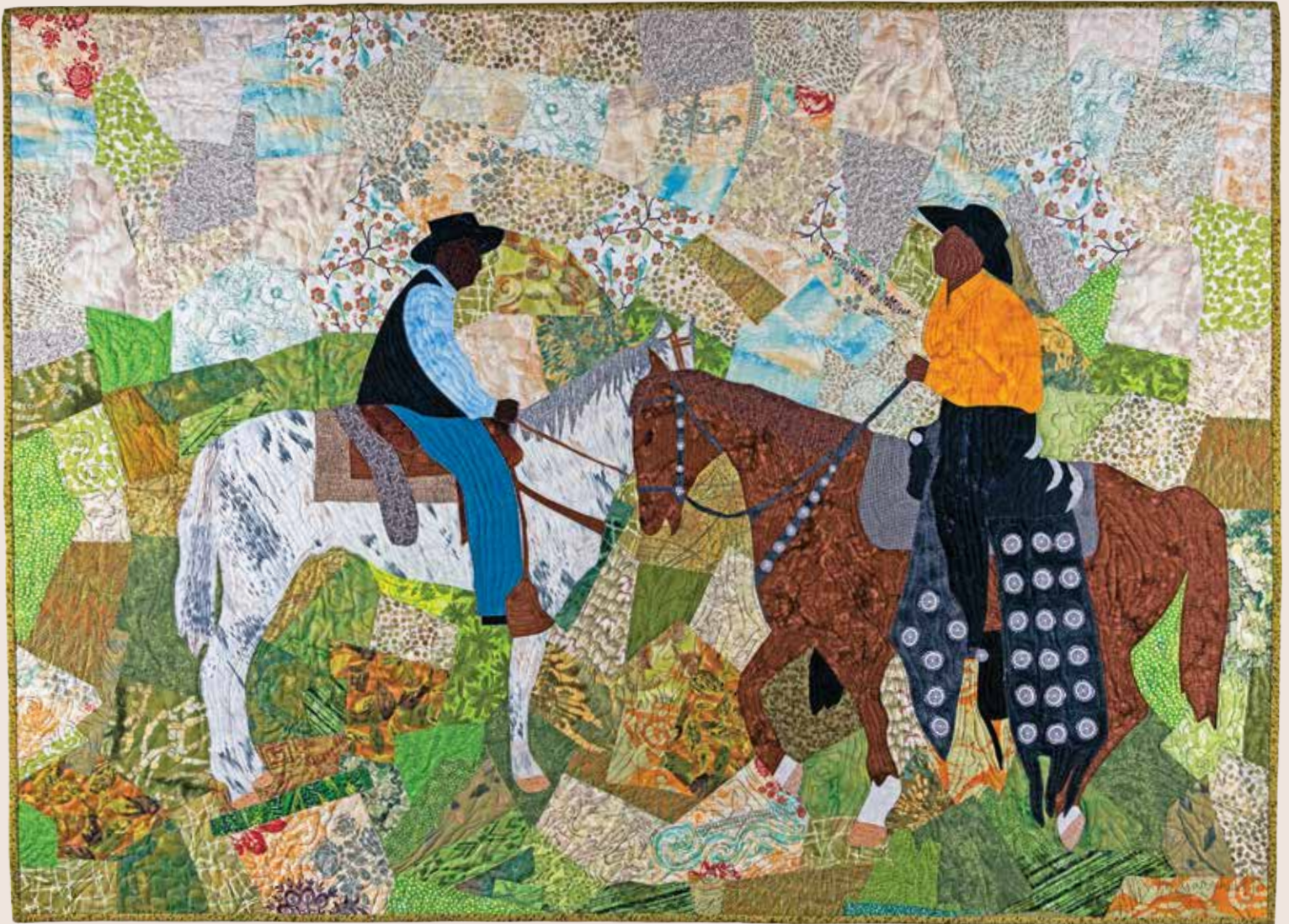


Official Program



Marion Coleman, Trail Blazers, 2013

THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER presents **THE 36TH**

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

January 27 – February 1, 2020 · Elko, Nevada

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POSTER ARTIST: MARION COLEMAN

Marion Coleman was a self-taught textile artist who designed projects that explored community stories, African-American history and culture, social injustice, women, and aging. She drew on her 20 years of experience as a social worker to enrich the work she created about community, health and wellness, and race. She became a professional artist in 2003.



Her public art projects can be found in several San Francisco Bay Area cities. In 2016, she curated "Neighborhoods Coming Together," a place-making project about Oakland, CA, that was featured in *The New York Times*. Her work has been exhibited nationally (The Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH; Bullock Museum, Austin, TX; and Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI) and internationally (South Africa, Europe, Japan, Costa Rica and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem). In 2018, she was recognized and honored with a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts. Coleman lived and worked in Castro Valley, CA, from 1984 until her death in April 2019.

Poster and program design by **Erik Flipppo**, designersforthearts.com

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NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

THE ORIGINAL COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Welcome from the Executive Director

Hey there!

Welcome to Elko and the 36th *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* — a weeklong celebration

of creativity rooted in the ranching culture of the West!

People travel from all over the country and even the world for this memorable week, but among our extended family of artists, Elko is best known for its attentive and engaged audiences. Just ask any of them! You guys bring the

magic, and we're so thrilled you decided to join us this year.

Whether you've been coming to Elko since the beginning or this is your first time, we wish you a week that is both grounding and uplifting, and one that continues to inspire for months to come. We've had so much fun curating another wonderful mix of poets, musicians, and special guests, and now it's finally time to raise the curtain and share it with you! We are launching some new initiatives this year that we hope will expand and nurture opportunities for more of you to participate — whether it be through workshops and other learning experiences or by taking part in one of our open mic sessions (we know you've thought about it). And if the idea of taking the stage still makes your knees a little weak, don't worry. There is another opportunity to weigh in and make your voice heard. Just stop by our sheep camp video studio parked outside the Elko Convention Center. Share a poem, play us a song, or just tell us what's on your mind!

Have a great week and try something new!



Kristin Windbigler



Jessica Branciflora

Save the Date for the 37th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering!

JANUARY 25-30, 2021

The American West's landscapes, communities, flora, and fauna have long inspired exploration and creative expression. For the 2021 Gathering, we're encouraging western poets, songwriters, artists and artisans to bring new stories from the West to light. We want to explore how to **Keep the West Wild** — break out of stereotypes, color outside the lines, be fearless in expressing ourselves. Sometimes wild, sometimes meditative; sometimes a saint, sometimes a sinner; one foot in the stirrup, and one foot working in town; speaking in multiple languages — Spanish to Shoshone to Basque to Paiute to English and more. The Gathering is more than just the sum of the performances that take place each year, it's a community of people bound together by their shared interests and love of poetry, music, art, and of this Western land. We hope you'll join us and slow down a bit, be part of the conversation, and help us be creative as we explore the new poetics of the West.

Looking for Next Year's Talent

We're always interested in learning about new artists (everything from poets to musicians to gearmakers and beyond) as well as hearing about new projects from old friends. If you know of someone who should be on our list, or if you would like to be considered for the 37th *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* please visit our website at nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org/performing-at-the-gathering to submit your information. Please let us know by March 31, 2020. Thank you for sharing with us!

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There is Something About a Horse

BY DEREK KNAPP

After experiencing extreme combat firsthand as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army, my transition from professional warrior to civilian was not as seamless as my friends and family perceived. In many ways, I was struggling in silence.

I did my best to portray to the outside world a version of myself that was a high functioning guy who was settling well into civilian life, and the transition was not a significant change. I had jumped out of the military (a fitting reference for an Airborne Ranger) and plunged into the high-intensity and high-stress world of tech as a senior operations manager.

At times, I felt like I was treading water with my former life and career and this new life and identity. It was certainly an adjustment that I had severely underestimated.

Horses helped me find healing, growth, and a renewed purpose and direction. If you are open to lessons of personal reflection, horses can teach you far more than you can ever teach them — things like patience, being in the moment, not having an agenda, and not letting your ego get in the way.

They have an uncanny way of seeing who you are. For humans — who are innately coded to portray what they want you to see versus what is actually underneath the surface — working with horses can be a humbling lesson.

What keeps me going through the daily grind of running Restoration Ranch, a nonprofit equine program based in Central Texas, is striving to shape and evolve our horsemanship program, which connects former combat veterans and their family members with horses. The goal is to accomplish this on a level that is specific to rehabilitating both veterans and horses alike. When most veterans come to the ranch, they aren't looking for a "handout," they have a desire to be a part of something bigger than themselves, something that has been lacking in their lives since leaving military service. They are innately wired to serve others and contribute to a common task. Thus, the program has to give the veteran purpose, to learn to work and join the horse at a level that creates a connection that isn't forced and has a balance of timing and feel.

This connection between horse and human is what I call

capturing lightning in a bottle: it is that instant when a veteran and horse meet on equal footing through a radiant gaze. I often find myself looking away to give this rare moment the reverence it deserves. For most combat veterans (myself included), this moment may be the first time they have felt they could be themselves in a very long time. To let go of experiences of trauma that occur in combat — the regret, loss of friends, the taking of human life, the what-ifs, the sleepless nights — is such a relief. Veterans can unload and unpack those burdens in an environment where they don't have to tell someone how that makes them feel. The horse silently encourages you to just let go. There is a wisdom and quiet assurance in their eyes that a veteran once described to me as "making you feel like no matter what is going on in your life, everything is going to be ok."



Courtesy of the author

When you type the word "Horse" into Google, you get 2,240,000,000 results. Each result you filter through varies from horse health facts (and fiction) to horse pedigree indexes; are unicorns real; can horses be housebroken; there are even owners dedicating an entire website memorializing their lifelong companion. The biggest takeaway from all these search results is that horses are immersed in our history, our culture, and for some, a part of their childhood and way of life. There is a reason that the Budweiser Clydesdales are the

most popular Super Bowl commercials of all time — because they evoke something in people who have never even been around a horse in person, yet they seem familiar all the same. Even in war, horses have played an integral role. As recent as the Global War on Terrorism in the austere mountains of Afghanistan, Army Special Forces units used horses as a way of traversing the terrain with speed and concealment that modern military vehicles cannot match. The recent centennial celebration of Armistice Day brings to light that over eight million horses, and countless mules and donkeys, died in the First World War, not only from shellfire but also horrendous weather and unimaginable conditions.

Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was a special forces non-commissioned officer during the Vietnam War. When he received the Medal of Honor for incredible valor during a daring rescue mission, he said, "For those that have fought for it, Freedom has a taste the protected will never know." For me, those words ring true daily, but working with horses has had an equally life-changing impact. I often tell veterans, "If you have the privilege to accept the gift that is the horse, you will never regret viewing life through their lens."

The View from the West: African American History in 19th and 20th Century Nevada

BY PROFESSOR QUINTARD TAYLOR

Walter Prescott Webb, a University of Texas professor and one of the founders of the field of U.S. western history, wrote about the region in a May 1957 article in Harper's Magazine. In that article he said the West is defined by its scarcity of "water, timber, cities, industries, and Negroes." Well, having lived in the Pacific Northwest since 1990, I could easily see the first four scarcities were wrong.

What of the fifth, Negroes?

I have spent the good part of the last forty years of academic research and scholarship proving Professor Webb was wrong on that account as well. I have been only partly successful. I say partly because even after the research on the Black West that began in the early 1930s with pioneering historians, W. Sherman Savage and Kenneth Porter, to the flood of books and articles since the 1990s, the history of the Black West continues to be a mystery even for many Nevadans. I hope my lectures in Elko in January will help unravel that mystery.

African American history in Nevada poses a particular dilemma for those of us who study the entire region. In California, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Washington, Oregon, and even Colorado, the roots of the black past go deeply into the soil. In Texas, for example, one third of the population of the largest state in the region was black in 1860 which makes it difficult to ignore the African American presence. Nineteenth Century Nevada, however, had a small black population.

Even in the early years of statehood however, that small black population made its presence known. Consider Nevada in 1870, six years after it became a state. In that year the territory's total population was 42,491 but that included 357 African Americans. Yet, five years earlier in 1865, when the black population was less than half that size, African Americans from Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City formed the Nevada Executive Committee to "petition the Legislature for equal rights before the Law..." Dr. W.H.C. Stephenson, then the only practicing physician west of the Mississippi River, led the Nevada Executive Committee. On January 1, 1866 during the third anniversary celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, he told his overwhelmingly white audience in Virginia City, "It is for colored men to fearlessly... contend for nothing short of [full] civil and political rights."



In 1870 Nevada blacks at opposite ends of the state, Elko and Virginia City, celebrated the passage of the 15th Amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote throughout the nation. Elko residents hoped to fire a cannon salute, but upon discovering there were no cannon in the town, settled on hammering two large anvils for that purpose. A procession of 150 black Nevadans (42% of the state's entire African American population) marched from Virginia City to Gold Hill, playing popular patriotic songs and carrying a silk flag made by the black women of Virginia City and inscribed with the words, "Justice is Slow But Sure."

The focal point of African American history in Nevada sifted south in the 20th Century. Las Vegas was founded in 1905 and incorporated in 1911. The construction of nearby Boulder Dam in the 1930s led to the first of a continuous influx of new black residents who settled permanently in the city. World War II, however, brought the influx. The black population grew from 178 in 1940 to 2,888, a 1,522% increase, the highest in the nation.

Civil rights activity also shifted south as prominent entertainers like Sammy Davis Jr. joined local activists in desegregating the casinos and all public facilities in the state during Nevada's barely known Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s. From the 1970s on blacks in Las Vegas became part of the Democratic political establishment and as such helped set policy for the entire state.

Today 270,114 African Americans live in Nevada (9% of the total population) including Stephen Horsford, one of four U.S. Congressmen representing the state in Washington, D.C. His district stretches from the northern suburbs of Las Vegas to White Pine County, just south of Elko. Black Nevadans are a permanent part of the political economy of the entire Silver State.

Professor **QUINTARD TAYLOR** is the 2020 Humanities Speaker, presented in partnership with Great Basin College and made possible by a grant from Nevada Humanities. He will be giving the Humanities lecture on Friday, January 31 from 1:15–2:30pm at the Elko Convention Center's Turquoise Room. He will also be speaking at Great Basin College on Thursday, January 30 from 2:30-3:45pm in the High Tech Center room 123.

FEATURED Artists & Guests

Kelvin Arnsworth

MONTGOMERY, TX

Kelvin Arnsworth comes from a multi-generational family of cowboys and ranchers and the family continues to train horses and raise cattle at their home place in East Texas. Kelvin is a respected cook and has over the past 27 years operated the family-owned Yo' Mama's Pit Bbq. Kelvin's outdoor cooking is popular with regional riding associations and trail rides.

