



SUMMER 2022

*HOMESTEAD FEVER:  
CELEBRATING THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE HIGH PLAINS*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE SILLIMAN

JULY 6 - AUGUST 27

The settlers who advanced upon the northern high plains struggled to establish homesteads in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The lure of owning land at minimal cost - but at great labor - was forcefully enticing. In the face of formidable odds against them, including drought, wind, cold, remoteness, and primitive tools, these determined people established homes, platted fields and gardens, and raised livestock. Climatic conditions and economic forces often conspired against them. Many persevered, and many sold out and moved on.



"As a former resident of Montana's Judith Basin, I have long admired these stalwart people. Recently I have returned with my 8x10" view camera to record their rapidly diminishing remnants. Their abandoned structures and rusting machinery, set against the immensity of sky and land, evoke in me a profound respect for their courage and resiliency. May these images honor their frontier spirit." Lee Silliman



## **Director's Desk** - Joe Bradley (*MDHAS Board President*)

Greetings,

Thank you for your support of the MonDak Heritage Center. Please visit us often to view the great schedule of exhibits we have lined up for this Fall and don't miss any of our Fall Events including the kick off of the upcoming Northeastern Arts Network Series featuring Def-I from Albuquerque, New Mexico performing at a NAN concert on October 7. Join us for our Annual Fundraiser HarvestFest 2022 tentatively scheduled for October 8th. Details to be announced soon..

Thanks to those of you who joined us on July 1st for the celebration of Montana Shakespeare In The Parks 50th Season and enjoyed the terrific performance of King Lear. Save the Date on October 20th for a special event from MSIP at the Richland County Fair & Rodeo Event Center.

We hope to be able to share news regarding our job search for our new Executive Director and Administrative Assistant in the not to distant future.

In addition to the shows and exhibits featured in this newsletter, mark your calendar's for the October events and exhibits shown on the page to the right. Details will be shared in the next newsletter and in our regular email updates (if you do not receive the email updates and would like to, please let us know and we will add your to the list).

Don't miss our booth at the Richland County Fair & Rodeo Event Center. We will have a great selection of items from the gift shop and a presentation of photographs from our collection.

Be sure to visit the MonDak and view the exhibition of photographs from Lee Silliman "Homestead Fever: Celebrating the Early Settlers of The High Plains". This exhibit feature recent photographs of Montana Homestead sites and artifacts from around the state.

When you have recuperated from your days at the fair, put the finishing touched on your latest quilt project and bring it to the MonDak Heritage Center and enter it in the 41st Annual Quilt Show. Quilts will be displayed August 31 through October 1st.

Thanks again for your support and we hope to see you as a visitor soon.






### MONDAK HERITAGE CENTER ART EDUCATION

The MonDak Heritage is revamping our art programming. We are looking for individuals who would like to teach an art form. We are open to everything from crocheting to pottery throwing, beadwork to stain glass and anything in between. If you would be interested in teaching a class and need a location, please visit us.

We hope to be able to announce some specific details about some classes soon. If you have any requests for a specific class or media, please let us know and we will see what we can arrange.



# Calendar

Jun 7 - Aug 27		<i>Communities West IV</i> Sponsored by MAGDA
Jul 6 - Aug 27		<i>Homestead Fever: Celebrating the early Settlers of The High Plains</i> A Photographic Exhibit by Lee Silliman
Jul 28		<i>"Evelyn's Water: The Woman Who Sang with Ferlin Husky"</i> Presented by Phil Burgess 7 pm
Aug 3 - Aug 6		<i>Richland County Fair &amp; Rodeo</i> Come out to the Event Center and check out our booth
Aug 31 - Oct 1		<i>41st Annual Quilt Show</i>
Sep 3 - 5		Closed for Labor Day Weekend
Sep 11		MonDak Historical & Art Society Annual Meeting at 2 pm
Oct 1		<i>American Sewing Guild Community Service Day</i> 10 am - 4 pm
Oct 4 - Nov 26		<i>WAVA Art Show</i>
Oct 4 - Nov 12		<i>Annie Waldow Art Show</i>
Oct 7		NAN Concert <i>Def-I</i> 7pm
Oct 8 (tentative date)		HarvestFest 2022 Band to be announced

If you are interested in having an art show or a concert, stop in and see us, we are always looking for art shows and performers and love to promote local talent.

