to their hearts when Mencken himself was no liberal. He was a “lifelong anti-Semite,” opposed Roosevelt and the New Deal, and, Kazin could have added, a lifelong believer in Social Darwinism (an utterly disgusting idea to liberals), something that Bryan had always opposed, which is why Bryan opposed Darwinism itself, because he felt it was a scientific justification of the rule of the strong exploiting and exterminating the weak. Bryan also felt Darwinism was a justification for war and militarism on the same grounds. Bryan resigned as secretary of state under Woodrow Wilson, the only important political position he held in his entire career, because he opposed the administration’s sympathy with the Allied side of the Great War, a violation, he felt, of American neutrality. He thought the administration was moving inexorably toward joining the European conflict, something he tried to prevent by attempting to broker a peace between the warring countries without success, undercut by his own president.

Kazin fashions a Bryan that he calls a “Christian liberal,” not a contradiction in terms, Kazin insists (a better term might have been “evangelical Christian liberal”), and as one of the true architects of the modern Democratic Party, although he is largely unacknowledged as such, mostly because of his funda-



*A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*  
By Michael Kazin  
Knopf, 2006

mentalism. Kazin points out how Bryan became the focal point of populism when he first ran for president in 1896, amazingly, at the age of 36, having served only one term as a U.S. Congressman from Nebraska. (Having such an inexperienced person run for that office seems unthinkable.) He came to public notice as an orator in an age of oration, Kazin makes clear, when the public, without aid of radio or television, was used to hearing a political candidate speak for more than two hours at a stretch about his positions on the issues. Bryan’s big issue was the coinage of silver and putting America on a bimetal monetary system. The gold standard, he felt, favored the eastern bankers and Wall Street money men, while it hurt the working classes and the farmers especially, who were reeling from the Panic of 1893. Bryan’s “Cross of Gold” speech at the 1896 Democratic convention won him the nomination, as he stood at the end of his speech, arms held out, as if he himself had been crucified. It was probably one of the greatest speeches ever given at an American political convention, surely one of the most remembered. The fact that it is

remembered despite the fact that it is about something that has long ceased to be a political issue in the United States makes it all the more remarkable. But Republican William McKinley defeated Bryan in a competitive but not terribly close election, and even though Bryan was to run two more times for the presidency, he never was to come even as close as he did in 1896 to winning it. Bryan supported labor unions, a graduated income tax, the vote for women, and the direct election of senators, something that would have helped him when he ran for the senate in Nebraska in 1894, only to have the Republican state legislators pick his opponent, despite the fact that Bryan won 73 percent of the popular vote. Indeed, he supported virtually the entire slate of Progressive reforms, most of which were enacted into law between 1910 and 1920.

He had a sufficient constituency to remain a force in the Democratic Party for his entire life. (His brother, who was very important in the formation of Bryan’s career, ran for the vice presidency on the Democratic ticket in 1924.) Kazin does not sugarcoat Bryan’s racism, which he calls a “moral failing rather than a flaw in electoral strategy.” Nor does Kazin excuse it because it was a common belief among whites at the time, an excuse some use about historical figures as if to suggest that a person cannot help believing what he or she believes. This is, at best, only partly true. He emphasizes Bryan’s moral beliefs and Christian devotion, and he relates Bryan’s world travels (Bryan probably saw more of the world than most American politicians of the time; he was, for instance, highly impressed with meeting Russian writer Leo Tolstoy), which Bryan wrote about in his books, *The Old World and Its Ways: Describing a Tour Around the World and Journeys through Europe* (1907) and *Under Other Flags: Travels, Lectures, Speeches* (1905). But he also reminds us that “itinerant oratory and journalism” were Bryan’s career, as Bryan made sure constantly to publicize

his views through his own magazines, his columns, and his relentless touring on the Chautauqua circuit. Bryan was also not above making a buck. He became very wealthy during the course of his public life. He was a big eater with a pedestrian but optimistic mind.

There are several other biographies of Bryan, including a massive two-volume "definitive" effort, but none are of very recent vintage, and some are decidedly opposed to him. Kazin's is a highly readable and sympathetic view of the man, balanced and reasonable, that places him within the American liberal tradition and, paradoxically, within the tradition opposed to liberalism or at least opposed to liberalism's excesses and its hubris. Bryan, ultimately, believed in the Bible and the common white man with awesome certainty.

Although this is not mentioned in Kazin's book, it might, finally, be noted that Bryan is remembered by some today who think that L. Frank Baum's children's classic, *The Wizard of Oz* (1900), is about the fight over bimetallicism and Bryan's quixotic 1896 run for the presidency. (See *The Historian's Wizard of Oz: Reading L. Frank Baum's Classic as a Political and Monetary Allegory*, edited by Ranjit S. Dighe, 2002, for more about Bryan, bimetallicism and *The Wizard of Oz*.) It is almost a certainty that Baum's book has nothing to do with Bryan, that Baum was not a populist, and that he was almost certainly not a Democrat. But it is nice to think of Bryan as being connected with the most famous American children's book ever written, a book about the American obsessions of being on the road and finding the way home. It seems a better fate than being remembered as the Old Backward Commoner, gone in the tooth and ragged in the mind, defending an anti-intellectual Christianity as the Last Lost Cause. Menken was right: all controversies end as an exchange of nonsense.



## Corpus Delicti: Just Desserts

October 24 and 25, 2006

Local Infinities Visual Theater brings *Corpus Delicti: Just Desserts* by Larry Underwood and Meghan Strell to Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. *Corpus Delicti* is set in an anatomical theater in 17th Century Holland, where human dissection attracted large crowds of the curious, who wondered just what was inside a human body. The title itself refers not to a medical but a legal term: the body of a crime or the proof that a crime has been committed. Did human dissection in the 17th century constitute a crime?