An American Forrest

ENTERPRISE, OR



"An American Forrest" is the work, words, and music, of Forrest VanTuyl: packer, poet, cowboy, and songwriter from Wallowa County, Oregon. He composes his music and poetry between seasons of working horseback in the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon wilderness areas. His most recent album, *O Bronder, Donder Yonder?*, is a full-band exploration of songs inspired by the place he calls home — riding out of the mountains in the dark, camp cook's jokes, good horses, good country, and learning to be a better man. He will be joined by Margo Cilker, Nick Drozdowicz, and Dan Galucki.



Mike Beck

MANHATTAN, MT

Mike Beck is a professional musician and working cowboy whose songs reflect his experiences in California, Oregon, Montana, and Nevada. Born and raised in Monterey County, California, he was a student of legendary horseman Bill Dorrance and now travels extensively in the

United States and Europe, conducting horsemanship clinics and making music. Known for his guitar wizardry and acclaimed Western songwriting, Mike's mellow sound combines real cowboy experience with a unique blend of Western, rock, and Americana styles. Mike's most recent album, *Tassajara Road*, is a loping musical ride that brings together an all-star lineup consisting of Pete DeCoste, Mark Fain, Steve Hinson, and Herb Pedersen.

Marek Bennett

HENNIKER, NH

New Hampshire based cartoonist, musician, and educator Marek Bennett leads discovery-based comics workshops for all ages throughout New England and the world beyond! His comics includes the graphic novel series *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby*, the local history webcomic *LIVE FREE AND DRAW!*, and the travel memoir *SLOVAKIA: Fall in the Heart of Europe*. He plays Civil War folk music with The Hardtacks and "hot gonzo primitive folk jive" with The Cold River Ranters.



Jim Brooks

RIVERSIDE, CA

Western as the sunset, Jim Brooks has followed roundup wagons, chased mustangs, and punched cows for over 40 ranches pretty much all over cow country ever since he was a teenager. He has ridden every kind of "rough string" horse ever known in cow country and has roped and dragged thousands of calves to the branding fire. His motto has always been "keeping the West Western" — and he makes sure his message stays clear as a bell by constantly telling stories, writing, and composing new ranch music songs and books.





Maddy Butcher

MANCOS, CO

Maddy Butcher is a longtime journalist who has written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *High Country News*, and many other publications. She is the author of *Horse Head: Brain Science & Other Insights* and directs the Best Horse Practices Summit, a nonprofit conference with academic and arena presentations. She also runs Cayuse Communications, a family of five websites. The Maine native lives in southwestern Colorado.



Doris Daley

BLACK DIAMOND, AB, CANADA

Doris Daley is an Alberta-born, ranch-raised, hale and hearty, happy-trailed, spangled-and-wrangled western poet, emcee, and road warrior. She comes from a gene pool that includes Mounties, ranchers, team ropers, intrepid homesteaders, petticoated bushwhackers, good dancers, grain elevator operators, and Irish stowaways: the perfect pedigree for a cowboy poet. Doris has spouted her poetry around campfires and in concert halls from West Texas to Northern Alberta and all points in between. She grew up near a town of 300 people; she now lives in a “big” town (pop: 2,000) in the Alberta foothills with a bakery, two banks, a bar on the corner, one great library, and no traffic lights.

Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie

EUNICE, LA

Geno Delafosse and French Rockin' Boogie are a zydeco band from southwest Louisiana, deep in bayou country. Geno draws on his traditional Creole sensibility for guidance in his music. He divides his time between touring with his band and operating his Double D Ranch, outside of Eunice, where he breeds cattle and raises American Quarter Horses. Geno's CD *Le Creole Cowboy* was nominated for a Grammy Award. French Rockin' Boogie includes Popp Esprite on bass, Germaine Jack on guitar, Dale Stelley on drums, and Demetric Thomas on rubboard.



Cat Clifford

PORCUPINE, SD

Cat Clifford, born and reared on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who grew up surrounded by inspiring artists, musicians, and rodeo cowboy legends. Cat has qualified five times for the Indian National Finals Rodeo, both in bareback and in bull riding. He began writing songs about rodeo and released the single “Outlaw Bucker” in 2011. In 2013, Cat appeared in the feature films, *Songs My Brothers Taught Me* and *The Rider*, both directed by Chloé Zhao. His songs were included in the movie and the closing credits. Most recently, Cat has opened the business Flying High Leather, making custom rodeo chaps, horse tack, and other western leather products.



Dylan Clough

SPANISH FORK, UT

Dylan Clough is a horseman, rambler, folklore enthusiast, and singer-songwriter, calling no place home but hailing from Utah. His sound is raw, gritty, and as real as dirt beneath boots, taking the listener from sagebrush plains and red rock plateaus to Rocky Mountain pines and bluebell meadows. Bandcamp advises that Clough is “best listened to alone by [the] fireside and paired with bourbon.” He writes blues/folk-inspired tunes that capture the spirit and sound of the American West.



Myrtis Dightman, Sr. & Myrtis Dightman, Jr.

CROCKETT, TX

Myrtis Dightman, Sr. is best known as the “Jackie Robinson of rodeo” for his status as the first Black cowboy to compete at the Nationals Final Rodeo, but he is also a rancher, actor, rodeo clown, and co-founder of the Prairie View Trail Riders. While his son did not follow him into rodeo, Myrtis Jr. is now the Trail Boss of the Prairie View Trail Riders, planning and running their annual ride from Hempstead to Houston, Texas as part of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Trail Ride, as well as organizing the annual Myrtis Dightman Hall of Fame Rodeo.



are part of a large Basque sheep and cattle ranching family that has been in Humboldt County since around 1908. They live on the Quinn River Ranch with a typical assortment of critters.

Maria Lisa Eastman

HYATTVILLE, WY

First-generation Wyoming rancher Maria Lisa Eastman hails from the suburbs of Hyattville, pop. 100. She and her husband, Skip, operate the Oxbow Ranch, a sometimes-for-profit hay and cattle outfit, and Rainhorse Equine Assisted Services, a verifiable nonprofit, where unfortunate horses are rehabilitated to help people who have had troubles themselves. She’s been convinced from an early age that horses are her next of kin, and they have long been her guides. While riding colts out in the foothills of New Mexico, she began to collect and study the native grasses and was inspired to earn a degree in range and watershed management. Maria likes to think the good life she lives now was given to her by horses. Her poetry arises from the vast landscapes of northwest Wyoming, its plants, animals, and people.



John Dofflemyer

LEMON COVE, CA

A fifth-generation California cattleman, John Dofflemyer and his wife, Robbin, run a cow/calf operation in the Kaweah River watershed of the southern Sierra Nevada. For the past ten years, they have documented ranch life through photographic and poetic perspectives at drycrikjournal.com. After his invitation to Elko in 1989, John began publishing

Dry Crik Review to encourage and celebrate contemporary cowboy poetry on the page. He has also published 17 collections of poetry, two of which have received Wrangler Awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Carolyn Dufurrena

WINNEMUCCA, NV

Carolyn Dufurrena makes her home in rural northwestern Nevada. She is the author of *Quiet, Except for the Wind, Poems and stories from the cold desert* (2016) and the award-winning *Fifty Miles from Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch*. She has also contributed to nationally-recognized anthology compilations.

She conducts school and community workshops in writing and filmmaking, has been given the Nevada Press Association’s Outstanding Journalist for Magazines award, and is a regular contributor to *Range* magazine. Carolyn and her husband, Tim,



Ramblin' Jack Elliott

MARSHALL, CA

One of the last true links to the great folk traditions of this country, with over 40 albums under his belt, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott is considered one of the country’s legendary foundations of folk music. In the tradition of roving troubadours, Jack has carried the seeds and pollens of story and song for decades from one place to another, from one generation to the next. Ramblin’ Jack is a two-time Grammy winner, National Medal of Arts recipient, and in 2016, received a Folk Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award.



Brian Farrow

WASHINGTON, DC

Brian Farrow is a musician, educator, songwriter, and independent researcher who has a focus in reshaping and reflecting American’s musical history through sharing stories, creative musical expression through popular/historic musical structures, and inclusive dialog. He plays double bass, bass guitar, giddle and guitar.

Ghuan Featherstone

LOS ANGELES, CA



Ghuan Featherstone is a cowboy, general superintendent, carpenter, singer, songwriter, chef, and Executive Director of Urban Saddles. Ghuan is from South Central Los Angeles, California. He is an honorably discharged veteran and a member of the Veterans of

Foreign Wars. Ghuan began riding after his time abroad as a soldier. He found instant joy in riding and a connection to the cowboy lifestyle. He purchased his first horse in the early 2000s and has been riding ever since. Ghuan noticed the effect horses have on people for the positive and started utilizing horses to bring joy to his community through equine activities and the establishment of Urban Saddles, located in South Gate, California.



Dom Flemons

SILVER SPRINGS, MD

Dom Flemons is an award-winning musician, singer-songwriter, and slam poet. Carrying on the songster tradition, Flemons strives to mix traditional music forms with a contemporary approach to create new sounds that appeal to wider audiences. He began his career as a performer in the Arizona music scene, where he produced 25 albums for singer-songwriters and slam poets in Phoenix. In 2005, Flemons co-founded the Carolina Chocolate Drops; he released his first solo album, *Prospect Hill*, in 2014. His most recent album, *Black Cowboys*, was released in 2018 through Smithsonian Folkways and was nominated for Best Folk Album at the 2018 Grammys.

Patricia Frolander

SUNDANCE, WY

Patricia Frolander, Wyoming's fifth Poet Laureate, lives in the Black Hills on her husband's fifth-generation ranch. Family, lifestyle, and stunning vistas provide wonderful subjects for her poetry. In addition to contributing to numerous anthologies, she has authored two books, *Grassland Genealogy* (2009) and *Married Into It* (2012). Patricia nurtures young authors, presents her work in a four-state area, and is currently at work on her third collection of poems.



Pipp Gillette

CROCKETT, TX

Pipp Gillette lives and works on the family ranch near Lovelady, Texas, where his grandfather started raising cattle and cotton in 1912. Pipp and his late brother, Guy, received the Western Heritage Award for Outstanding Traditional Western Album of 2011 and the 2013 Western Heritage

Award for Outstanding Original Western Composition for their performance of the Waddie Mitchell song "Trade Off." Drawing on a lifelong interest in Western history and music, Pipp plays traditional cowboy music on guitar, banjo, harmonica, and bones. Pipp's newest CD, *Singing Songs by Waddie and Pipp*, received the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Western Heritage Award for Outstanding Traditional Western Album of 2016. Lloyd Wright is accompanying Pipp at this year's Gathering.

DW Groethe

BAINVILLE, MT

DW Groethe is the son of a son of pioneers. He was born and raised in the west of Dakota and has lived the past 25-plus years across the border in Montana. It is the same land... same folks...same weather... same heartbeat. The lyrics may change, but the rhythm stays true. He is a ranch hand, he is a poet, he is a songster. His songs and his poems celebrate who he is and where he comes from. When you're in Elko, feel free to stop DW any old time and ask him whatever needs asking. Coffee's on him.





Doug Groves

CARLIN, NV

Great Basin buckaroo and braider Doug Groves makes rawhide reatas, quirts, reins, and bosals of great beauty and function. A 2009 recipient of the Nevada Governor's Arts Award and 2017 recipient of the Nevada Heritage Award, Doug learned braiding from peers in the bunkhouse and beyond, and he now passes on these techniques for turning rawhide into fine horse gear.

R.W. Hampton

CIMARRON, NM

R.W. Hampton has lived and worked on ranches throughout the West. Whether driving cows, shoeing horses, singing around the campfire, or leading horse rides in the high country, R.W. knew it was the life he was destined for. He performs traditional and original cowboy songs. He lives with his wife, Lisa, and their family on the Clearview Ranch at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains south of Cimarron, New Mexico. In 2011, R.W. was inducted into the Western Music Association's Hall of Fame.



Andy Hedges

LUBBOCK, TX

Andy Hedges is a songster, reciter, storyteller, guitarist, and collector of cowboy songs and poems. The son of an Italian schoolteacher and a rodeo cowboy-turned-preacher, Andy grew up in the small community of Tokio, Texas, where his family paid rent on an old farmhouse by looking after a few head of cattle. Andy's repertoire includes classic cowboy poetry recitations, obscure cowboy songs, Dust Bowl ballads, and blues. He hosts a podcast, *Cowboy Crossroads*, which features in-depth interviews with fellow musicians and poets. Andy's performance with Ramblin' Jack Elliott at the 60th Newport Folk Festival was named one of the "10 Best Things We Saw" by *Rolling Stone*.



Carol Heuchan

COORANBONG, NSW,
AUSTRALIA

Carol Heuchan has lived 'on the land' in rural Australia most of her life — previously on a sheep and cattle property in "The Man from Snowy River" country and now in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. She trained horses, taught riding, and competed intensively, becoming an international horse judge and commentator. Poetry kind of "took over" about sixteen years ago and, after being Australian Champion Bush Poet twice and winning numerous awards, poetry became her full-time profession. She has published five books, six CDs, and has been named Australian Bush Laureate a record nine times. She brings a broad repertoire that goes from heart wrenching to hilarious! She is the recipient of this year's Della Johns Scholarship Legacy Award.



Yvonne Hollenbeck

CLEARFIELD, SD

Yvonne Hollenbeck is a South Dakota cattleman's wife who writes poetry about her life on a beautiful and remote ranch where she helps with everyday duties, such as putting up hay, feeding a crew, doing bookwork, or working cattle. Yvonne also is a freelance author, penning a weekly column in *The Farmer & Rancher Exchange*, an avid quilter, and her one-woman show, "Patchwork on the Prairie" is becoming one of the most popular programs, not only with Humanities rosters, but throughout the region. An example of her beautiful quilt and appliqué work is on display in the Western Folklife Center's Pioneer Saloon.





Roy Jackson and Bernice (Ben) McNeven

**JAXONBILT HAT COMPANY INTERNATIONAL
SALMON, ID**

Jaxonbilt Hat Company International is a custom hat company that is recognized and respected worldwide. Owners Roy Jackson and Ben McNeven have accumulated an impressive 35 years of expertise between them. Jaxonbilt's headquarters is located on Main Street in Salmon, Idaho, with a second location in Queensland, Australia. The Idaho shop employs two fully qualified hatters besides Ben and Roy; one of them, Wendy Schewe, has also come to Elko this year. The Jaxonbilt team offers professionalism, honesty, and sincerity to each client. This year, Ben, Roy, and Wendy will be conducting the Hatmaking Workshop.

