

ARTS GRAM



A Daily Publication of the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Saturday, October 9, 2004

WELCOME TO SALT LAKE CITY



On July 24, 1847, Brigham Young, the leader of the Mormon Church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and 148 settlers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. After being driven from Missouri and Illinois, and traveling for many months over hundreds of miles, the Mormons found a place to practice their religion in peace. To the first of these settlers, looking over what was then an arid mountain desert Young declared, "This is the right place." That day, Mormon settlers began to till the hard, rocky soil, and plan a city arranged in a grid pattern with Temple Square at its center. The name of the city, originally Great



Taken in the late 1880s this picture shows the nearly completed Mormon Temple. Notice the wide streets, designed by Brigham Young so a six-oxen team could make a U-turn.

Salt Lake City, was taken from the immense 2,000 square-mile saltwater lake that borders the city to the west.

While the Mormons were the first permanent European settlers, the ancestors of the Ute and Navajo Indian tribes had inhabited Utah from the first century A.D. The Shoshone, Ute and Paiute tribes occupied the lands when the settlers arrived, and the Spanish explored the land in the 16th century. Mountain men and fur traders also frequented the area.

The first years were difficult for the Mormon settlers, challenged by cold winters, crop failure and pestilence. For the next decade thousands of Mormons immigrated to the valley, many from Europe, bringing their cultural heritage with them. When the settlers arrived, Utah was part of Mexico, but in 1850 Utah Territory, or the "State of Deseret," was made part of the United States. Deseret, meaning "honeybee," became the territory's fitting symbol for determination and industry.

That same year, the gold rush brought more people to the valley, who stopped either going to or coming back from California. Some were looking to



At Saltair, the biggest and most famous of the old Great Salt Lake resorts, swimmers bob like corks in the salty waters. The Great Salt Lake is more than six times saltier than the ocean.

settle, while others were just curious to see "the city of saints." In 1853, construction began on the Salt Lake Mormon temple. Finished in 1892, the temple still remains an

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Paint the town



Learning to ski in the late 1940s on the "Greatest Snow On Earth." With 400+ inches of snow each winter, skiing is the major winter activity in Utah.

architectural wonder of the world. In 1869, the transcontinental railroad was completed with the driving of the "Golden Spike" at Promontory Point approximately 80 miles north of Salt Lake. Population soon increased, bringing a greater diversity in immigrants, especially as the mining industry boomed in the following years. In fact, Kennecott Utah Copper mine, southwest of Salt Lake City, is the largest of its type in the world.

In 1896, Utah (a Ute Indian word meaning "people of the mountains") was admitted as the 45th state. Population tripled in the next 30 years while visitors came from around the

country to see the Great Salt Lake and the Mormon temple. In the 1930s, the growth of skiing, including some of the nation's first ski resorts, brought a new group of tourists to the Salt Lake area and its ski slopes. Utah was no exception when it came to the devastation caused by the great depression. The state's role in the war effort quickly revitalized the economy, through manufacturing and the installation of Hill Air Force Base, approximately 30 miles to the north.

In the 1960s, Salt Lake embarked on a beautification project to reverse the effects of neglect and the migration of its population to nearby suburbs. The downtown area soon grew with an international airport, convention center, a concert hall, skyscrapers and a pro-basketball team. The 1990s brought new industries from the biotech, software and technology fields to the Salt Lake area. Preparation for the Olympic games brought about a significant renewal of the city's transportation system, including reconstruction of Interstate-15 and the construction of a light rail system. Downtown was again revitalized with the new Gateway area, new upscale shopping and entertainment, an expanded temple-square with a tranquil garden feel in

the middle of the city, a new library and courthouse, and additions to the University of Utah.

In 2002 Salt Lake City hosted the long-anticipated Olympic Winter Games, which brought with them 2,200 athletes from more than 85 nations, as well as media and visitors from all over the world. The entire world was able to see the snow-capped mountains that tower over the city. The rich Native American and pioneer heritages also received worldwide attention. While nearly 182,000 people live in Salt Lake City itself, the metropolitan area is home to more than 1.4 million people. For those who live here as well as those who visit, it is easy to see why Salt Lake City is still "the right place."



