



**6th Annual  
Gordon Parks Celebration  
October 7-10, 2009**

**Fort Scott Community College, Fort Scott, Kansas**

Photo by Howard L. Bingham

# Gordon Parks Celebration of Culture and Diversity

## October 7-10, 2009

### Honoring Nichelle Nichols



#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**All Free Events Are Open To The Public**

**All Four Days:**

- 21st Annual Gordon Parks Photography Competition display in the Fort Scott Community College Gordon Parks Museum/Center for Culture and Diversity, Danny and Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center. Free
- Sarah and Andrew Jackson Parks Photography Exhibit at Mercy Health Center open 9:00 a.m. –9:00 p.m. Self-guided tours are available during those hours. 401 Woodland Hills Blvd. Free

**Schedule subject to change. Please check at [www.gordonparkscenter.org](http://www.gordonparkscenter.org)**

**Wednesday 10/07/09**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Screening of *The Learning Tree*, written, directed, produced and music composed by Gordon Parks. FSCC Danny and Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Screening of *Shaft*, directed by Gordon Parks. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – REGISTRATION/BOOK AND SOUVENIR TABLE OPEN in the Charlotte & Ken Lunt Lobby of the Danny & Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Screening of *Leadbelly*, directed by Gordon Parks. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Trolley Tour of Gordon Parks' Fort Scott. Visit Mr. Parks' hometown in detail including Evergreen Cemetery and sites where *The Learning Tree* was filmed. Meet at the entrance to the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. Fee: \$7.00

7:00 p.m. - "A Celebration of Faith." A community celebration of faith service with special music by Pat Harry, Maach 5 student group, and baritone Phillip Mentor. Speaker Patty LaRoche will speak on the topic of "Diversity: A Celebration of Uniqueness." FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

**Thursday 10/08/09**

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. — REGISTRATION/BOOK AND SOUVENIR TABLE OPEN in the Charlotte and Ken Lunt Lobby of the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. — Ft. Scott Chamber of Commerce Coffee in the Gordon Parks Museum. Join Chamber of Commerce members for coffee, refreshments and announcements.

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. — "The African-American History of Fort Scott: Doctors, Lawyers, and Professionals in the Community" by Historian Arnold Schofield. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. — "Lowell Milken Education Center Student Diversity Projects." Megan Felt, Program Director, will discuss and show excerpts from the diversity projects of the Lowell Milken Center in Fort Scott. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. - "Pizza for Poets" luncheon for grade school poetry contest winners. (Not open to public) FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center, Gordon Parks Center.

12:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. — "America to Me in Song." Fort Scott Middle School. Phillip Mentor, a musician, will present grade-level performances as follows: 7th grade (12:08 - 12:51) / 8th grade: (1:36 - 2:19) / 6th grade: (2:23 - 3:06) — (Sponsored in part by the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation). FSMS, 1105 E. 12th St. FREE

1:30 p.m. –2:45 p.m.—"Working in the Business: Tips and Techniques" with Karole Graham, who played Big Mabel, and Kyle Johnson, who played Newt in *The Learning Tree*. (Students may bring acting scenes). FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Trolley Tour of Gordon Parks' Fort Scott. Meet at the entrance of the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. Fee: \$7.00

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. — Screening of *Half-Past Autumn*, HBO documentary about Gordon Parks. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

7:00 p.m. — "Hot BBQ and Cool Jazz with the Wild Women of Kansas City." Liberty Theatre, 113 S. Main, Fort Scott. FEE: \$22 (includes BBQ dinner and concert). Open seating. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m./Dinner served at 7:00 p.m./Concerts starts at 8:00 p.m.)

**Friday 10/09/09**

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. — REGISTRATION/BOOK AND SOUVENIR TABLE OPEN in the Charlotte and Ken Lunt Lobby of the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. — "Gordon Parks: Up Close and Personal" with Adger Cowans. Mr. Cowans, who will show photos from his personal collection of Mr. Parks, is a photographer, painter and was a longtime friend of Mr. Parks. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.—"A Conversation with Nichelle Nichols." A discussion with Ms. Nichols about her career, led by Kyle Johnson, son to Ms. Nichols who played Newt in *The Learning Tree*. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. — "Star Trek" Themed Lunch in the Charlotte and Ken Lunt Lobby. Presentation of High School Creativity Contest winners (sponsored in part by the Bourbon County Arts Council). Fee: \$8.00.