Hot Club of Cowtown

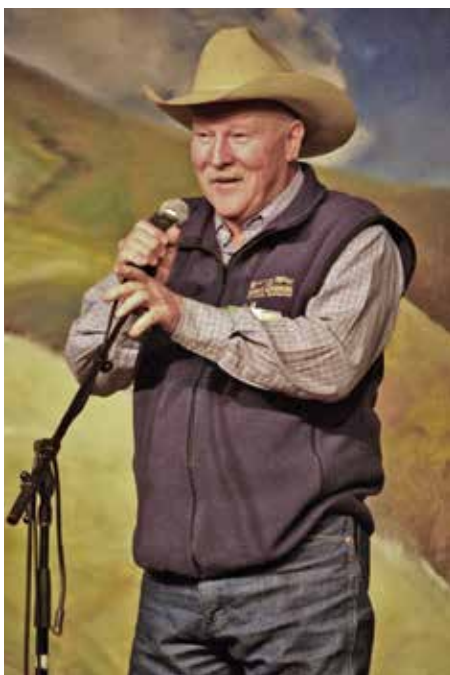
AUSTIN, TX

Hot Club of Cowtown has been stunning audiences worldwide for over 20 years. Their trademark blend of hot jazz, western swing, Gypsy music, American songbook standards, and music from 1930s Paris and the American West, is unmistakable. Vocalist and classically trained violinist Elana James is a sometime-Montana and Colorado horse wrangler. She discovered Western swing with bandmate Whit Smith (vocals and guitar), whose first memories also include folk and acoustic blues music. Jake Erwin completes the trio with tight vocal harmonies and jaw-dropping double bass lines.

Chris Isaacs

EAGAR, AZ

Chris Isaacs is an award-winning poet and storyteller who has lived the life that he tells about. He has worked as a cowboy, he's rodeoed, and he's spent time as a packer. In between jobs, you can usually find him making a living as a horseshoer. He has recorded several albums, has published four books, and now is at work on a fifth tome. Semi-retired, Chris currently works part-time for Bobcat Pass Wilderness Adventures in Red River, New Mexico, and travels the country sharing his poems and stories.



Randi Johnson

HINES, OR

Randi Johnson grew up on ranches in Nevada, California, and Oregon. Inspired by the stories and buckaroo traditions passed down to her by her father and old cowboys she looked up to, she began writing cowboy poetry in high school. A voracious reader, Randi combines her love of all things history, ranch life, and rodeo with her love of storytelling to preserve cowboy poetry's oral traditions. She is currently teaching second grade in Burns, Oregon, and working on her Master's Degree in elementary education. She is the recipient of this year's Della Johns Scholarship Horizon Award.





Derek Knapp

BASTROP, TX

A fifth-generation Texan with a heritage of cattle ranching and horsemanship, Derek serves as Executive Director for Restoration Ranch located in Bastrop, Texas. Derek spent his formative years, prior to joining the military,

working on family cattle ranches. Since returning from his last combat deployment to Afghanistan in 2013, Derek renewed his passion for horses, what they offer to him, and the cowboy way of life. He considers his horsemanship a lifelong journey, and considers Joe Wolter and Mike Beck his biggest sources of guidance and inspiration.

Ned LeDoux

NORTHEASTERN KS

Ned LeDoux is a musician and the son of singer-songwriter and rodeo icon Chris LeDoux. He got his start as a drummer in his dad's band Western Underground in 1998, and he knew from an early age that he had



no "plan b" — he *had* to play music. When Chris passed away in 2005, Ned continued to tour with his father's band and picked up the guitar and tried his hand at some of his dad's songs. He has continued where his dad left off, finishing songs that Chris started, recording, and performing. With his new album *Next in Line*, there is a new voice to carry on the LeDoux sound.

Jarle Kvale

DUNSEITH, ND

Jarle turns his experiences with horses, rodeo, and North Dakota rural living into humorous verse. He's been writing cowboy poetry for over 25 years, sharing his stories with friends and family members over trail ride campfires, at various



community events, and at cowboy poetry gatherings throughout the country. He is also host and producer of *Back at the Ranch*, a weekly half-hour radio show and podcast featuring a mix of western music and cowboy poetry. Jarle and his wife, along with an ever-changing number of horses, live north of Dunseith, North Dakota, not far from the Canadian border.

Corb Lund and the Hurtin' Albertans

SOUTHERN AB, CANADA

Corb Lund was born and grew up in rural southern Alberta; he comes from four generations of Canadian ranchers and cowboys. He grew up riding horseback, chasing cattle, and rodeoing on the prairies and in the foothills of the Rockies. Lund's Western heritage stays with him, no matter where he roams. "My whole life is sort of a dichotomy between being a cowboy kid and living in a city," says Lund. "I guess that informs my music, too." His newest EP is *Cover Your Tracks* (2019).



Annie Mackenzie

JORDAN VALLEY, OR

While known as the family rambler, Annie Mackenzie has her roots planted firmly at the fourth-generation family ranch in southeast Oregon, about 30 miles north of the small town of Jordan Valley. She spends her days assisting her two brothers and father in tending cattle,

starting horses, and managing the the unruly pack of border collies that inhabit the place. She has also had the opportunity to work with Sun J Livestock, contractors who gather wild horses across the Western states. Her love of the land and way of life has inspired many a poem and song about the animals and people that live in her beloved High Desert. She is the recipient of this year's Rod McQuery & Sue Wallis Scholarship.



Dan Landa

ELKO, NV

A love of bread and bread making runs deep in the Landa family. Growing up on the family ranch outside of Lovelock, Nevada, Dan Landa always looked forward to bread made by both his mother and father. For his workshop,

Landa will share the original recipe, to which he's added his own twist to the tradition: sourdough! Landa has batches of this natural leavening always ready for new friends and old companions.



Miko Marks

OAKLAND, CA

Originally from Flint, Michigan, this graduate of Louisiana's famed Grambling State University is a prolific songwriter who wrote 7 of the 10 songs on her award-winning debut album, *Freeway Bound*. Her sophomore

album, *It Feels Good*, was also very well received. These days, Miko continues to perform and evolve as an artist, rather than be stereotyped or pigeonholed by genre or past success. As she moves forward, There's no doubt that listeners will continue to be amazed and delighted, all while witnessing one of the most beautiful and illimitable singer/songwriters of our time.

The McKay Family

JUNTURA, OR

Joe McKay has been a rancher his whole life, and if you asked him he'd say there's nothing like wide open space and the kind of peace one can only find from aback a horse; rodeo has always been a huge part of his family and he's passed it on to his kids. For Gabe, that "never say quit" attitude and unique camaraderie found in the sport is what he enjoys. Luke loves the adrenaline rush when the chute opens and the dance between man and horse begins. Anna loves cheering on her brothers from the stands or home, and prays for their safety when they ride. Clare finds her family story unique and inspiring and has focused her energy on her first feature film coming in the fall of 2020: *Living an American Dream* follows her brothers in rodeo, explains the importance of the cowboy way of life, and features several individuals in the Western community.



Nevada Miller

FRENCHGLEN, OR

Nevada Miller says, "I am a middle-of-the-nowhere Maker. I split my time designing, fabricating, and engraving silverwork and helping my husband run our ranch in southeastern Oregon. I have been

creating silver items for about 10 years now, beginning in high school under the wonderful instruction of my father, Jeremiah Watt, continuing in college until graduation, and now full time. Making things with your hands that are designed by your heart is such a rewarding way of life, a way of life I hope to share with you! Until then, keep making good things!" Nevada will be leading the Build Your Own Western Eclectic Jewelry Workshop.



Waddie Mitchell

TWIN BRIDGES, NV

Waddie Mitchell was immersed in the cowboy way of entertaining as a boy on the Nevada ranches where his father worked. The art of spinning tales in rhyme and meter about a rich lifestyle of pushing cows and living off the land came to be called cowboy poetry. Waddie recites the older classics as well as his own works, eloquently expressing moments



grand and common, humorous and tragic. In 1985, Waddie helped organize Elko's first *Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. Since then, he has kept busy writing, publishing, and recording.

Marinna Mori

TUSCARORA, NV

Marinna Mori is an 11-year-old singer, guitarist, and poet who lives and works on her family's ranch near Tuscarora, Nevada. A fourth-generation rancher, Marinna brings her youthful perspective and personal experiences of ranch life to her original songs and performances. Music is a family affair, and Marinna

learned to play guitar and sing from her grandfather. She has been performing at the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* since she was eight years old. She loves roping, branding, and working cows on horseback. She won the Junior Branding Champion title at the 2018 Carlin Bronco Bash in Carlin, Nevada.



Tracy Morrison

BOISE, ID

"Sun-baked soil and rabbitbrush, rattlesnake coils in the desert rust," Tracy Morrison sings on the opening track of her third album, *Flower Songs in Sagebrush Town* (2019), a tribute to women and girls who traveled the Oregon Trail during the western migration of the 1840s-1860s. Tracy is a sixth-generation Idaho native who was reared on a small farm in Hammett, near the Snake River. "Our family lived off three acres of fruit trees and gardens. We had livestock and supplemented our meat by hunting and fishing. I've lived in the city for many years now, but my heart still lives in the desert."



Joel Nelson

ALPINE, TX

Joel Nelson has been a cowboy since age six when he helped on a cattle drive to the railroad. For more than 30 years, Joel made his living working on cow outfits in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Hawaii, specializing in breaking colts. He holds a bachelor's degree in Forestry and Range Management, has built custom saddles, and served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. He was a founder of the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, Texas, and a 2009 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship. He and his wife, Sylvia, run Corriente cattle in the beautiful West Texas ranch country.



Rodney Nelson

ALMONT, ND

Rodney Nelson and his wife, Teri, live in Sims, North Dakota, population 2, a suburb of Almont. Despite advancing age and declining health, Rodney continues to make his living rodeoing, which has caused him to enjoy a low standard of living. His rodeo career has been in a steady decline for most of his life, going from riding saddle broncs to now competing in senior breakaway roping, which his daughter says is a girls' event for old men. He finds it necessary to supplement his rodeo income by raising a few cattle, breaking a few horses, working as a brand inspector, writing a column "Up Sims Creek" for *Farm and Ranch Guide*, freeze-branding cattle around North Dakota in the coldest winter months, and entertaining banquet crowds with his brand of rural humor.



The Munsick Boys

DAYTON, WY

The unique aspect of The Munsick Boys band is that their music is a combination of different western styles that are united by their family ties. They have been playing together all of their lives and began playing professionally 10 years ago. They participate in horsemanship clinics, help out at local brandings, and do day work on neighboring ranches. Father Dave Munsick leads the band, joined by his sons Tris and Sam (Ian can't make it this Gathering). Tris Munsick trains horses, works in the Ag industry, and plays music throughout the West. Sam Munsick works as a rancher. He plays and writes his own brand of western music for both the general public and the ranching community. The boys perform at an annual sell-out concert at the WYO Theater in Sheridan and play dances, concerts, and festivals around the West.



Bryan Neubert

ALTURAS, CA

Raised on his family's ranch near Salinas, California, Bryan Neubert spent his teen years learning from his neighbor and friend, Bill Dorrance. Bryan continued to learn from and work with Bill, along with Ray Hunt and Tom Dorrance, and spent 20 years cowboying and riding colts on ranches across Nevada and California. He now holds horse clinics both at home in Alturas, California and across the country, helping people and their horses through his colt starting, horsemanship, and cow working clinics.



Reem Odeh

ELKO, NV

Reem Odeh learned to cook by helping her mother in the kitchen from a young age in her hometown of Bethlehem, Palestine, and she dreamed of someday having her own restaurant. Reem immigrated to the United States with her family in 2006, and in 2017 her dream came true with the opening of Odeh's Mediterranean Restaurant in downtown Elko. Now her husband and sons help Reem serve up her love of food and family.

Jonathan Odermann

MEDORA, ND

Jonathan Odermann is a third-generation rancher who raises cattle in the badlands of western North Dakota. His cow-calf operation is located along the Little Missouri River about halfway between the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, and Theodore Roosevelt's



original Elk Horn Ranch site. He was inspired to start sharing his verse after attending the Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Medora. Jonathan's original work runs the gamut from short, funny pieces to longer, epic sagas, and he likes to amuse and delight his audience with a blend of humorous and thought-provoking poems inspired by his real-life experiences.

Vess Quinlan

FLORENCE, CO

Vess Quinlan began writing poetry and prose when he was confined with polio in 1951. His grandma brought him shoe boxes of J.R. Williams cartoons and cowboy poems cut from years of livestock papers. Uncles brought him Will James books to read. Vess survived with one leg shorter than the other, but he never recovered from the effect of these poems, cartoons, and stories. His grandpa said, "Now he's ruined. You can make a cowboy out of pretty near anything but you can't make hardly nothing out of a cowboy." The fourth generation to raise livestock and feed, Vess became a working partner on a "rundown outfit" in Colorado's San Luis Valley, where he raised alfalfa, cattle, kids, dogs, and sheep. Vess now drives an over-the-road truck and is a member of the Western Folklife Center's Board of Trustees.



RattleSnail

SEATTLE, WA

On a dark and stormy night, five musicians sought cover under a lean-to shelter at a fiddler's convention. They played and sang through the storm, and therein hatched RattleSnail. Alex MacLeod leads the charge as the sure-footed square dance caller. Kate Lichtenstein's fiddle and bow make them welcome wherever they go. Cary Lung's mandolin pushes on through sleet and snow. Morgan John's 5-string banjo is always ready for a tune or a ballad or a square dance. Tom Collicott pulls it all together with steady hands on the guitar. All are accomplished singers, keeping the old stories alive and the new ones coming. RattleSnail shares their love of the West and all its charms at festivals, square dances, weddings, and other festivities around Puget Sound.

Henry Real Bird

GARRYOWEN, MT

Henry Real Bird, a native Crow Indian, grew up ranching on the battlegrounds of the Little Big Horn on the Crow Reservation in Montana. A former rodeo cowboy, now renowned poet, Henry lives in and draws inspiration from the land of the Little Big Horn Valley. Horses picture large in Henry's creative work, and he rides eight to nine hours daily. His latest book is *Wolf Teeth*. He also mentors youth, recently teaching poetry reading and writing at the Wind River Reservation Arapaho Ranch Safari summer field program.



Jake Riley

RIVERDALE, NE

Jake Riley grew up, for the most part, in the Upper Arkansas Valley of Colorado's mountains and graduated from high school in Buena Vista.

He began roping and rodeoing as a kid and was introduced to cowboy poetry as a young teenager. Ever since, poetry has been one of his passions. Much of Jake's work involves first-hand ranch and rodeo experiences, but also chronicles the contemporary "cowboy" who may not cowboy for a living but has ties to cowboy culture. He recently released an album of original poetry entitled *Western Errors*, which runs the gamut from cowboy wrecks to humor to philosophical observations and reflections on life.



Brigid Reedy

WHITEHALL, MT

Featured at the Gathering for her seventh year, Brigid Reedy has become a singular young voice representing her beloved home state of Montana. A charismatic performer since the age of two when she first yodeled at the Pioneer Saloon, Brigid

(now 19) has traveled widely, carrying with her boundless enthusiasm, grace, passion, and soul. Brigid will be joined by her little brother, Johnny "Guitar," who at only 14 has transcended the role of sideman, becoming a full-fledged collaborator and possessing a phenomenal gift for rhythm and extraordinary musical sensibilities.