*Due to COVID-19, dates/times are subject to change. Please contact MDHC at (406) 433-3500, visit [mondakheritagecenter.org](http://mondakheritagecenter.org) or MonDak Heritage Center Facebook page for more information.*

# Recent Exhibits

## *“EVELYN’S WATER: THE WOMAN WHO SANG WITH FERLIN HUSKY*

PRESENTED BY PHIL BURGESS - JULY 28 7PM

Burgess tells the story of Evelyn, a woman-child who came out to eastern Montana in 1911 and, at the age of fifteen, married a homesteader named James Moore. She immediately became pregnant, but they lost their homestead before she could give birth. James and Evelyn spent the next ten years living in shacks on rented land and working for other farmers, with Evelyn taking a break every year or two to have a baby, until they were able to buy another farm in 1922. Drought caused crop failure after crop failure, and in 1934 Evelyn launched a one-woman letter-writing campaign to convince the government to build an irrigation project for the area. Her letters bore no fruit until 1935 when, in desperation, she wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, figuring that if she wrote to the president, “It would perhaps go in the wastebasket.” Mrs. Roosevelt replied immediately, and two weeks later the feds showed up on Evelyn’s doorstep, and the project was begun. It was about this time that Evelyn had the last of her eleven children, all of them born at home, and only four of them with a doctor present.

In 1962, Evelyn was selected Montana’s Mother of the Year and flown to New York where she and similarly honored women from other states were guests at a luncheon where she sat at table with John Glenn’s parents and sang a duet with Ferlin Husky. ***Sponsored in part by Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project and presented through Humanities Montana “Montana Conversation”.***



## *41ST ANNUAL QUILT SHOW*

*AUGUST 31—OCT 1*



We once again invite you to enter your beautiful quilts, table runners, and any other form of needlework that is hand-made by yourself, a friend, or a family member in our 41st Annual Quilt Show. This show is always one of the warmest and most colorful shows we have. There will be cash prizes for People’s Choice, including \$50 for 1st, \$30 for 2nd, and \$20 for 3rd place.

If you have a vintage quilt from your family, those may also be entered in the show. The family history that is sewn into the quilts is always so interesting. Oh the stories they can tell. The Show Prospectus is available at the MonDak Heritage Center, stop down or call to receive one in the mail if you haven’t received one yet.

The Sidney Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will host a Community Service Day on October 1st from 10am - 4pm. Watch their facebook page for information. Potluck lunch will be served, soup will be provided by the MDHC. You do not have to be a member of the sewing guild to participate. Many hands make light work. Bring your sewing machine, cutting mat or portable ironing board and iron and help out with this beneficial project that helps within our community.

Quilts may be dropped off at the MonDak Heritage Center August 16th - 19th from 10am to 4pm.



# Featured Exhibits



## *RICHLAND COUNTY*

### *FAIR & RODEO*

**AUGUST 3 - 6**

Fair time is fast approaching and we are looking forward to see everyone enjoy the fair. We will have our booth in the Event Center again this year with a great selection on books on local history. View our presentation of photos that are part of the MonDak Heritage Centers Photo Collection.

Every year the Richland County Fair and Rodeo draws a great crowd to the community. There are so many wonderful things to take in, the 4H livestock, school exhibits, the carnival, rodeo,

night show and we can't forget all of the once a year food that is offered at the fair. From Vikings to Turkey leg, cotton candy to dippin' dots and so much more.

The Event Center is always a great place to visit during the fair, as it is air conditioned and has wonderful items to purchase that will interest anyone. Stop by the booth, check out the great books we have available, renew or purchase a membership and pick up a schedule of all the exciting shows and events we have coming up this year.

## *"MONDAK HISTORICAL & ART SOCIETY*

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 11 AT 2PM**

We will be hosting our annual meeting of the MonDak Historical and Art Society on September 11th at 2pm.

As in years past you will be voting for our slate of board members, hearing the annual financial report and facility updates. By attending you will be entered in the door prize drawings.

The meeting lasts approximately 1 hour and we will have coffee, punch and refreshments following the meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please stop in and visit with us prior to the meeting.

If you have a great idea for a fundraising event, want to help with any of our events, have an art show or musical group that you would like to have come to the MonDak, this would be a great opportunity to bring it up with the board of directors. Bring your questions, acclamations and requests to the meeting.

We hope to see you there!



# Featured Exhibits



## *"COMMUNITIES WEST IV"*

JUNE 7 - AUGUST 27

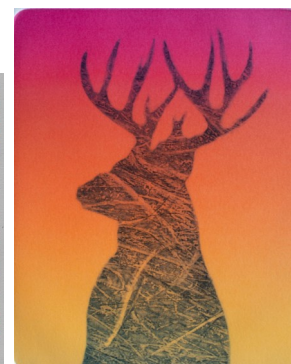
Communities West IV, sponsored by the Robert & Gennie DeWeese Gallery at Bozeman High School, is the fourth iteration of a biennial exchange. The folio was created with the intention of building community among printmakers living in, or with unyielding ties to the Western United States.

As the organizers for the project and members of the Western printmaking community, have a vested interest in reinforcing the printmaking community in the west. In addition to building community, they are also interested in building a survey of printmakers who identify as having ties to the west and following their development through the continued curation of the portfolio.

