

Whatley hosts documentary Friday about opera singer who overcame discrimination

"When I Rise," a new documentary film about East Texas native Barbara Smith Conrad, will be presented free of charge to the northeast Texas community Friday, June 18. The film screening will occur at 6:30 p.m. at the James and Elizabeth Whatley Center for Performing Arts at Northeast Texas Community College in Mount Pleasant.

"When I Rise" is the powerful story of Conrad, a gifted University of Texas music student who became a target of racial discrimination in the late 1950s and ultimately ascended to the heights of international opera.

Produced by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin, "When I Rise" is an Alpheus Media Production, in association with Allentown Productions.

The film was directed by award-winning Austin filmmaker Mat Hames. Producers include Academy Award-winner James Moll and award-winning filmmaker Michael Rosen.

Conrad, who now resides in New York, grew up in the Center Point community in Upshur County. She will attend the film screening.

Texas State Rep. Bryan Hughes of Mineola who represents Camp, Harrison, Upshur,

and Wood Counties, will be present to greet Conrad and introduce the film.

"As her state Representative, I'm honored to help welcome Barbara back to her home state," said Hughes. "Her story is an important part of the history of human rights, and her faith and dignity throughout her ordeal are truly inspirational."

"When I Rise" is an official selection of the 2010 Dallas International Film Festival, the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival in Toronto, the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, and the New York City International Film Festival.

"We've only shown the film to a few audiences so far, and we're very pleased that the people of northeast Texas, where the story originated, will be among the first to view it," said Dr. Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center and executive producer of "When I Rise."

The film was made possible in part by AT&T. Ms. Conrad's appearance at the Whatley Center is made possible by support from Southwestern Electric Power Company. The Whatley Center theater is provided by Northeast Texas Community College.

Seating at the June 18 screening is free of charge and available on a first-come, first served-basis.



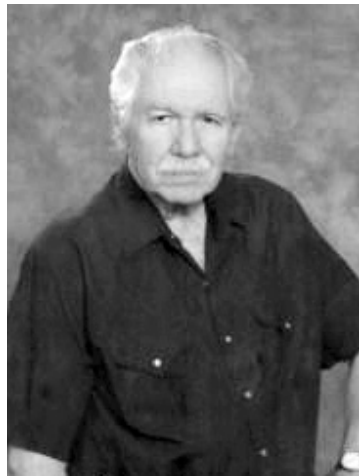
Barbara Conrad gave a concert in the rotunda of the Texas Capitol in conjunction with her being recognized by the state legislature in Feb. 2009.

Award-winning western writer to visit Winnsboro

WINNSBORO – East Texas author Jory Sherman will be at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts on Friday June 18th from 1-4 p.m. and Saturday, June 19, from 1-4 p.m. This is part of the 3rd Friday Arts Festival sponsored by the City and the Winnsboro Cultural Arts District.

Sherman will have his two latest books "Shadows of Yesteryear" and "Savage Hellfire" available for autographing. He will also have some of his paintings on display.

Despite being legally blind, Sherman has recently revived his interest in painting under the tutelage of Graham Hopkins of Winnsboro. Jory says that he always had a heightened visual sense when he was writing and thought of that process as painting with words. "I picture things clearly in my mind," he says. "And that image flows on the creative



Sherman

energy to the canvas."

Sherman, who lives in Pittsburg with his wife, Charlotte, has been a full-time writer for over fifty years and has won the Spur Award for his westerns. He has also been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

He began his writing career as a poet in San Francisco and has been widely published in journals and anthologies. He has pub-

lished over 300 books, thousands of articles and 500 short stories, and he continues to write and mentor other writers.

His writing classes have been held at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts, Northeast Texas Community College, and numerous writer's conferences.

The majority of his books are westerns, but he has also written literary and mainstream novels. His publishers include Doubleday, Zebra, Avon, Berkley, Walker & Co., Tor, Forge, Bantam, Major Books, Pinnacle, The First Ozark Press, White Oak Press, and others.

Many readers and writers have praised his books and this is what Richard S. Wheeler said about "The Baron Honor" - "Jory Sherman writes incomparably of early Texas, where the land is bloody ground and so are the hearts of his characters.

He knows the soul and spirit and stubborn passion of those who forged the Lone Star State. He knows its feuds, its honor, its dreams, its triumphs, its bullheaded genius. He may well be the finest writer of historical novels in our times."

Come to meet Jory if you enjoy reading western novels, or if you would just like to visit with a man who has had fascinating life experiences. He's a great Story-teller!

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people, the Fowler staff, and wonderful children."

Gonzalez is currently engaged. She has two children.

P.E. Wallace

The Employee of the Year at P.E. Wallace is instructional aide **Kelly McGregor**. She was born in Arcadia California and grew up in Carlsbad, California. She has lived in Mount Pleasant for nine years.

McGregor received an associate's degree in Computer Applications from NTCC in 2005.

McGregor says she enjoys the challenges of filling copy requests for all the teachers and staff at Wallace. "I am pleased to help provide any needed technology services for teachers on my campus. I delight in getting to know the 5th and 6th grade students during my morning and lunch duties," she adds.

McGregor and her husband Dean, a distribution driver for Pilgrim's, have two grandchildren.

Mount Pleasant Junior High School

The Mount Pleasant Junior High School Employee of the Year is principal's secretary **Diane Hoffman**. She was born in Iowla, Kansas but raised in Mount Pleasant, graduating from MPHS in 1987. She attended NTCC and will transfer to Stephen F. Austin State University in Fall 2010 to complete her Early Childhood-Sixth Grade teaching certification. When asked what she likes about her job, Hoffman says, "Being able to help all staff at the Junior High with whatever they may need to help students succeed and knowing at the end of the day that I have made a difference in a student's education."

Hoffman is married to Philip Hoffman,

crew foreman for Titus County Precinct 2. She has one son.

Mount Pleasant High School

The Employee of the Year at Mount Pleasant High School is registrar **Gay Miller**. She was born in Camp County and grew up in the Chapel Hill community of Mount Pleasant. She is a graduate of MPHS and attended Tyler Commercial college. She has been with MPHS for 37 years.

Miller says she enjoys "working with staff and students and making life long friendships."

Miller has two daughters.

Titus County Shared Services

The Titus County Shared Services' Employee of the Year is coach **Wendy Leonard**.

She was born in Amarillo and raised in Jefferson. She earned an associate's degree from Kilgore College and is currently working on her bachelor's degree.

Leonard says she likes everything about her job. "It's not one of those cut and dried jobs, anything can and does happen. My favorite part of the job is being a part of the students' lives. I often wonder if others get this much joy out of their jobs."

Leonard and her husband James have four children and one grandchild.

"Each of these ten MPISD employees share a common trait, they are each dedicated to the education of all children in the Mount Pleasant ISD," said Superintendent of Schools Terry Myers.

"They love their jobs, love the people they work with, and love the children on their campuses. Mount Pleasant ISD is lucky to have them as employees."