Trinity Seely

OJAI, CA

Trinity Seely grew up in the heart of cow country in the Chilcotin region of British Columbia.

Inspired at an early age by this rugged sea of jackpine forests and grasslands, she learned to work hard from

kitchen to corral on the family's guest ranch. As a teen, Trinity moved to California to attend The Thatcher School, and her love affair with the *vaquero* way was born. With humbling honesty and a honey-smooth voice, Trinity sings about loving cowboys and horses, and living "in the middle of nowhere." She flourishes as a cowboy's wife and mother to three buckaroos and a buckarette.



Randy Rieman

CASCADE, MT

Randy Rieman has had a love affair with the spoken word for over 40 years. For 35 years, he has shared his passion for poetry with audiences at the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* in Elko, Nevada. Randy lives with his partner, Jenn Swanson, on their place near Choteau, Montana, where she is a professor at a local university

and Randy continues to start and train young horses at home. He also spends a fair bit of time on the road these days conducting horsemanship, ranch-roping, and cattle-handling clinics around the U.S. as well as Switzerland, France, and Germany.



R.P. Smith

BROKEN BOW, NE

R.P. Smith is a fourth-generation rancher from Custer County, Nebraska: the Pine Crest Ranch has been in his family since 1906. Over 30 years ago, after seeing two of the world's most noted cowboy poets on the *Johnny Carson* show, R.P.

was inspired to write his own piece of cowboy poetry. A few years later he was given the opportunity to share some of his work at the first Old West Days Celebration, Nebraska's cowboy poetry gathering, and the ball really started rolling from there. He is still excited enough about ranching that it pulls him out of bed pretty early every day; he enjoys the challenges that running a ranch offers, and he is a lifelong student of the relationships between water, grass, sunshine, and livestock.

Spencer Smith

FORT BIDWELL, CA



Featured speaker for the Gathering's land stewardship talk, Spencer Smith is owner and operator of the Jefferson Center for Holistic Management with his wife, Abbey. He is an accredited Savory Field Professional, who throughout Northern California and Nevada (and as needed in other regions) conducts Holistic Management workshops, courses, events, and consultations. With a bachelor's

degree in agribusiness from California State University, Chico, and experience managing cow-calf and yearling herds in Northern California and Nevada, Spencer brings years of ranch management experience to the business. He manages Springs Ranch in Fort Bidwell, California.

Jay Snider

CYRIL, OK

Jay Snider was born and reared in southwest Oklahoma and calls Cyril, Oklahoma home. Born to a ranching and rodeo family, his dad was a top roper and rodeo cowboy and his granddad was a brand inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Jay rodeoed throughout most of his early years and now stays busy raising ranch horses and cattle, and team roping. Jay has appeared at many of the major poetry gatherings around the country. His latest CD, *The Old Tried and True*, is a compilation of many of his favorite classic poems written by many of the great cowboy poets of the past.



Dave Stamey

ORANGE COVE, CA

Dave Stamey has made it his life's work to celebrate the rural American West. In the past two decades, he has recorded 11 albums of original music, travelled literally hundreds of thousands of miles, and performed thousands of shows doing just that. He lives in the farthest northeastern corner of Tulare County, and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains begin just outside his back door.

Gail Steiger

PRESCOTT, AZ

Gail Steiger is a songwriter, filmmaker, and cowboy, and since 1995, foreman of the remote Spider Ranch in Yavapai County, Arizona. He has been playing guitar and writing songs for over 30 years and often recites works by his grandparents, Delia Gist Gardner and Gail I. Gardner. Gail also collaborates with his brother, Lew, on various film and multimedia projects, including the acclaimed documentary *Ranch Album*. He's released two CDs — *The Romance of Western Life* (1999) and *A Matter of Believin'* (2015). Gail is a member of the Western Folklife Center's Board of Trustees.



Michael Stevens

ALPINE, TX

Michael Stevens grew up on a farm near the little town of Newcowerstown, Ohio. He's been in the horse business as a trainer since he was 19. He's also a guitar builder and player. In 1986, he was hired to start the Fender Custom Shop in California, and in 1991, he and his wife moved to Alpine, Texas and ran into the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering. He was on their Steering Committee for 16 years, including about 10 years as president. In 2013, Michael was the recipient of the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering's Heritage Award, and he considers himself lucky to have had Buck Ramsey, J.B. Allen, and Joel Nelson as tutors. He is this year's recipient of the Buck Ramsey Scholarship.



Pete Taylor

IONE, CA

Pete Taylor was born and raised in Oakland, California. He was originally exposed to horses at Boy Scout camp in the early 1960s. After an on-duty career-ending injury forced retirement from the Oakland Fire Department, he bought horse property in Oakland. The following year he realized his lifelong dream of horse ownership. Sometime around 2009, Pete was exposed to Californio style horse- and stockmanship. In 2013, he won his first Californio stock horse competition and his bridle horse was awarded top amateur stock horse honors. In 2017, he bought property outside of Lone, California, that he continues to develop to accommodate his horses, and one day soon, a small herd of cattle. Foremost, he continues to train, ride and rope in the Californio style.



Tom Swearingen

TUALATIN, OR

Tom Swearingen is an Oregon horseman whose poetry is often inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle. A two-time winner of the National Finals Rodeo Cowboy Poetry Contest, and a four-time finalist for International Western Music Association Male Poet of the

Year, Tom brings his stories to life with rhythm and rhyme and a style that makes him a popular performer not only at cowboy gatherings but wherever else you find folks who appreciate the West. His 2019 release, *Language of the Land*, debuted as the number-one played poetry CD on Western Radio Charts.



Quintard Taylor

SEATTLE, WA

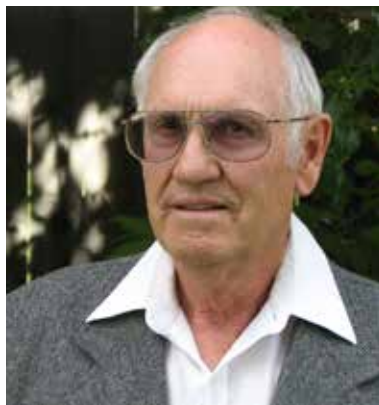
From 1998 until 2018, Dr. Quintard Taylor Jr. was the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History at the University of Washington, Seattle. Taylor is the author of multiple books, including *In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the*

American West, 1528-1990, and over fifty articles on African American Western History, and other topics. In 2007, Taylor and other volunteers created an online website resource center for African American history called **BlackPast.org**, which houses over 6,000 pages of information and features contributions by more than 800 scholars from six continents.

Les Sweeney

PAYETTE, ID

Les Sweeney was raised on a large cattle ranch in north central Nevada. He has a degree from the College of Agriculture at the University of Nevada, Reno. In 1990, after 31 years, he retired from the Department of the Interior (BLM) and relocated to Idaho. In the last 10 years, Les has written short biographies on two old time buckaroos: Albino Tais, a Yaqui Indian, and Henry Harris, a Black cowboy. He successfully nominated both for the Buckaroo Hall of Fame in Winnemucca, Nevada, and the National Cowboys of Color Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas.



Jessie Veeder

WATFORD CITY, ND

Jessie Veeder writes and sings about the badlands of western North Dakota, where she grew up on the family ranch. Blending western, rock, blues, and heartfelt honest lyrics, Jessie sings about the buttes and creeks of her family's working cattle ranch and her experiences of the region's huge oil mining boom. Since 2010, Jessie, her husband, and their two young daughters have worked alongside her



father as the fourth-generation stewards of the Veeder Ranch. She chronicles life on the land on her blog *Meanwhile, back at the ranch...*, as well as through a weekly column for Forum Communications newspapers and as a commentator on Prairie Public Radio. She will be performing with her father, Gene Veeder, and Mike Endrud. Jessie Veeder is this year's recipient of the Singin' Sam & Frederica Agins Scholarship.

Lloyd Wright

CROCKETT, TX

Lloyd Wright is a fourth-generation Texan. He and his family were introduced to dulcimers and old-time string band music in the summer of 1994. In 2000, he won the National Mountain Dulcimer Championship at the age of 18. Now settled down with his wife and three kids in the heart of the Davy Crockett National Forest, Lloyd regularly performs old-time and country gospel with his wife, mother, and brother. He first heard Guy and Pipp Gillette perform when he was a teen, and he has followed their music over the years. Lloyd combined forces with Pipp after the passing of Pipp's brother, Guy. This seemed to follow a natural progression as he was familiar with Pipp's repertoire. Lloyd and his family run two music festivals in East Texas, including his very own Old Mill Music Festival.



Wylie & the Wild West

CONRAD, MT



Singer, songwriter, rancher, horseman, and the original, world-famous Yahoo!® yodeler, Wylie Gustafson is a real-life cowboy born into a fourth-generation ranching family on the empty sprawl of northern Montana. He proves himself a never-boring entertainer as well as a highly adept songwriter. When not performing, Wylie raises and trains cow horses on his family ranch near Conrad, Montana. He is especially known for his songs that celebrate America's culture of ranching and farming. Wylie has just been inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. Wylie will be joined by Tim Lashley, Clayton Parsons, and John Paul Sporman.

Paul Zarzyski

GREAT FALLS, MT

Paul Zarzyski, veteran of 34 consecutive Gatherings and recipient of the 2005 Montana Governor's Arts Award for Literature, has written poetry for two-thirds of his lifetime. Even before his short 15-year stint as a rodeo bareback bronc rider, he wrote, unbeknownst to him at the time, Rodeo Poetry; his approach to the page has always been to "take that extra tuck and let the lingo buck." Along with his ten books and six spoken-word CDs, Paul, thanks to Ian Tyson's encouragement in the early Elko years, has co-written numerous songs. His latest book and companion double-CD are both titled *Steering With My Knees* — which Paul deems "the definitive metaphorical image of living a wild-West life as a wild writer writing/riding wildly into the far-out wilds of the Cowpoke Cosmos mind."



Photos by Marla Aufmuth, Jessica Brandi Lifland, Timothy Duffy, Charlie Ekburg, Andrea Graham, Kevin Martini-Fuller, Andy Mori, Zach Rhoades, or provided for use by artist.

 A promotional poster for the Western Writers of America 2020 Convention. The background is a sepia-toned illustration of a Western town. The text is as follows:

Western WRITERS of AMERICA

2020

WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA CONVENTION

June 17-20, 2020
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Rapid City, SD

Tour to Spearfish and Deadwood

PROGRAMMING ON LAKOTA CULTURE
FEATURED SPEAKER
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

SESSIONS ON:
Marketing, Editors and Agents, Fiction, Nonfiction,
Old West Legends, Woman Suffrage and more.

Visit www.westernwriters.org or contact
wwa.moulton@gmail.com for more info

DISCUSSIONS & Special Sessions

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Horses at Work in Contemporary Society

Thursday, January 30 · 9:15–10:30am

Auditorium, Elko Convention Center

Thursday's opening keynote conversation features three speakers sharing their different experiences with horses in everyday life. Each draws on personal stories to explore the value and growing relevance of horses in contemporary society and how we might regain the important connection horses once represented between rural and urban communities. Expect special guests and maybe even a surprise or two!

Why are people so captivated by horses? Horseman/buckaroo **Bryan Neubert** has some thoughts on this subject. Raised on his family's ranch near Salinas, California, Bryan spent many hours learning from his neighbors Bill and Tom Dorrance and other revered horsemen. His horseback education continued with 20 years of cowboying, riding colts, and working as cowboss on some of the largest ranches in Nevada and California. Always learning, Bryan loves challenges and enjoys helping people and their horses through his colt starting, horsemanship, and cow-working clinics.

Effectively attending to the needs of former combat veterans is a growing major challenge of our time. Drawing on first-hand experience, **Derek Knapp** brings focus to the groundbreaking work of Restoration Ranch, an experiential learning center for former combat veterans, their families, and second-chance horses. Derek represents the fifth generation of a Texas cattle ranching family, has served over a decade as both a combat arms enlisted service member and an Army Infantry Officer, and currently serves as the executive director of this non-profit ranch.

Sightings of horses and riders in urban landscapes is becoming more and more rare. As a young person, finding a horseback community in his South Central Los Angeles neighborhood was life-changing for **Ghuan Featherstone**. Now he is working to ensure that such opportunities continue for current and future generations. Through founding of the equestrian organization Urban Saddles, Ghuan seeks to provide a safe and challenging environment for youth that desire an alternative to the streets.

Sponsored by Nevada Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with Great Basin College.



Brett Sayles, Pexels

WALKING TOURS

Elko Murals

Wednesday, January 29 · 3:30–4:30pm

Friday, January 31 · 3:30–4:30pm

Saturday, February 1 · 3:30–4:30pm

If you haven't been to Elko since the last Gathering, you might be noticing some new artwork around town! In late September, over 40 artists from throughout the West and world painted 55 walls during the Elko Mural Expo. The goal of the event was to brighten

the downtown corridor by curating a diverse array of outdoor murals and creating a walkable, outdoor gallery. Join some of the people behind the Elko Mural Expo on a walking tour of some of the highlights in downtown Elko. Tours depart from the Western Folklife Center's Guest Services desk.

Tour organized by the Elko Arts and Culture Board.

DISCUSSIONS

Conversations with Pete Taylor and Kelvin Arnsworth

Thursday, January 30 · 12–12:45pm (Pete Taylor)

Friday, January 31 · 12–12:45pm (Kelvin Arnsworth)

Black Box Theater, Western Folklife Center

An intimate setting to get better acquainted with special guests Pete Taylor and Kelvin Arnsworth. Conversations led by historian Geralda Miller.



Courtesy of the Artist

Kelvin Arnsworth

Strengthening Community for Rural Voices and Artistic Expression

Thursday, January 30 · 2:15–3:15pm

Silver Room, Elko Convention Center

Sheep Camp Studio

Thursday, January 30–Saturday, February 1 · 10am–3pm

Earlier this week, we invited a small group of poets and songwriters to reflect on how the Western Folklife Center could nurture the creativity of rural-based artists and pave the way for a new generation. In this session, we'll be reporting on ideas that came up during that conversation and collecting ideas from the wider Gathering community. And in case you can't make it to this session, we have a cozy sheep camp studio set up in front of the Elko Convention Center to record your thoughts on the subject!

Exclusively sponsored by E.L. Wiegand Foundation

Of Horses and Riders I & II

Friday, January 31 · 9:30–11am

Saturday, February 1 · 9:30–11am

G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

If not for the horse, there would be no cowboys, no cowboy culture, no 36th *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*... We owe so much to the horse. Join us as we celebrate the horse and investigate the evolving horse-rider connection. How do we best communicate across species? What is in it for the human? What is in it for the horse, and at what cost? Can we use science as well as tradition to optimize outcomes for horses? Whether we find ourselves in a rural or urban setting, involved in a contemporary therapeutic center or working ranch, are we truly good stewards of our equine partners? And what can people from these different horse-related occupations learn from each other? The Friday discussion will feature **Mike Beck**, **Ghuan Featherstone**, **Derek Knapp**, and **Pete Taylor**, while the Saturday discussion will feature **Maddy Butcher**, **Maria Lisa Eastman**, **Bryan Neubert**, and **Randy Rieman**.