*Corpus Delicti: Just Desserts* investigates the art and science of anatomy and the ethical issues surrounding it, inspired by Rembrandt's 1632 painting "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp." Dr. Nicolaes Tulp (Larry Underwood) guides audiences through the taboo territory of the body's interior, inviting them to witness the dissection of a life-sized cadaver cast in gelatin. Sister Luyt (Meghan Strell) interrupts Tulp's lesson and challenges the morality of this emerging field of research, revealing her identity as the first woman to be condemned to death

## Literary History and Politics: In Search of the Memory of al-Andalus

October 5 and 6, 2006

The Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures of Washington University is proud to announce that Maria Rosa Menocal, Sterling Professor of the Humanities at Yale University and noted scholar of medieval culture and literature, will be at Washington University this fall to inaugurate a speaker series. This series is designed to underscore the significance of teaching literature in an increasingly global world.

Menocal's visit includes two events. The first, held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, October 5, in McMillan Café, features her presentation "Literary History and Politics: In Search of the Memory of al-Andalus." The second, an opportunity for faculty and students to have an informal exchange with Professor Menocal, is a breakfast the next day, at 8:45 am (same location), followed by a panel discussion on literature in the age of digitized information.

Menocal's scholarship is focused on lyric traditions of the Middle Ages, and the interaction between various cultural groups in medieval Spain. Her publications include *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* (2002), which is particularly welcome in the current global atmosphere of mistrust; and *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History: A Forgotten Heritage* (1987).

The series is co-sponsored by the Center for the Humanities of Arts and Sciences, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Program in Comparative Literature.



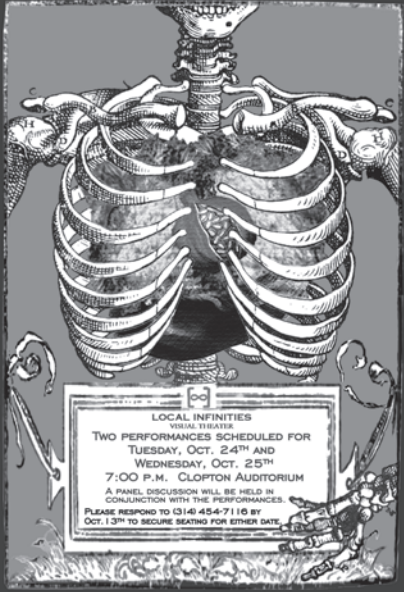
and public dissection in Amsterdam. In the ensuing debate, both the living and the dead reexamine their relationship to the human corpse.

Performances of *Corpus Delicti: Just Desserts* run October 24 and 25 in the Wohl Auditorium in the Wohl Clinic Building. This show is not suitable for children. A postmortem, panel discussion with researchers, ethicists, artists, and members of the cast will be held in conjunction with the performance. For more information, visit [www.localinfinities.com](http://www.localinfinities.com)

This production is sponsored by Washington University, the Humanities Program in Medicine, the Center for the Humanities of Arts and Sciences, and the Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values. Media Contact, Kim Orf at 314-454-7116 or [korf@im.wustl.edu](mailto:korf@im.wustl.edu).

**CORPVS DELICTI: JUST DESSERTS**

*CORPVS DELICTI* begins as an investigation of the art and science of anatomy, as practiced in Holland during the Age of Enlightenment and immortalized in Rembrandt's 1632 painting "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp."



LOCAL INFINITIES  
VIRIAL THEATER  
TWO PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED FOR  
TUESDAY, OCT. 24<sup>TH</sup> AND  
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25<sup>TH</sup>  
7:00 P.M. CLOPTON AUDITORIUM  
A PANEL DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE PERFORMANCES.  
PLEASE RESPOND TO (314) 454-7116 BY  
OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup> TO SECURE SEATING FOR EITHER DATE.

THE PLAY IS BEING SPONSORED BY WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, THE HUMANITIES PROGRAM IN MEDICINE, THE CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES, AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHICS AND HUMAN VALUES

## A Panel Discussion: Re-Imagining Motion: Martha Graham and Barbara Morgan

**Thursday, Oct. 19, 4:00 PM, Women's Building Formal Lounge**

Artist-in-Residence Bonnie Oda Homsey is the featured guest on this panel discussion of two innovative artists who were contemporaries, friends, and collaborators. Also on the panel are faculty members Barbara Baumgarten (Women and Gender Studies), Angela Miller (Art History), Patrick Renschen (Photography), and moderator Mary-Jean Cowell (Dance, Performing Arts).

Bonnie Oda Homsey has performed with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet and the Martha Graham Company, where she rose to principal dancer status. For ten years she directed and performed with American Repertory Dance Company, recognized for reconstructions of classic modern dances. She designed and implemented arts education programs in California, Nevada, and Louisiana. Ms. Homsey received her BA from University of Hawaii and

MFA in dance from University of California, Irvine, where she taught for six years. She is a member of the Arts Advisory Council and chair of Dance for the Princess Grace Foundation USA.

Immediately following the panel, the audience is invited to see the WU student cast of Graham's *Steps in the Street* (reconstructed by Homsey and assistant Gary Galbraith), informally presented in the Olin I studio, Women's Building, and to proceed at 5:30pm to the Ginkgo Room at Olin Library for a premiere exhibition of *Caught!*, Morgan's photos from the collection of Homsey and the Los Angeles Dance Theatre.

Co-sponsored by the Assembly Series and the Center for the Humanities of Arts and Sciences



Bonnie Oda Homsey,  
photography by Taek.