Looking south from the Utah State Capitol building this view reflects how much Salt Lake Valley has grown in 70 years.

Welcome to the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!

The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is pleased and honored to be the host site for the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. As your Host Site Coordinator, and on behalf of our entire Festival team, we are thrilled and privileged to welcome all of you to Salt Lake City.

As the Host City for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, we experienced the joys of welcoming the world to this great place and realized the potential of the Olympic spirit in all of us. We bring this and the spirit of service, to this year's Festival and to all of you who have made a personal journey to be here. During this week we will share with you several of our Olympic venues and cultural landmarks including our Olympic stadium, the location for our Gala dinner on Monday evening. The VA staff, and indeed the community of Salt Lake City, are looking forward to sharing with you the celebration of art and talent that you bring to this year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Welcome!



Brian Murphy
2004 Host Site Coordinator

Welcome to the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!



The veterans gathered in Salt Lake City this week represent 110 national competition medal-winners from 52 VA facilities nationwide. They are part of a total of 2,947 veterans from 100 VA facilities who originally entered categories within the divisions of art, music, dance and drama during the local level competition phase this past winter.

The week ahead will be filled with rehearsals and workshops and many friendships will be established and renewed. This is a chance to demonstrate to the community of Salt Lake City the depth of artistic talent and skill that our nation's veterans possess, and how artistic expression promotes healing and enhanced quality of life.

Please join the national steering committee members and me in expressing our deepest appreciation to the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System staff and volunteers, and to the community of Salt Lake City. Without their enthusiasm and absolute willingness to extend their talents, energies and resources well beyond the norm, we would not have this chance to experience the beauty of this region of Utah and all that it has to offer. We are grateful to James Floyd, Medical Center Director, and to Brian Murphy, Host Site Coordinator, for their warm welcome and preparation for our arrival. We also offer special thanks to our friend Heidi Hatch, Recreation Therapist, for her vision years ago of hosting the Festival in Salt Lake City.

Congratulations to the veterans! Thank you for being here and representing all of the veterans who participated in the 2004 competition. We are excited to share this time with you and will do whatever we can to serve you and make this experience both inspiring and rewarding, as part of our way of saying thank you for your service to us. I hope you enjoy every part of the week ahead.

Liz Mackey

Director, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Music and the Spoken Word

Festival participants are invited to attend the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Sunday broadcast of "Music and the Spoken Word,"

featuring voices of the 340-member Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Music and the Spoken Word has been broadcast on radio airwaves for 75 years and is viewed by millions on television throughout the world.

Festival participants will have an opportunity to see Utah's beautiful fall color pallet on display in the gardens throughout the 35 acres of land referred to as Temple Square, which is the location of the Salt Lake Temple, the Tabernacle, the Assembly Hall and two visitors' centers.

We'll meet you in the hotel lobby tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.!



Let's Get Acquainted Dinner



All 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival artists, performers and special guests are cordially invited to the Welcome Dinner tonight.

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Bonneville Grand Ballroom, located on the First Floor. Meet Brian Murphy, 2004 Host Site Coordinator, James Floyd, Director of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System and many others, ready to provide you with a memorable experience.

Tonight's guest speaker is internationally known Utah artist Gary Lee Price.

See you at 7:00 p.m.!