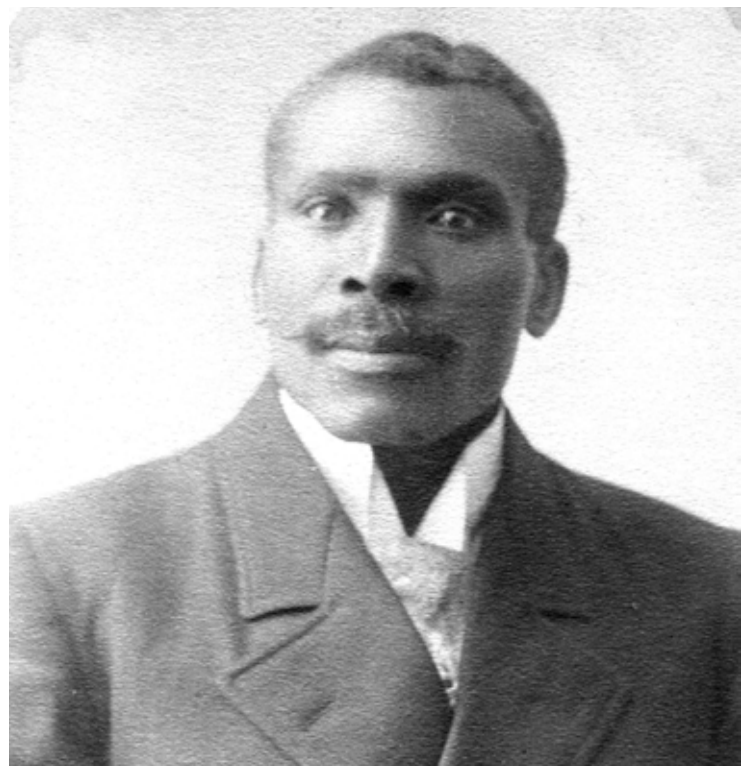
Gathering Veterans' Stories, Songs, and Poetry

Saturday, February 1 · 10:45am–12:15pm

Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center

Here at the Gathering, we are honored to partner with volunteers, the Veterans Resource Center at Great Basin College, and the Veterans History Project at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to present the week-long Veterans Writers Project. We have invited some of the individuals involved in the Writers Project and other veterans to share stories they have

been telling, collecting, and writing related to their service. A significant percentage of individuals from rural communities and communities of color serve in wars and in the military. The Veterans Writers Project at the Gathering is an effort to recognize and support their contributions through the process of storytelling and writing. This panel will feature **Ghuan Featherstone, Ted Howard, Bill Jones, Derek Knapp, Jennifer Koopman** (Great Basin College), **Karen Lloyd** (Library of Congress), **Joel Nelson**, and **Dave Richmond**.



Northeastern Nevada Museum

Henry Harris

TALKS

Henry Harris: Legendary Black Buckaroo

Thursday, January 30 · 11:30am–12:30pm
Black Box Theater, Western Folklife Center

Friday, January 31 · 10:45–11:45am
Black Box Theater, Wiegand Gallery

Saturday, February 1 · 3:30–4:30pm
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

In 1884, cattleman John Sparks recruited Henry Harris, a young Black man about 19 years of age to northeastern Nevada from Georgetown, Texas, to work for the cattle empire of Sparks & Tinnin (Sparks & Harrell). Within a few years, Harris was given a cowboy crew and made wagon boss. Learn more about legendary horseman Henry Harris in this illustrated talk and conversation with historian **Les Sweeney**, author of *Henry Harris 1865–1937*. Through Sweeney’s research and efforts, Harris was inducted in the Buckaroo Hall of Fame and the National Cowboys of Color Hall of Fame.

Community, Continuity, Conviviality: Trail Rides in South Central U.S.

Thursday, January 30 · 10:45am–12pm
Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center

The South Central region of the United States is home to a rich Black cowboying tradition and thriving ranch economy. African American cowboys helped build that economy and it is this legacy that Black trail ride associations draw on every time they ride out. **Myrtis Dightman, Sr.** co-founded the Prairie View Trail Riders Club in Houston, Texas for a two-week ride from eastern Texas to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Now his son is in the driver’s seat. Similar riding groups and trail rides in Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta often culminate in zydeco dance parties. Hear all about these happy trail rides from special guests **Kelvin Arnsworth, Geno Delafosse, Myrtis Dightman, Jr.**, and **Rory Doyle**.

Southern Riders

Thursday, January 30 · 1–2pm
Black Box Theater, Western Folklife Center

Friday, January 31 · 1–2pm
Black Box Theater, Western Folklife Center

Saturday, February 1 · 2:15–3:15pm
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Over the past three years, photographer **Rory Doyle** has documented Black cowboys, and horsemen and women from Georgia to the Mississippi Delta. In this illustrated talk, Rory introduces you to some of the people and communities he has visited along the way. Be sure to stop in at the Western Folklife Center’s Wiegand Gallery to see some of Rory’s award-winning photographic work.



Rory Doyle



Brett Sayles, Pexels

A Shout Across the Valley: The Unlikely History of Cowboy Yodeling

Saturday, February 1 • 11-11:45am

Black Box Theater, Western Folklife Center

Ever wonder how yodeling traveled from the lungs of Swiss herders to the mouths of singing cowboys? Join **Fil Corbitt** of the podcast *Van Sounds* for a live podcast performance about the history of cowboy yodeling. This audio-based performance will investigate the origins of the western yodel through songs, readings, and recorded interviews.

A Conversation with Myrtis Dightman Sr.

Saturday, February 1 • 12:15–1:15pm

G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

In the 1960s and '70s, **Myrtis Dightman Sr.** traveled to rodeos all around the U.S. and Canada making his way to become the first Black professional rodeo cowboy to compete in the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City. Today, Myrtis travels from his Texas home to Elko to share some of his amazing life stories. He will be joined by his son **Myrtis Dightman Jr.**

STORYTELLING

Cowboy Stories

Saturday, February 1 • 3:15–4:45pm

Silver Room, Elko Convention Center

When cowboys and horsemen gather there is no shortage of tales of heroes, horses, and times both good and bad to share and savor. At this year's Gathering we are honored to share time with horsemen **Jim Brooks, Ted Howard, Kelvin Arnsworth, Pete Taylor**, and more. Check the schedule for individual times.

Managing for Abundance: How Ranchers are Stewarding the Land for Increased Biological Outcomes

Saturday, February 1 • 10:15–11:45am

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Free • no pass required

For hundreds of years, ranchers across the West have been stewards of the land. Science has confirmed that proper livestock management can enhance ecosystem function, building resiliency into the landscape, rural communities, and economies. This session will connect the dots between ecosystem function and livestock movements, healthy soil and human nutrition. Our discussion will celebrate the great stewards of our western landscapes and look at new, innovative ways that producers and land managers are building soil, habitat, and improving water resources. Presented by **Spencer Smith**, owner and operator of the Jefferson Center for Holistic Management, and an accredited Savory Field Professional.

*Presented in collaboration with the
Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group*

A Brief History of African Americans in the West

Friday, January 31 • 1:15–2:30pm

Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center

Professor Emeritus **Quintard Taylor** of University of Washington Seattle describes little known mid-19th Century black Nevada including especially the activities of the small African American populations in and around Virginia City in the 1860s and 1870s. His focus then shifts in the 20th century and the rise of the African American community in Las Vegas, which after its founding in 1905, emerges as the population center of the state. He will describe the brief civil rights movement in Nevada in the late 1950s and early 1960s and conclude with a discussion of black Nevada in the early 21st Century. Following his talk, National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman **John Peede** will host a discussion with Professor Taylor.

*Sponsored by Nevada Humanities and National Endowment for
the Humanities in partnership with Great Basin College*

BANK & JOHN LANGMORE
Open Range
On view in Halleck Bar Gallery until February 9th, 2020

ART OF THE WEST RECEPTION
Join us Thursday, January 30th from 6-8 p.m. in the Halleck Bar Gallery. Enjoy music, hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar while you speak with the artists and peruse our exhibits. Bank Langmore and his son John Langmore have ridden countless miles with cowboys across the West's largest ranches. Although separated by a generation, their photographs reveal how much a cowboy's life and work remain the same.

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NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM

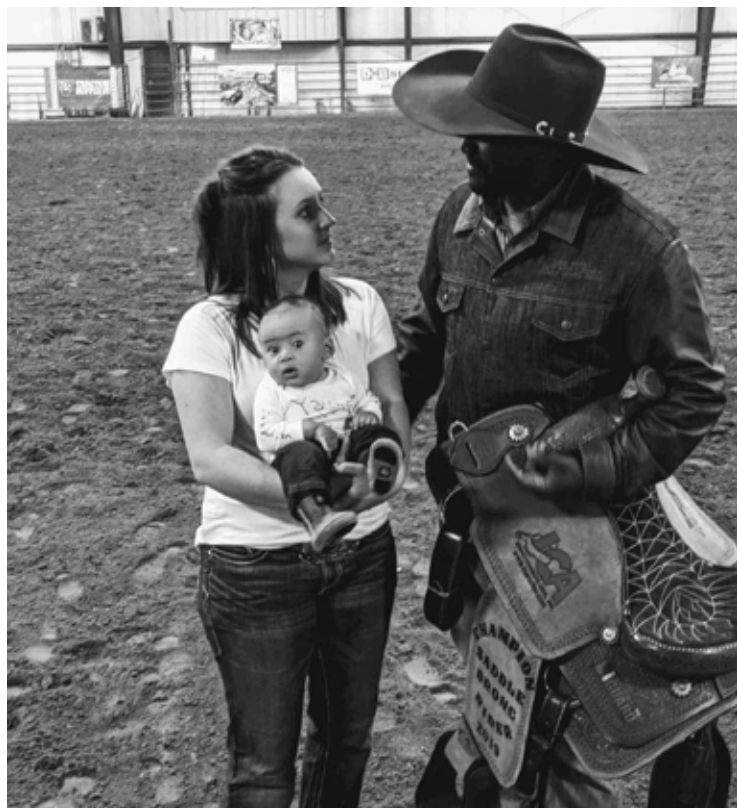
Rodeo Stories I & II

Thursday, January 30 · 1:30–3pm

Friday, January 31 · 10:30am–12pm

Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center

Stories both heartbreaking and heartlifting abound in the rodeo world. Whether you are familiar with the ins and outs and ups and downs of rodeo life, or not, this session is sure to entertain and enlighten. Rodeo veterans will take you behind the chutes, into the arena, and down the road through their hearty stories and conversation. *Rodeo Stories I* will feature **Jim Brooks**, **Gabe McKay**, and **Luke McKay**. *Rodeo Stories II* will feature **Cat Clifford**, **Myrtis Dightman Sr.**, and **Rodney Nelson**.



Courtesy of Clare McKay

Luke McKay

Stories & Film: The McKay Family

Friday, January 31 · 2:45–4pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Between 1994 and 1998, **Joe and Joyce McKay** adopted six young children from Haiti to become a part of their eastern Oregon ranch family. With time, their lives became in sync with this remote ranching community — attending their ranch home school, finding roles in the seasonal cycles of work on the family ranch, competing in rodeos, helping neighbors, and attending church. Now young adults, four of the children — **Gabe**, **Clare**, **Luke**, and **Anna Rose** — have kept ties to the ranch and ranch life. We invite you to get better acquainted with this family through a rich exchange of stories, music-making, and more, including a short sneak preview of Clare's film-in-progress about her family and her two rodeo-chasing brothers.

SONG

Cowboy Sing-Along

Friday, January 31 · 4–5pm

Wiegand Gallery, Western Folklife Center

Saturday, February 1 · 4:30–5:30pm

Outside the Sage Lounge, Elko Convention Center

Join your fellow Gathering fans for a rousing sing-along of cowboy classics. All you need to bring is your voice — we'll provide the guitar accompaniment and the music to sing! Led by **Eugene Jablonsky** and **Liz Dreisbach**.

DEMOS

Rawhide Braiding and Braided Button Tying

Rawhide Braiding Demo

Thursday, January 30 · 11am–1pm

Braided Button Drop-in Workshop

Friday, January 31 · 10am–2pm

Wiegand Gallery, Western Folklife Center

On Thursday, plan to stop by and visit with **Doug Groves** and friends as they demonstrate the art of rawhide braiding. Doug learned braiding from various cowboys and gearmakers as a means to own quality horse gear for his daily work. He has been generously passing those skills along to others, including through workshops at the Gathering. On Friday, two of Doug's long-time students, **Bobbie Yokum** and **Jill Hinderberger**, will be teaching braided button tying. Purchase a \$15 key fob in the Western Folklife Center Gift Shop, learn how to add a button to your fob, and leave with a new skill and special Gathering memory!



Stephanie Martinez/Travel Nevada

Share your feedback in our audience surveys.
Help us plan for the future!



Scan this code to take the survey now, stop by the Guest Services desk to pick up a printed survey, or leave your email address, and we will send a survey to you right after the Gathering.

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E. L. Wiegand Gallery

160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno, Nevada

Silver-Mounted Exhibition Pistol, 1854-55, Louis-Julien Gastinne-Renette (Paris, France), Engraver unsigned; Silver and wood (ebony). Collection of Robert M. Lee.

FILMS



John Langmore



John Langmore

COWBOYS – A Documentary Portrait (2019)

Directed/Produced by Bud Force and John Langmore (90 minutes)

Wednesday, January 29 · 1:15–12:15pm

G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

Thursday, January 30 · 10:45am–3:00pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Friday, January 31 · 2:00–3:30pm

G Three Bar Theatre, Western Folklife Center

This screening will be followed by a Q&A with director John Langmore and cowboys appearing in the film

Saturday, February 1 · 12:30–2:00pm

Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater

In the cinematic tradition of classic westerns, *COWBOYS – A Documentary Portrait* gives viewers the opportunity to ride alongside modern working cowboys on some of America's largest, most remote cattle ranches. The film documents the lives of men and women on these "big outfit" ranches – some over one million acres – that still require full crews of horseback-mounted workers to tend large herds of cattle. Narrated through first-hand accounts from the cowboys themselves, the story explores the rewards and hardships of a celebrated but misunderstood way of life, including the challenges ahead for the cowboys critical to providing the world's supply of beef.

Stories from Owyhee

Directed by Karem Orrego and Carol Dalrymple (Edge of Discovery) with Colene Paradise and David Baker (Owyhee Combined School)

Friday, January 31 · 1:30–2:30pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Saturday, February 1 · 9:30–10:30am

Turquoise Room, Elko Conference Center

For the last six years, the Western Folklife Center, in partnership with Edge of Discovery, has worked with students and educators from the Owyhee Combined School on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation to create *Deep West Videos*. In 2019, Edge of Discovery returned to Owyhee to assist students in the creation of these 2020 video premieres: Talliah Hanchor looks back at the history of the *Deep West* video program in Owyhee; Lance Owyhee tells a personal story of finding his roots as a Native American and how that journey has shaped his future; Isabella Pasqual shares lessons learned in cross country and what she will take with her as she leaves high school; and Destiny Max focuses on the culture shock of going from a rural area to a larger city for college.

