

## **The Art of Aging: New Journal Unites Humanities and Gerontology**

Some of our culture's most powerful expressions of the experience of aging come from the arts, from *King Lear* to *Wild Strawberries*. Now a new publication from Routledge, the *Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts* will cross traditional boundaries to add new dimensions to the study of aging.

With the publication of its inaugural double issue this June, the *Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts* (*JAHA*) seeks to create a dialogue between the humanities, medical science, and the social sciences around issues of aging, according to journal editors Anne Wyatt-Brown and Dana Burr Bradley.

"Our vision is that this journal will create a forum for scholars and act as an incubator of fresh approaches and constructive dialog about the meanings, experiences and challenges of growing old," says Bradley, who is a professor of gerontology at Western Kentucky University. "*JAHA* will support a large interdisciplinary cadre of researchers who work in the field of aging, but who perhaps would not all identify themselves as gerontologists."

Published four times a year, *JAHA* is the official publication of the Humanities and Arts Committee of **The Gerontological Society of America** (GSA). By fostering a dialogue between the humanities and arts and the bio-medical, psychological, behavioral, and social sciences, the editors intend for the journal to challenge stereotypes, further our understanding of the aging process, and provide creative approaches to the exploration of issues pertaining to aging. Subjects addressed in the journal will include:

- Language and communication
- Literary production, reception, and analysis
- Biography and memoirs
- Human beliefs and spiritual values
- Art, music, drama, and dance therapy with older adults
- Narrative medicine in interactions with older adults and their families
- Issues of death and dying
- Creativity and aging
- Social construction of age

"Humanities deal with the complicated feelings that individual people have about growing old," says Wyatt-Brown, who is an emeritus associate professor of linguistics at

the University of Florida. “It includes stories about aging that humanize the experiences of older folk and their families, friends, and caregivers. Sometimes these articles celebrate the achievements of elderly musicians, playwrights, poets, novelists, and movie makers. Poems, pictures, drama, and music add dimensions of human experience that research, no matter how impressive, simply cannot duplicate.”

Articles in the first issue cover such subjects as the presentation of old age in the cinema, King Lear’s struggle with aging, aging and desire in modern novels, the portrayal of aging in Native American stories, the Old Woman as new American hero, and the effect of cultural programs on the physical and mental health of older adults.

For future issues of the journal, the editors are seeking original work focusing on a common interest in age and the commitment to reaching readers from different humanities and arts disciplines in several categories:

**Articles:** Synthetic and original research

**Vital Visionaries:** Substantial commentary guiding future directions of scholars

**From Any Age:** First person narrative essays informing the broader understanding of the aging process

**Creative Works:** Original and previously unpublished poems, artwork, musical scores and film reviews

Members of The GSA can subscribe to the journal at the special rate of \$20 through the society’s website, [www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org).

Subscription information for the *Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts* or a sample copy can be obtained from the address below. A sample of the journal can also be viewed online at [www.informaworld.com/1932-5614](http://www.informaworld.com/1932-5614)

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*Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts:*  
*Official Journal of the The Gerontological Society of America*

**Volume 1, Issues 1-2 (January – June 2007)**

**The Impact of Professionally Conducted Cultural Programs on the Physical Health, Mental Health, and Social Functioning of Older Adults – Two-Year Results**

*Gene D. Cohen, MD, PhD, Susan Perlstein, Jeff Chapline, Jeanne Kelly, Kimberly M. Firth, and Samuel Simmens*

**An Anocritical Reading of American Culture: The Old Woman as the New American Hero**

*Roberta Maierhofer, PhD*

**Kiss of the Spider woman: Native American Storytellers and Cultural Transmission**

*Leni Marshall, PhD*

**Aging and Desire in a Few Novels**

*Solange Leibovici, PhD*

**Losing Lear, Finding Ageism**

*Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD*

**King Lear's Inability to Grieve Aging**

*Marvin Bennet Krims, MD*

**Golden Years and Silver Screens: Cinematic Representations of Old Age**

*Amir Cohen Shalev, PhD and Esther Lee Marcus, MD*

**The Rags of Time: Psychoanalytical Notes on Ingmar Bergman's *Wild Strawberries***

*Harvey R Greenberg, MD*