Gary Lee Price

Guest Speaker and Artist

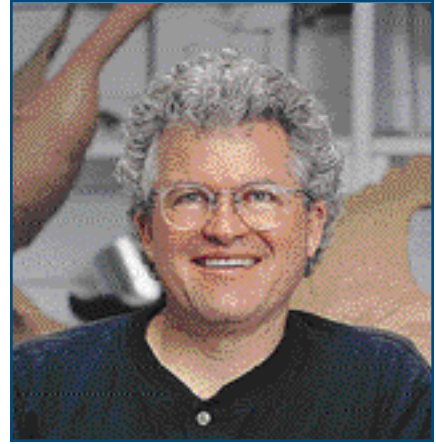
Utah artist Gary Lee Price shares his passion for the human spirit through his many timeless bronze sculptures. “My passion for art, and my belief that art empowers and lifts the human spirit has only grown stronger throughout my life. I have been blessed with many generous and selfless mentors, and my dream is to pass on those gifts to others,” said Price.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The spirit of man is what makes him unique above all of God’s creations.” Price’s bronze sculptures come as close to capturing this spirit as is humanly possible. Sculpture with meaning, sculpture to “lift the human spirit,” sculpture to inspire this, is the essence of Price’s work.

One of the largest libraries in the world, the Hong Kong Central Library, 12 stories high and 300,000 square feet, is graced by 12 Gary Lee Price life-size bronze sculptures. This impressive display includes bronzes of young readers, happy children releasing doves, others playing with shells in water and some holding beautiful flowers or soaring through the air as though weightless. Additionally, two 22 inch-round frogs, “Puffed Up Princes,” are sentinels at the entrance of the children’s library.

Literally thousands of Gary Lee Price sculptures are in public and private collections throughout the world. Two of these are his 12-foot angel “messenger” monument in Iceland honoring over 400 early immigrants to the United States, and his recently completed sculpture “Communion,” a 15-foot high monument of grasping hands for the United Methodist Church of Brentwood, Tennessee.

Price has been sculpting professionally for more than 20 years and has supported a successful fine art business during those years. He resides in Utah and credits his success to wife Lanea, and the inspiration and support of their five boys, Zachariah, Isaiah, Tyrone, Raphael and Justin.



Show Stoppers

Welcome performers! This week, we expect more than seventy of you and we are thrilled you are here!

Cultural expression can define a nation's image, presenting an enduring look at the spirit and creativity of a people. Who better to help define that image than you! This week is sure to be both fun and rewarding as you prepare for Friday's stage presentation at Kingsbury Hall.

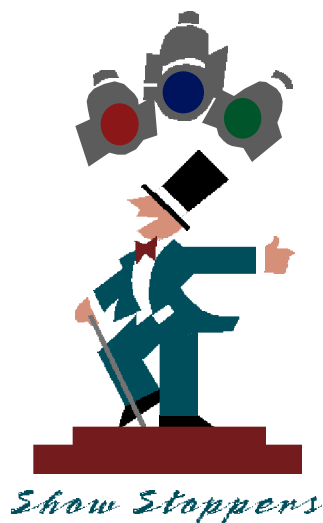
In addition to coachings, costume fittings and rehearsals, you will also enjoy a gala dinner and stroll through the Olympic Cauldron Park and Olympic Visitor Center Gallery Monday evening, and a relaxing tour of the Red Butte Botanical Gardens on Thursday afternoon.

As you prepare for the stage show, here are a few tips to remember:

- Always be on time for your rehearsals;
- Work hard to improve by listening to critiques and suggestions;
- Practice on your own;
- Encourage other performers; and
- Keep smiling – no matter what!

We hope this week will not only help you become an even better performer, but allow you to meet many wonderful and talented people.

Please get to know as many people as possible, have a fantastic week and enjoy the excitement of being part of a wonderful show!



Hometown News

Help us tell the community about your selection to attend the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival! With your permission, we will prepare an individual news release – with your photo – on the Creative Arts web site, and will also let your local newspaper know it is there. While we can never guarantee media coverage, we will do our best to encourage the newspapers to print these releases. Even if they

don't, you can still share your story with family, friends and other veterans. The web site is: www.creativeartsfestival.org. Be sure to read more about the hometown news program in tomorrow's ArtsGram!



Saturday, October 9

During the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress invite all participants to be part of an important national project – *The Veterans History Project (VHP)*.

This historic project is meant to honor our nation’s veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, all veterans are invited to share it with our VHP program staff this week at the Festival, and help make history!