The Hard Ride: Black Cowboys at the Circle 6 Ranch (1996)

Directed by Alan Govenar

Thursday, January 30 · 3–3:30pm

Friday, January 31 · 11:45am–12:15pm

Saturday, February 1 · 9:30–10:00am

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

The Hard Ride is an intimate look at Black cowboys as they gather for a rodeo and dance on the 40-acre Circle 6 Ranch in Raywood, Texas. A.J. Walker, his wife Pam, and his son Anthony, are preparing for the monthly rodeo, which is very much a family operation. As many as four generations of cowboys are involved in the event. Before starting this ranch with his father 50 years ago, Walker had cowboied on white-owned ranches. Because of racial discrimination against Black cowboys, he decided to start his own rodeo. In the film, poignant stories and songs, as well as foodways, crafts, blues, zydeco, and cowboy poetry evoke the unique ways this community has combined Anglo-European traditions with distinct African American perspectives.

Oregon Experience: The Logger's Daughter (2009)

Directed by Gwen Trice (27 minutes)

Wednesday, January 29 · 9:00–9:30am

G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

Thursday, January 30 · 12:30–1pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Friday, January 31 · 12:45–1:15pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Saturday, February 1 · 1:00–1:30pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

In 1923, a Missouri lumber company built a town in northeastern Oregon named Maxville. Hundreds of loggers left Arkansas and Mississippi to live and work there. Many brought their families, and many were African Americans. While the town has long since disappeared, the Maxville story is still unfolding. *The Logger's Daughter* follows Gwen Trice, an African American woman who was born and raised in Eastern Oregon, as she sets out to explore her family's past.

After the Saturday showing, join director of *Oregon Experience: The Logger's Daughter*, Gwen Trice, and Kari Barber, director of *Struggle & Hope*, for a Q&A and discussion of the films.

Program provided courtesy of Oregon Public Broadcasting. Funding for Oregon Experience: *The Logger's Daughter* was provided by the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, the Ann & Bill Swindells Charitable Trust, and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Oregon Experience is produced in partnership with The Oregon Historical Society.



Brett Fallentine

Fire on the Hill (2018)

Directed by Brett Fallentine (84 minutes)

Wednesday, January 29 · 9:45–11:15am

G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

Thursday, January 30 · 1:15–2:45pm

Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Friday, January 31 · 11:30am–1:00pm

Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater

Saturday, February 1 · 1:30–3:00pm

Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center

This screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Brett Fallentine and Ghuan Featherstone

Long before it was known for its hip-hop and gang culture, South Central Los Angeles was home to one of the most recognized cowboy communities in the nation. When a mysterious fire destroys the Hill Stable in 2012, this once thriving culture finds itself at the brink of vanishing forever. *Fire on the Hill* paints a portrait of this little-known urban cowboy community and shines new light on what it means to be a "cowboy" in our modern world. This genre-bending documentary combines western film style with South Central's urban landscape to depict L.A. as it has never been seen before.

Ramblin' Jack — Beyond the Music (2019)

Directed by Oleg Harenca

Thursday, January 30 · 3:45–5pm
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Friday, January 31 · 10:45–11:45am
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Saturday, February 1 · 11:00am–12:00pm
Northeastern Nevada Museum

Ramblin' Jack Elliott has influenced musical greats like Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, and Beck. He may not have gained the fame and fortune these celebrities have achieved, but with his two Grammy awards and The Presidential Medal of Arts from Bill Clinton, Ramblin' Jack will live on in musical history. *Ramblin' Jack — Beyond the Music* explores Jack's fascinating story, the sacrifices he's made, and the compromises he didn't make, inventing himself to become as famous as he wanted to be. Special film appearances by Bob Weir, Peter Coyote, and Peter Rowan.

After the Friday showing, join Ramblin' Jack Elliott for a Q+A and discussion of the film.

Among the wealth of untold stories in American history is the rise and slow disappearance of all-Black towns in the American West following the Civil War. Founded in an effort to convince the U.S. to create an all-Black state, most of these towns have been swallowed up by nearby counties and cities, or are clinging desperately for their survival. *Struggle & Hope* mines the stories of the last-remaining residents of these Oklahoma towns, while charting their heroic efforts to ensure their town retains its independence, character, and hopes for a better future.

After the Saturday showing, join director of *Oregon Experience: The Logger's Daughter*, Gwen Trice, and Kari Barber, director of *Struggle & Hope*, for a Q+A and discussion of the films.

T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story (2012)

Directed by Conni Castille (74 minutes)

Thursday, January 30 · 1:30–2:45pm
Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater

Friday, January 31 · 9:15–10:30am
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Saturday, February 1 · 3:00–4:15pm
Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater

Creole cowboys and Cajun jockeys, Cotton Knights and Mardi Gras revelers celebrate the long history of Creoles and Cajuns and the horses they love. This equine love affair began more than 250 years ago on the first ranches of southern Louisiana, where Creoles and Cajuns were some of America's first cowboys. Not only essential to hard ranch work, horses were also often the focus of French Louisiana's renewed *joie de vivre*. *T-Galop* romps playfully across South Louisiana, from professional sports to community rituals, bearing witness to a modern horse culture that was born centuries ago.

African-American Cowboy: The Forgotten Man of the West

(15 minutes)

Wednesday, January 29 · 11:30–11:45am
G Three Bar Theater

Friday, January 31 · 9:30–9:45am · Black Box Theater,
Wiegand Gallery, Western Folklife Center

African-American Cowboy: The Forgotten Man of the West is a brief investigation of Black rodeo in Texas and some famous riders who put it on the map.

African-American Cowboy and other short films will also be playing at various times throughout the week in the Western Folklife Center's Black Box Theater.



Struggle & Hope (2018)

Directed/Produced by Kari Barber (57 minutes)

Wednesday, January 29 · 12:00–1:00pm
G Three Bar Theater, Western Folklife Center

Thursday, January 30 · 12:00–1:00pm
Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater

Friday, January 31 · 4:15–5:15pm
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

Saturday, February 1 · 12:00–1:00pm
Lamoille Room, Elko Conference Center

EXHIBITIONS

AT THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER

I'm Gonna Take My Horse....

Opening Reception · Thursday, January 30, 2:30–4:15pm

The past meets present in exhibitions opening at the Western Folklife Center's Wiegand Gallery during the 2020 *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. Visitors are invited to take an artful and educational journey from South to West, through exhibitions reflecting the Gathering's focus on Black cowboys. Fabric arts fans will want to check out selections from quilter Marion Coleman's **Blacks in the West** series. Marion's "Trail Blazers" is featured on the 2020 *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* poster. History buffs will enjoy "African American Western Pioneers, Past and Present" — a photographic tribute curated by Vania Kinard — and special displays honoring significant western characters and events.

Also featured in the Wiegand Gallery:

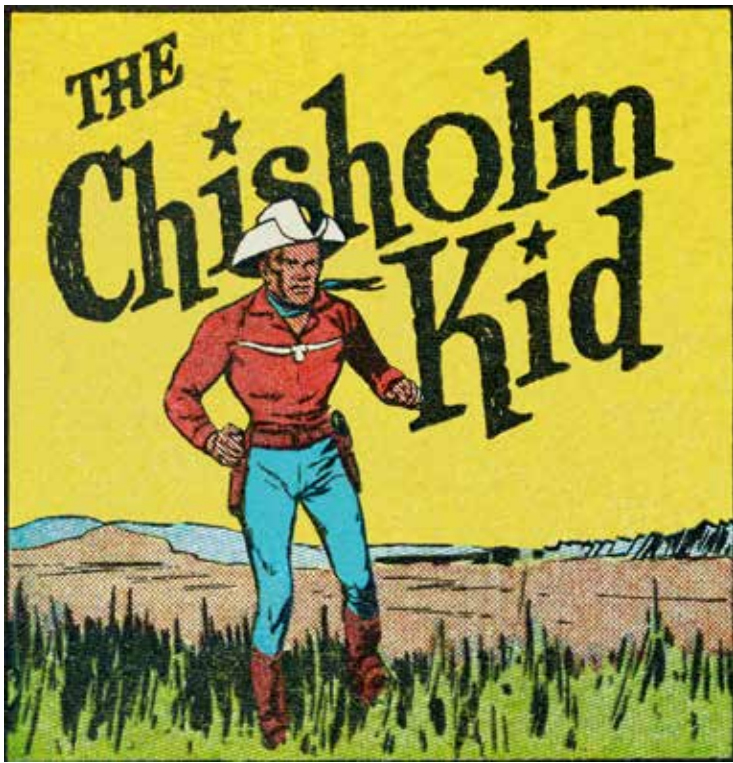
Southern Riders

In this series, photographer Rory Doyle explores the vibrant but little-known subculture of African American cowboys and cowgirls in the rural Mississippi Delta and other regions of the American South. Although a far cry from the American West, the "cowboy" identity of these horsemen and women — whether riding for recreation, work, or necessity — retains a strong presence in contemporary Black communities throughout the Delta South. Many of these photos were taken on weekend trail rides organized by deeply-rooted riding clubs to bring family and friends together for riding, socializing, and a good time.

Rory Doyle is a working photographer based in the rural Mississippi Delta town of Cleveland. He won the 16th Annual Smithsonian Photo Contest with the *Delta Hill Riders* project. Building on his work with Delta cowboys, Doyle has traveled to Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, and Canada as an ongoing project to explore cowboy culture across the globe. His photographs have been featured widely, including *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and BBC.



Rory Doyle



Vintage Black Heroes: The Chisholm Kid Exhibition

In August 1950, a groundbreaking eight-page color comic insert featuring eleven Black comic strips was published by the Smith-Mann syndicate and distributed in the *Pittsburgh Courier* newspaper, one of the pre-eminent Black newspapers of that era. Included in the insert was *The Chisholm Kid*, featuring one of the first Black heroes and the first Black cowboy to ever appear in a comic strip. *The Chisholm Kid* strip had a six-year run and paid homage to the Black cowboys who drove cattle along the Chisholm Trail, from Texas to Kansas, after the Civil War. The Chisholm Kid was presented as an American hero, fully empowered with all of his civil rights, an equal to his white contemporaries such as Hopalong Cassidy and The Lone Ranger.

The Chisholm Kid exhibition was organized by the Museum Of UnCut Funk and includes comic strips from the archives of the museum, the estate of the publisher, and the University of Michigan Special Collections Library.

New Addition to the Western Folklife Center's Contemporary Cowboy Gear Collection!

During the 36th Gathering we look forward to sharing the newest addition to the Western Folklife Center's *Contemporary Cowboy Gear Collection*. Visit the Wiegand Gallery to view this **handsome saddle designed and built by master artisan Jeremiah Watt**. One of three saddles commissioned for the Western Folklife Center's collection, Jeremiah chose a Taylor saddle tree reminiscent of the late 1800s as the base for his contemporary decorative detail in leather, silver, and gold leaf. Established in 1992 with the support and leadership of artist William Matthews, the Contemporary Cowboy Gear Fund and Collection was

designed to bring recognition to the renaissance of contemporary handcrafted gearmaking around the American West. The collection has grown incrementally over the years through the generous donations of gear and funds.

In the Fireplace Nook

View **William Matthews' original album cover artwork** for Dom Flemons' *Black Cowboys* recording, along with photographs from Rory Doyle's *Southern Riders* exhibition.

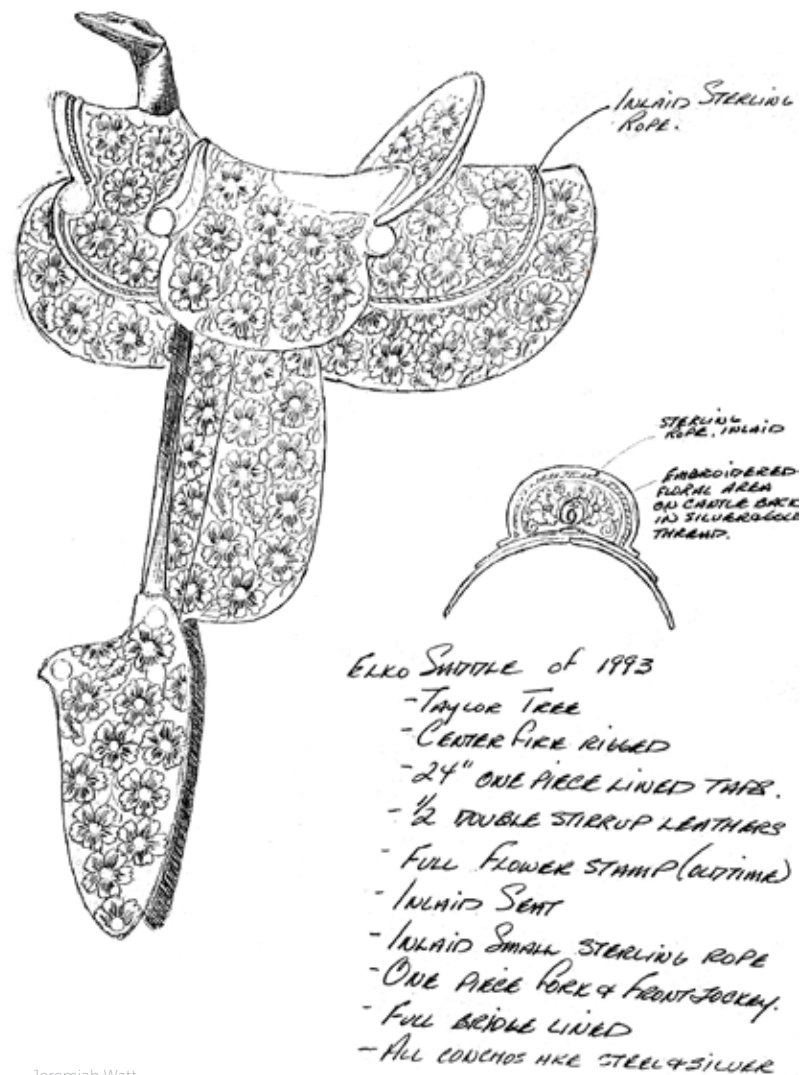
In the G Three Bar Theater and Elevator Lobby

Take a moment to admire the **original artwork and photography by local K-12 students** that adorns the walls of the theater and lobby. We are pleased to announce that selected work from this exhibition will travel to Las Vegas for a show at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, June 4–July 22, 2020.