For the fourth iteration of the folio, participants from the first three folios were asked to participate again. The original list has also been added to through suggestions from members and seeking out work at conferences and events. As such, the work represented is rich and varied in technique and concept. The artists in the folio are as diverse as the work. The community is mad up of veteran and emerging printers, academics and working artists.

Figuring out ways to support the portfolio both through exhibitions, support of collectors and financial support is becoming a necessity for us as the portfolio continues to grow.

This show includes work from 69 artists from through out the region. And is presented through Montana Art Gallery Directors Association.



### MDHC MISSION:

The mission of MDHC is to engage, educate, and inspire our community by preserving and contributing to the area's arts, culture, and heritage.

### STAFF:

Joe Bradley—*Acting Executive Director*  
Leann Pelvit—*Administrative Assistant*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Joe Bradley—*President*  
Karen Redlin—*Vice President*  
Kim Klasna—*Treasurer*  
Deb Crossland—*Secretary*  
Dawn Biebl  
Paula Bostrom  
\*Candy Markwald  
Duane Pust  
\*Amanda Seigfreid  
Jennifer Blekestad  
Bob Burnison  
\*Jonny Nelson  
Luella Schow  
Tammy Venne  
\* County appointed



# News Briefs

## CONGRATULATIONS!

MDHC member **Larry & Kathy Garman** won our membership drawing for a \$20 gift card to the MonDak Heritage Center gift shop! We will mail the gift card to the winner. For the next prize, everyone that joins MDHC or renews their MDHC membership from July 1st thru September 30th will go into a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate redeemable in our gift shop. Limit one entry per membership. Look for the winner in our next newsletter! Thank you for investing in the MonDak!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!



MDHC started a large-scale collections, exhibits update and organization project. We have begun the project of sorting through all of the artifacts in our lower level, and ensuring each item is entered into the Past Perfect Collections Management Software. This is a long term goal as there are possibly 500,000+ items in the collection. It will take many man hours to complete. If you are interested in assisting with this project please talk to Leann.

Or if working in the collections isn't your interest we have many other volunteer opportunities: Saturday sitters, art class assistant, hanging and taking down art shows, lawn care, snow removal, setting up for events or serving on the board of directors. If any of these opportunities are something you are interested in, stop by and visit with us.

## FRIENDS OF REYNOLDS

Shop at Reynolds Market and raise funds for the MonDak Heritage Center! Just register on the Reynolds Market website. Then go to Rewards and My Rewards. Click on the Friends of Reynolds button and add the MonDak Heritage Center as the charity you would like to support. Reynolds will donate 1% of the purchase to the MonDak. We give those funds right back to our members by using them to support programs, exhibits, and collection preservation.



### BOARD MEETINGS:

Open to the public, the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the MonDak Heritage Center.

### MEETINGS/FACILITY RENTAL:

Meet in Sidney's most unique location! MDHC hosts meetings and events for non-profit groups, businesses, and private parties. Contact MDHC for rental rates.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES:

Looking for a fun spot to have a birthday party? MDHC offers art-based parties for all ages. Contact us for pricing.

### EMAIL UPDATES:

For the latest news and updates on MDHC events and exhibits, e-mail us at [mdhc@richland.org](mailto:mdhc@richland.org) to be added to the email list.

### VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteering at the MonDak is fun and rewarding! Help with sitting on Saturdays, art classes, exhibits, collections, and more. Just drop by to get started and find out how you can make history (and art).

### FIND US ONLINE!

Facebook: [facebook.com/MonDak Heritage Center](https://facebook.com/MonDakHeritageCenter)



## BECOME A MEMBER!

**YES, I will join MDHC**

Annually at the following level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+)	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$250+
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron of the Arts	\$500+
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### MDHC Member Benefits:

- \* Invites to members-only events
- \* Discounts to art classes & events
- \* Subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- \* 10% gift shop discount
- \* Recognition in our Annual Report
- \* Voting Privileges
- \* Discounts at 300+ U.S. locations in the Time Travelers Network ([timetravelers.mohistory.org](http://timetravelers.mohistory.org))

### Ways to Join:

☐ Check Enclosed. Payable to **MDHC**.

☐ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Sig: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

MDHC  
120 3rd Ave SE  
Sidney, MT 59270

*The MonDak Historical & Art Society operates MDHC and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Federal EIN: 23-7191806. Your memberships and donations support exhibits, programs, and collections and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*



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[mondakheritagecenter.org](http://mondakheritagecenter.org)

### Hours

Tuesday—Friday: 10am—4pm  
Saturday: 1pm—4pm

**Admission is FREE**

If the date above your name is highlighted, your membership has expired.  
Please consider renewing today.

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