As part of this project, a 45-minute interview of participating veterans will be videotaped and given to the Library of Congress, and will then become part of our Nation’s official historical records. Each participant will also receive a videotaped copy of their interview after the Festival.

Interviews begin this afternoon, October 9, and will continue through Thursday morning, October 14.

Please sign up at the VHP registration area located adjacent to registration, or stop by the VHP interview room at the hotel, third floor, room 302. The VHP interviews will be conducted this week by Butch Miller, Veterans Liaison Officer, and will be videotaped by Patrick Gault from the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. The schedule of VHP interviews for Saturday, October 9 is as follows:

Saturday, October 9

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

– For both artists and performers –

Only you can tell your story, and it’s a story worth preserving and sharing with future generations. All veterans are encouraged to be a part of this important project. For more information, visit the Veterans History Project web site:

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>



Strokes of Art

More than twenty participants are at the Festival this week who won first place in an artistic category. We are glad you are here!

We have many activities scheduled for you including workshops in clay sculptures, watercolors and sand art.

Your week’s activities will also include a gala dinner and stroll through the Olympic Cauldron Park and Olympic Visitor Center Gallery Monday evening, a visit to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts on Tuesday, a trip to Park City on Wednesday, and a relaxing tour of the Red Butte Botanical Gardens on Thursday afternoon.

Welcome, artists! We hope you enjoy your week.

October’s Weather



Average Temperature

High’s – 65 -70°

Low’s – 45 - 60°

Percipitation – 1.4 inches

F.Y.I

Today's Schedule (Saturday, October 9th)

- ALL DAY Arrival of participants and staff
- 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. Registration at the Marriott Salt Lake City
University Park Hotel, First Floor
Snacks and beverages in Hospitality Room
- 5:30 p.m. Team Leaders meeting – Amphitheater, First Floor
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner at hotel, Bonneville Grand Ballroom,
First Floor
- 8:00 p.m. Opening meeting: Introductions, announcements,
and team meetings, Bonneville Grand Ballroom

Sunday's Schedule, October 10th

Breakfast will be served from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Bonneville II.
See Sunday's ArtsGram for complete schedule of events.

Medical Support – Health Tidbits

Your medical support team welcomes you to the high desert country of Salt Lake City. You can expect cool days and cold nights so wear layered clothing. Due to the altitude (4,500 feet) and dry climate here, you need to drink plenty of fluids and take sunburn precautions—clothing, hats and sunscreen. It is not unusual to experience a mild headache or shortness of breath at high altitude for a day or so. It will help your body adjust if you drink plenty of fluids, take aspirin or non-aspirin pain relievers if needed, and get plenty of rest. **The medical support team will be located on the 2nd Floor, Room 202 and available at all times during the Festival week.** Medical support team members will also accompany all tours away from the hotel.

If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope to make your stay here in Salt Lake City the very best!

Meet with Team Leader

After today, meet with your team leader every morning at 8:30 a.m., beginning Monday, October 11th, 1st Floor, Tiered Theater. On Friday, October 15th, the team leader meetings will be at 9:30 a.m.

Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room, staffed by gracious volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks, juices and coffee for all Festival participants, staff and volunteers. Enjoy!

Open today from 12 Noon to 10:00 p.m., 4th Floor, Willow Room.



Opening Celebration Dinner

Western Barbecue Buffet

- New York Strip Loin
- Barbequed Whole Chicken
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Corn On the Cob
- Macaroni Salad
- Cucumber Salad
- Coleslaw
- Garden Greens/Choice of Dressing
- Vegetables & Dip
- Seasonal Fruit
- Cornbread
- Fruit Cobbler
- Bread Pudding
- Coffee, Lemonade, Ice Tea

~ Quote of the Day ~

My mother said to me,
"If you become a soldier
you'll be a general;
if you become a monk
you'll end up as the pope."
Instead, I became a painter and
wound up as Picasso.

Pablo Picasso