AROUND ELKO

At the Elko Convention Center

Enjoy a traveling exhibit from the Campbell County Rockpile Museum. ***Black Cowboys of Campbell County*** highlights the stories of some of the cowboys from the last 100 years in Campbell County, Wyoming.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Gathering has something for old ranch hands, young'uns, and teens alike. Start 'em young and encourage a future audience member.

The Western Folklife Center sponsors activities our younger Gathering goers and their adult companions can enjoy together, including:

- » **STORY TIME** for the wee ones (children ages 3-5) at the Elko County Library. *Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30am, 720 Court Street. Free.* Wednesday's Story Time features Wyoming horsewoman and poet Maria Lisa Eastman.
- » The **TEEN POETRY & MUSIC OPEN MIC** showcases a variety of classic, cowboy, and contemporary selections performed by the next generation. All teens are welcome to sign up to participate! *Wednesday, 5:00pm, G Three Bar Theater. Free. Sign-ups start at 4:00pm at the Western Folklife Center.*
- » Play music together in the **BONES WORKSHOP** with this family-friendly traditional rhythm instrument. *Thursday, 1:00–2:00pm, Silver Room, Elko Convention Center. \$25 per person. Bring your own bones, or buy a set in our Gift Shop before class.*
- » The **YOUNG BUCKAROO OPEN MIC** for performers 18 and under, is one of those heartwarming (and popular!) events where all the seats are taken and there's a line out the door. Pro-tip: get there in time! *Thursday, 6:15pm, Turquoise Room, Elko Convention Center. Free. Sign-ups start at 5:30pm outside the Turquoise Room.*
- » The **SQUARE DANCE FOR THE FAMILY** workshop includes live music and square dance instruction tailored for the whole family. No experience necessary. Wear your dancing shoes! *Saturday, 10:30am–12:00pm, Basque Clubhouse. \$5 for adults, free for kids under 18 accompanying adults. Tickets available at the door.*



Charlie Ekburg

- » Meet music stars and hear about their lives in a **CONVERSATION WITH HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN**. Fifteen albums in, the three members of Hot Club of Cowtown will talk about living the dream, traveling the world, creating music, writing songs, and finding inspiration. Audience questions are welcome. Share this experience with your favorite teen! *Saturday, 1:00–2:30pm. \$25.*
- » The **RANCH FAMILY SHOW** features three different families sharing their music and poetry. *Saturday, 3:00pm, Elko Convention Center Auditorium. \$30. Free for ranch families. See the ticket office for more information.*
- » **KIDS ACTIVITY HOUR** Hey kids! Create your own brand, listen to cowboy records on a vinyl turntable, circle 'round for a reading of Joyce Carol Thomas's *I Have Heard of a Land*, and learn about the African American pioneer spirit. *Saturday, 1–2pm, Silver Room, Elko Convention Center. Free for kids under 18. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.*



Jessica Brandt Lufthard



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS HELP SUSTAIN TRADITIONS

For over 30 years, the Western Folklife Center, local educators, and *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* artists have been “gathering the next generation” by offering high-quality education programs that explore the living artistic traditions of the rural West and beyond.

These educational programs have become a tradition in their own right, now having served multiple generations of community members. Every year, this two-week educational extravaganza engages more than 7,000 youngsters from schools throughout rural northeastern Nevada. These programs include field trips, assemblies, and hands-on workshops that give Elko County students a chance to interact with world-class talent. Elko County youth take their place among these living artistic traditions by showcasing their own talents for Gathering audiences at two Open Mic events (see daily schedule) and the Student Art Show (displayed in the Western Folklife Center G Three Bar Theater and elevator lobby).

We’re proud to engage the next generation with the art of expression, the honor of carrying tradition into the future, and the cultural knowledge to be found in all corners of the world. And, we’re proud of the inspired works they’re turning out!

The Western Folklife Center’s youth education programs are sponsored by Nevada Gold Mines, the Bretzlaff Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Nevada Arts Council, Wrangler, and the many donors who generously support the Western Folklife Center’s Youth Education Program.

Enjoy and Participate at Open Mic Sessions

Every mid-winter, poets, musicians, and storytellers overcome time, travel, and cost to take the stage at the Gathering’s Open Mic sessions. This year we especially want to show appreciation for these dedicated poets and musicians who share their talent. From inspirational newcomers to impressive old hands, amateurs to professionals, the stirring voices of the Open Mic speak to the spirit of the Gathering. Don’t miss that spirit being shown at the **Highlights of the Open Mic** show Saturday at the Folklife Center.

Want to share your talents with the Gathering audience? Do you have poems to recite or songs to sing? Take the stage at an Open Mic session and let your voice be heard!

PLAN AHEAD! Open Mics are popular. Sign-ups start at 8:30am each day outside the respective Open Mic rooms and close when all slots are full for the day.

- » **POETRY OPEN MIC** sessions, also known as **Anything Goes!**, are held in the Silver Room at the Elko Convention Center on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (see daily schedule for times).
- » **MUSIC OPEN MIC** sessions, also known as **Take Your Turn**, are held in the Elko Conference Center on the Ruby Mountain Ballroom Music Stage on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (see daily schedule for times).

We’ve also got Sing Alongs and Jam Sessions to show your stuff. See Schedule for more detail.



Marla Aufmuth

Artist Meet and Greet

Elko Convention Center Gift Shop · Saturday · 4:30pm

One of the best parts of the Gathering is seeing the performers out and about. And the **Artist Meet and Greet** on Saturday is the place to hobnob with the artists! Come by the Gift Shop in the Elko Convention Center at 4:30pm on Saturday. A whole host of artists will be there to chat with you and sign autographs! Need to buy something for your favorite poet or musician to sign? Books, CDs, and other works by the artists will be on sale right there.

ABOUT US

The Western Folklife Center



Jack Malotte, *Panorama with Mountains*

Most know us as the outfit that puts on the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*, but the Western Folklife Center also produces programs all year long from our headquarters at the Pioneer Building in downtown Elko, Nevada.

Driven by a mission to use story and cultural expression to connect the American West with the world, we create media that reaches the far corners of the globe, host concerts and other



Charlie Ekburg

events in our 300-seat G Three Bar Theater, curate exhibitions for our Wiegand Gallery, and provide an endless supply of conviviality in our historic and much-beloved Pioneer Saloon. The Western Folklife Center also maintains an extensive archive of material that includes more than 35 years of audio and video recordings from the Gathering as well as research conducted by regional folklorists over the years on the cultural traditions of the rural West.

Founded in 1980, we are governed by a Board of Trustees along with a National Advisory Council made up of leaders in Western cultural life. This organization continues to thrive because of its engaged membership, generous supporters, and dedicated staff. A combination of earned and contributed income from public sources, private foundations, individual donors, and businesses allows us to continue to do our important work.

Can You Help with Our 2020 Priorities?

The Western Folklife Center is counting on you to keep our artistic vision alive and growing. As a donor, you can support the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* or other specific initiatives and projects that you find personally meaningful.

To make a donation while at the Gathering, please stop by the Membership Desk in the lobby of the Elko Convention Center. You can donate online anytime at www.westernfolklife.org or call (888) 880-5885, ext. 222.

EXHIBITIONS

We kick the year off with historical and contemporary exhibitions focusing on Black cowboys and horsemen, reflecting the theme of the 2020 *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. Also, new contributions to the Western Folklife Center's *Contemporary Cowboy Gear* collection will be premiered. In late June 2020 we are honored to host **The Art of Jack Malotte**, a major retrospective exhibition showcasing the breadth of Malotte's career, organized by the Nevada Museum of Art. An enrolled member of the South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Jack Malotte makes artworks that celebrate the Great Basin with a focus on contemporary Native American political issues.

ARCHIVES

The Western Folklife Center archives span more than 40 years of performances documented in several different audio and video formats. Our ongoing effort to digitize, transcribe, and log this material to make it publicly searchable and accessible continues.

PROGRAMS + PARTICIPATION

In 2020 we seek to expand our year-round programming, inviting more touring artists to make the Western Folklife Center a stop on their journey. The goal is to expand access to these performances and other programs through increased video documentation and promotion. Included will be educational content promoting knowledge- and skill-sharing to nurture artistic growth and participation and related fieldwork.

THE PIONEER BUILDING

The Western Folklife Center's home base is a beloved Elko landmark where much of the magic happens at the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. During the rest of the year, it's a community and cultural center for our region, hosting all sorts of parties, meetings, exhibitions, and other events. Work and maintenance on this historic building is ongoing, and our goals for 2020 are to replace the roof above the bar and theater as well as refurbish the wood floors on the ground level.

ABOUT THE PIONEER



The Pioneer Hotel circa 1918

Our headquarters began its life in 1868 as a tent called the Pioneer Saloon and was probably the first bar in Elko. The current building was erected in 1912 and 1913. We were able to purchase it in 1992 through a generous donation by George Gund III, for whom the G Three Bar Theater is named. Today, the once-humble Pioneer Saloon features an impressive 40-foot Brunswick back bar built in 1890 of mahogany and cherry wood inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The Pioneer Building is open throughout the year during Western Folklife Center events and is available along with the theater to members and the public for private parties.

Visit the Western Folklife Center Gift Shops

The Western Folklife Center operates two gift shops during the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* – in the Western Folklife Center headquarters and in the Ruby Room at the Elko Convention Center. (And don't forget! The shop is open at the Western Folklife Center and online all year round!) Stop by and purchase the 36th *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* poster, beautiful silk wild rags, clothing, mugs, magnets, and many other Gathering items. We also carry books and CDs by most of the Gathering poets, musicians, and special guests, as well as

Western Folklife Center books, CDs, and DVDs. Take home a gift for your friends and family. See the official Gathering Schedule for Gift Shop hours. Contact us at (775) 738-7508 or wfcstore@westernfolklife.org.



ECVA Gift Shop Featured Artists

Elko native **KRISTEN FRANTZEN ORR**, one of the early artists in the U.S. lampworking glass bead movement, is a sought-after artist and instructor. Her work has been published in more than 30 books and magazines and is included in collections worldwide.

Metal artist **SUSAN CHURCH** grew up on the family ranch in Elko County where she learned how to weld from her father, Arthur Glaser. Using techniques from forging to plasma cutting and MIG welding, her found-object inspired work ranges in size from small whimsical critters to larger architectural installations.

Tuscarora artist **RON ARTHAUD** combines his classical training with a rigorous "plein-air" practice to highlight the beauty of discarded items and overlooked landscapes in the ranch and mining communities of northeastern Nevada. Ron will be demonstrating his painting techniques at the ECVA Gift Shop. Times will be posted.

Jewelry artist **GAIL RAPPA** creates hand-fabricated, one-of-a-kind jewelry and sculpture from precious and non-traditional materials in her studio in Tuscarora, Nevada. Her distinctive story-driven work has been featured in multiple books, articles, and exhibits throughout the country.

In addition, we will be featuring Native American art by **MICHAELA JONES** and her son, **MYLES CROUCH**. Local photos by **RUBY MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY** are on display.

SUPPORT

Become a Member

Join a community of friends and neighbors committed to ensuring the West remains a culturally rich and vital place. Membership dues help us bring you the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* as well as other outstanding exhibitions, educational programming, and special events throughout the year.

In return, members can buy Gathering tickets one month before everyone else, enjoy a 10 percent discount in our gift shop, and receive free tickets to special shows.

Stop by the membership desk in the lobby of the Elko Convention Center to learn more. Visit with our membership coordinator, Carolyn Trainor, for a preview of exciting program changes we have planned for 2020.

Become a new member or renew online at westernfolklife.org, or call 888-880-5885, ext. 222.



Marla Aurfmuth

Leave a Legacy

Legacy gifts allow donors to meaningfully impact the Western Folklife Center beyond their own lifetimes.

Several options are available for financial or estate gifts of any size through wills, trusts, and other planned donations. A gift may be designated for a specific purpose or may be unrestricted. Consult your financial advisor to see what options are available to you. For more information, please contact us at 775-738-7508 ext. 222.



Marla Aurfmuth

SILENT AUCTION

Use Your Phone to Place Your Bids Today

The Silent Auction in the lobby of the Elko Convention Center includes a wide range of western treasures, such as original paintings and photographs, framed posters, carvings, jewelry, clothing, working gear, books, CDs, and unique travel experiences. Wander through the displays and bid on your favorites. All items are donated by our generous Western Folklife Center supporters. Proceeds from the auction benefit the Western Folklife Center and the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*.

Use Text2Bid for convenient bidding right from your phone. Simply sign up by texting "WFC" to 71760 and begin to browse our exciting collection of items. Or, one of our volunteers at the Elko Convention Center can help you sign up to start bidding.

Items will be on display Monday, January 27. **Bidding opens Wednesday, January 29 at noon** and closes Saturday, February 1 at 5:30 pm.

The Western Folklife Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Nevada. All donations go to support the mission of the Western Folklife Center. Contributions may be tax-deductible. Please consult your tax advisor with any specific questions or concerns.

Scholarships

Every year, the Western Folklife Center invites over 40 performers to take the stage at the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. The following scholarships established by generous donors help make that possible:

SINGIN' SAM & FREDERICA AGINS SCHOLARSHIP

Best known as a cowboy folksinger and poet, Singin' Sam Agins dedicated his life to the preservation of songs, stories, humor, poetry, and crafts that define the cowboy and the American West. After he passed away, his wife, Frederica Agins, began this annual scholarship to honor him and to help bring a younger poet or musician to the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*.

ROD MCQUEARY & SUE WALLIS SCHOLARSHIP

Poet Rod McQueary and Wyoming State Representative and poet Sue Wallis were involved in the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* from its earliest days. Established by an anonymous donor in their memory, this scholarship brings emerging poets, writers, and reciters to the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*.



Marla Aufmuth

DELLA JOHNS SCHOLARSHIP

Della Johns was a ranch woman, nurse, mother, poet, and one of the founders of the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. When she passed away in 2001, friends of Della's established this memorial scholarship to recognize and support the attendance of female poets with similar ranching backgrounds.

BUCK RAMSEY SCHOLARSHIP

Buck Ramsey was a revered cowboy, poet, writer, and musician who was recognized with a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Honoring his Texas roots, this scholarship brings Texas-influenced talent to the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*.

Interested in supporting scholarships or starting one of your own? Contact Cleo Hansen at chansen@westernfolklife.org.

VISIT THE FIFE FOLKLORE ARCHIVES AT THE GATHERING

DELVE INTO COWBOY POETRY!

The Fife Folklore Archives collection, from Utah State University, is on hand each day from 9:00am to 5:00pm across from the Gold Room in the Elko Convention Center.

Staff can answer your questions and help you find cowboy poems from their collection. Both the Western Folklife Center Archives and the Fife Folklore Archives maintain some of the largest public collections of cowboy poetry in the nation.

Both archives encourage poets to contribute copies of their works to the collections.

Interested in contributing something? Stop by and talk to Randy Williams, or mail items to Fife Folklore Archives, USU Library Special Collections & Archives, 3000 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-3000.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, OIL, AND ACRYLIC WESTERN ART · PLUS MUCH MORE!

Wednesday, January 29 · 3:00–6:00pm
Thursday–Saturday, January 30–February 1 · 8:30am–6:00pm
Elko Conference Center

VENDORS INCLUDE

CHAZ MITCHELL CUSTOM HATZ · New Castle, Utah
Hand-crafted, home-made, hair-raising hats.

DESERT SAGE BEAD ART · Sparks, Nevada
Contemporary bead art.

D & S DESIGNS · Marsing, Idaho
Handmade silver, pewter, stainless steel, and leather jewelry.

MELINDA HORN SILVER · Hico, Texas
Hand-engraved jewelry from sterling silver, copper, and brass.

TRIGGERS BOUTIQUE · Reno, Nevada
High-end ladies clothing and accessories.

MAGDALINA ART STUDIO · Sacramento, California
Western art, acrylics, and oil.

HELEN DOUGAL MECATES · Oakley, Idaho
Handmade horsehair metates, snaffle bits, two-reins, and bosals/hackamores.

RE-RIDE STORIES · Oregon House, California
One-of-a-kind belts, purses, jewelry, and more.

MONTANA METAL ART · Bozeman, Montana
Unique 3-dimensional metal art and custom signs.

JOHN MABE CUSTOM KNIVES · Haines, Oregon
Hand-forged knives.

TOMAS MITCHELL FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY · Midvale, Utah
Fine art photography printed on paper, canvas, and aluminum.

ORDERVILLE VINES · Delta, Utah
Wonderful-to-wear silk scarves and wild rags.

ROCKIN' 3-H BBQ SAUCE & DIPPING SAUCE · Lakeview, Oregon
Delicious BBQ sauces.

SHOOTING STAR SADDLERY · Niarada, Montana
Heirloom-quality saddles, chaps, chinks, and more.

TLA TREASURES · Holladay, Utah
Handcrafted diamond-cut pewter goods.

KATHY WIPFLER · Jackson, Wyoming
Paintings, drawings, woodblock prints, neck ties, and stationary.

MONTANA TURTLE & BIG SKY ANTLERS · Stevensville, Montana
Hand-crafted belt buckles, sculptures, furniture, and hand-engraved jewelry.

COUTURE WEST LLC · Melba, Idaho
Beautiful jewelry accented by western antiques.

SANTA ME · Pullman, Washington
Handmade jewelry made from sterling silver and gold vermeil.

IFA COUNTRY STORE · Elko, Nevada
Wide variety of goods for agriculture, rural, and urban country living.

JUNIPER RIDGE · Berkeley, California
100% natural perfumes and fragrances.

B.POZZITIVE BAGS · Spokane, Washington
One-of-a-kind bags, purses, briefcases, earrings, and much more.

WILDCAT GOLD & SILVERSMITHS · Reed Point, Montana
Custom silver and gold products.

WHICH WAY'D THEY GO · Walnut Creek, California
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ACTIVITIES Around Town

Events take place between Monday, January 27
and Saturday, February 1, 2020

Art & Gear Shows

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING WESTERN MERCANTILE

The Western Folklife Center's own show providing authentic and high-quality cowboy, buckaroo, and Western artist merchandise.

Elko Conference Center (by Elko Convention Center), 700 Moren Way

Wed: 3pm–pm

Thurs–Sat: 8:30am–6pm

Contact: Western Folklife Center 775-738-7508

STOCKMEN'S WESTERN EMPORIUM

Stockmen's Casino & Ramada Hotel, 340 Commercial Street

Thurs–Sat: 9am–8pm

Contact: 775-738-5141

ELKO COWBOY MARKETPLACE

Commercial Casino, 345 4th Street

Thurs–Sat: 10am–8pm

Contact: 775-738-5141

COW CAMP TRADING POST

Showcasing a gathering of artisans, makers, and purveyors of buckaroo gear, art, clothes, jewelry and fine accessories for over 25 years.

Red Lion Inn and Casino, East End Ballroom, 2065 Idaho Street

Opening reception: Wed, 3–7pm

Thurs–Sat: 9am–7pm

Contact: Vickie Mullen 206-409-6222

DUNCAN LITTLE CREEK GALLERY AND THE GALLERY BAR

Art show and sale featuring paintings, photography, jewelry, ceramics, and more by local artists.

Duncan LittleCreek Gallery, 516 Commercial Street

Open Mon–Sat, with Artists' Reception on Fri, 5–8pm

Open Mic nights hosted by musician Billy Rose and Friends starting 6:30pm Thurs, 8pm Fri, and 6:30pm Sat

Contact: Joan or Jen Anderson 775-738-3426

TWELFTH ANNUAL SILVER STATE TRADE SHOW

Home of the Exclusive Rawhide Exhibit, Used Saddle Corral, Bunkhouse Cowboy Artisan Circle, and Amanda's Saloon

Elko County Fairgrounds, 13th & Cedar Streets

Wed: 3–6pm, Thurs–Sat: 9am–6pm

Contact: Dawn Leyva 775-934-8414

GREAT BASIN COWBOY GEAR SHOW & SALE

Featuring fine-quality art from contemporary cowboy artists and craftsmen.

Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum, 542 Commercial St.

Wed, Jan 22–Sat, Feb, 1, 10am–5pm (closed Sunday and Monday)

Reception: Fri, Jan 31, 5pm–8pm

Silent auction on Fri, Jan 31st is also available on www.explorelko.com

Contact: John Wright 775-340-0789

GREAT BASIN NATIVE MARKET

Handcrafted art by area Native Americans.

Girl Scout House, 561 14th Street

Thurs–Sat: 10am–6pm

Contact: Lois Whitney 775-340-9897 or Leah Brady 775-340-2833

NATIVE TRADE SHOW

Contemporary and traditional Native items including beadwork, silversmithing, basketry, photography. Free daily demonstrations and workshops.

1543 Silver Eagle Drive

Thurs–Sat: 10am–8pm

Contact: Victoria Jackson 775-247-7786

THE HIGH DESERT WESTERN ART AND GEAR SHOW AND SALE

High Desert Inn, 3015 Idaho Street

Thurs–Sat: 9am–6pm

Contact: Betsy 775-296-2289

Activities

ELKO COUNTY LIBRARY

720 Court Street

Story Time for children (age 3–5) Tue, Wed, Thurs at 10:30am.

Wednesday Story Time with author and western poet Maria Lisa Eastman, who is a rancher, horsewoman, and CEO of rainhorse.org. This event is sponsored by the Western Folklife Center.

Contact: 775-738-3066 or elkocountylibrary.org

ELKO GOLD MINE TOURS/ NEWMONT NORTH AMERICA

Free tour to an open-pit gold mining operation.

Wed: 12:30pm–4pm

Contact: Jaymie Donovan at Newmont External Relations, jaymie.donovan@nevadagoldmines.com

Local Attractions

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Dioramas, murals, and exhibits of pioneer and Native peoples. Call for program information during Gathering.

I-80 West, eight miles west of Elko, Exit 292

Wed–Sun: 9am – 4:30pm (Free Admission)

Contact: 775-738-1849 or californiatrailcenter.org

COWBOY ARTS AND GEAR MUSEUM

Showcasing western and cowboy heritage.

542 Commercial Street

Tue–Sat: 10am–5pm

Free admission

Contact: 775-389-1713

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE ART GALLERY

*Art Instructions: Selections from the GBC Permanent Art Collection
A diverse mix of artwork that highlights over 30 years of exceptional art instruction at GBC.*

Leonard Center for Student Life on the GBC Campus, 1500 College Parkway, Chilton Circle

Free admission Mon–Fri: 10am–6pm

Contact: Brianna Warner 775-753-2221

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM

Bank and John Langmore special exhibit *Open Range* in the Halleck Bar Gallery.

John Ferguson *The Forgotten Cowboys* in the Barrick Gallery.

John Langmore's documentary film collaboration with award-winning filmmaker Bud Force:

Join us for a screening of *Cowboys* in the Museum Theater Sat, 12:30pm.

Films hosted by Western Folklife Center will be screened Thu–Sat. Call for showtimes.

Art of the West Reception with Bank and John Langmore Fri, 6–8pm

1515 Idaho Street

Museum Hours: Tues–Sat, 9am–5pm, Sun, 1–5pm

Contact: 775-738-3418

Entertainment: Open Mics, Jam Sessions & Live Music

MUSIC JAMS AT THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER

501 Railroad Street

Free music jams nightly starting at 10:00pm

Thurs–Fri: hosted by Hot Club of Cowtown

DUNCAN LITTLE CREEK GALLERY & THE GALLERY BAR

516 Commercial Street

Live Music & Open Mic: Hosted by Billy Rose, Thurs–Sat nights

Contact: 775-738-3426

COFFEE MUG RESTAURANT

576 Commercial Street

Live Music & Open Mic: Lenny Nast and his Incredible Cast

Wed–Sat: 4:30pm–9:00pm

Contact: Jeff 775-738-5999

STOCKMEN'S CASINO & RAMADA HOTEL

340 Commercial Street

Live music in Stockmen's Showroom, Fri–Sat: 9:00pm–midnight

Live music in Stockmen's Bar & Lounge, Tue–Sat 6:00 pm–10:00 pm

Contact: 775-738-5141

RED LION HOTEL & CASINO

Live music, Thu–Sat 10:00pm–2:00am

Free admission

Contact: 775-738-2111



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FREE CONCERT January 31st!

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January 30th-February 1st by**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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As of 12/18/2019

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Clyde Aspevig & Carol Guzman
Michael F. Bigham
Gary & Susan Crowe
Debbie Day
Sue Dixon
Suzanne "Sukey" Forbes
George Gund, IV
Louise & Gunnar Klarr
Edmund & Laura Littlefield
Maryanne Mott
Anne Pattee & Hamilton Hale
E.B. Searle & Mike Branham
Marion "Scotty" Searle
Sally Searle
Jennifer Speers
Agnieszka Winkler & Art Lund

SUSTAINER LEVEL (\$3,000)

Peter Simon
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BENEFACTOR LEVEL (\$1,500)

John & Robbin Dofflemyer

DONOR LEVEL (\$1,000)

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Stewart & Karen Wilson
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Paul Zarzyski & Elizabeth Dear
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THANK YOU for your support in attending the 36th Gathering and sharing your feedback. It will help us make the 37th *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* in 2021 the best one yet!

EMPTY SADDLES

Mike Logan — teacher, poet, photographer — of Helena, Montana, passed away on August 14, 2019. He was a featured poet at the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* between 1988 and 2008, remembered not only for his poetry but for his mellifluous recitation and natural skills in hosting and welcoming fellow poets to the stage. Mike's poetry and photography beautifully reflected his love of the wildlife, the landscape, and ranch life of his adopted state of Montana. Among his enduring legacies are four self-published books of photography and poetry on themes of Montana, Yellowstone Park, and ranch life. He also published three books and audio recordings of his poetry. Mike moved to Helena in 1968 to begin work as a high school Spanish teacher; he retired 23 years later, recognized nationally and locally by both colleagues and students as an outstanding secondary educator.



Kevin Martini-Fuller

Norma Matheson, former first lady of Utah and Western Folklife Center board member, passed away July 28, 2019. Norma served on dozens of boards, including the University of Utah College of Nursing, Hogle Zoo, Salt Lake League of Women Voters, and the Utah Symphony. The Western Folklife Center benefited greatly from her wise counsel and vast experience during her tenure on its board of trustees. In her eight-year role as first lady to her husband, Gov. Scott Matheson, Norma tackled issues of aging, education, and health care, and oversaw the restoration of the governor's mansion. She was a strong advocate for women in politics, children, education, and the environment, and she raised a family that continues to be dedicated to public service.



Courtesy of family

Robert "Bob" Ross, poet and conservationist, died August 18, 2019, in Bozeman, Montana. Bob brought his poetry to the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* in 1986, 1987, and 1994. He was born and reared on a ranch in the Bull Mountains of Montana, and he served for 28 years as a Conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. He was an avid horse packer and photographer. His published books include *Muddled Meanderings in an Outhouse*, *Muddled Meanderings in an Outhouse II*, *More Muddled Meanderings in an Outhouse*, and an anthology, *Muddled Meanderings of Yesteryear*.



Kevin Martini-Fuller

Bruce Forbes Simpson, revered Australian stockman, drover, and poet, passed away in early March, 2019, at the age of 96. In 1990, Bruce and other Australian stockman poets, storytellers, and songsters traveled to Elko for the first time to share their horseback culture with American audiences. This launched many rich years of cultural exchange with artists from the Australian outback. Originally from western Queensland, Bruce was a drover in the last of the long overland musters that died out in the 1950s. When road trains took over the job, Bruce retired to make stockman saddles in the little town of Winton. There he compiled poems, eloquently written about his days herding cattle in the outback. Bruce authored several books on the subject, including *Where the Outback Drivers Ride: Stories, Poems and Yarns from the Bush*, and was awarded the Bronze Swagman award and other literary awards for his poems, which are thought to be some of the finest of the contemporary bush verse.



Sue Roscoff

“Tseye” Tsend-Ayush Densmaa, herdsman, horseman, and singer, passed away on April 23, 2019. Tseye was part of a group of Mongolian horsemen and musicians that traveled to Elko in 2004 to share their horseback culture with *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* audiences. He was born and raised in Ih-tamir Sum, in the central Mongolian province of Arhangay. He was a quintessential woodsman, hunter, fisherman, and tracker, and was conversant with the medicinal uses of local plants and animals. Tseye was a guide and wrangler for Boojum Expeditions, specialists in travel to Mongolia and partners in WFC’s Mongolian cultural



Sally Haueter

exchange. Boojum Expeditions director Kent Madin shared: “Tseye rode a horse as effortlessly as he breathed, as effortlessly as he drank vodka and *airag*. He could sing — *khoomei* and the rich, operatic Mongol ballads of horses, moms, the seasons, the steppe. He only spoke a few words of English, but his smile and infectious enthusiasm communicated more than words ever could. In Elko, working cowboys recognized in him a kindred spirit, a true working cowboy/nomad.”

Nicholas Vrooman, folklorist, historian, scholar, passed away June 26, 2019. Nicholas was one of the founders of the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*, over the years serving as fieldworker, speaker, consultant, and host for this event. He was the State Folklorist of both North Dakota and Montana, served as the Nevada Arts Council Folklorist for Indian Traditional Arts, and founded Northern Plains Folklife Resources in 1994. Folklorist Mike Korn described Nicholas as “one of our regions’ premier and most passionate advocates of traditional culture and the many peoples who make up the patchwork quilt of the American West. Nick



Archive Photo

came to be one of the most knowledgeable scholars on behalf of the Little Shell Band (also called the Métis) through his documentation of their history and culture. Nick’s tireless research, writing, and interviews became an important lynchpin in their struggle for federal tribal recognition. A list of his accomplishments, friendships, work — the totality of his efforts and life on behalf of Montana as well as America’s folk cultures would go on for volumes.”

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