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. — "A Dynasty: The Kennedys." Barbara Baker Burrows, picture editor at LIFE magazine and longtime friend of Gordon Parks, will talk about her new book on Teddy Kennedy, published by Time-Life. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

7:00 p.m. — "Celebration Tribute Dinner." Dinner and an evening of tribute. Presentation of the 2009 "Gordon Parks Choice of Weapons Award" to Ms. Nichelle Nichols. Social hour prior to dinner. Liberty Theatre, 113 S. Main, Fort Scott. All seats reserved. Fee: \$28.00.

**Saturday 10/10/09**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - REGISTRATION/BOOK AND SOUVENIR TABLE OPEN in the Charlotte and Ken Lunt Lobby of the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. — "Veretta - a 30 Year Retrospective." Veretta is a New York-based professional photographer. She has worked in fine arts, fashion, portraiture and still life for over 30 years. Raised in Fort Scott and a friend of Gordon Parks, Veretta Cobler will show a retrospective of her photographs. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. — "Sir Gordon and The Duke: Parks-Ellington Connected." Speaker Patricia Willard is a writer, historian, photojournalist, lecturer, concert producer and research consultant who was introduced to Gordon Parks by Duke Ellington in 1960 during the 25 years she served as researcher, editorial collaborator and public relations consultant to Ellington. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. — "Fall Picnic on the Patio." A seasonal luncheon will be served on the Geraldine and E.C. Gordon Courtyard behind the Ellis Fine Arts Center. Fee: \$8.

1:30 p.m. –2:30 p.m.—"The Little Balkans Review: Gordon Parks." Editors of the literary journal, *The Little Balkans Review*, will discuss their new publication featuring Gordon Parks. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Theatre. Free

3:00 p.m. – Remembrance Service at Gordon Parks' gravesite in Evergreen Cemetery. Look for Section 7 sign, north end of cemetery.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. — Final Trolley Tour of Gordon Parks' Fort Scott. Meet at the entrance of the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. Fee: \$7.00



ARTS COMMISSION

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



Gordon Parks (1912-2006) wrote about his hometown of Fort Scott, Kansas, in his autobiographical novel and subsequent film, *The Learning Tree*, which was among the 25 films placed on the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 1989. He went on to direct other films, to author several books, and to write original musical compositions, film scores, and a ballet. He established his reputation as a world-renowned photojournalist for *Life* magazine. Parks received the National Medal of Arts in 1988 and over fifty honorary doctorates in his lifetime.

The Gordon Parks Celebration, a component of the Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity, was created in 2004 by Fort Scott Community College to honor Parks and perpetuate his legacy.

At the culmination of the first year's events, the "Choice of Weapons Award" was established in Parks' honor and named after his autobiography of the same name. Recipients include: Avery Brooks, Howard L. Bingham, Elizabeth Eckford and Ernest Green, and Richard Roundtree.

2009 honoree Nichelle Nichols is an actress, singer and voice artist. Her most famous role is that of communications officer Lieutenant Uhura aboard the USS Enterprise in the popular *Star Trek* television series, as well as the succeeding motion pictures, where her character was eventually promoted in Starfleet to the rank of commander.

Nichols began her professional singing and dancing career at the age of 14. She was discovered by Duke Ellington and toured as his lead singer. Nichols toured the United States, Canada and Europe as a singer with the Ellington and Lionel Hampton bands.

After *Star Trek*, Nichols volunteered her time in a special project with NASA to recruit minority and female personnel for the space agency, which proved to be a success.

Film credits include *Snow Dogs* in 2002. In 2006, Nichols appeared as the title character in the film *Lady Magdalene's*. She was cast in a recurring role on the second season of the NBC drama *Heroes*.

Nichols was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1992. In 1994, she published her autobiography *Beyond Uhura: Star Trek and Other Memories*. She also wrote two science fiction novels, *Saturn's Child* and its sequel, *Saturna's Quest*. Her son, Kyle Johnson, played the lead, Newt, in Gordon Parks' film, *The Learning Tree*.

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**REGISTRATION for Gordon Parks Celebration Events**  
**Tickets will go on sale starting September 15**

I wish to register for the events checked below, paying a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(For Trolley Tour Ticket please add \$7.00 and check time below)

	# Tickets	Amount
<b>Thursday, October 8</b>		
Hot BBQ & Cool Jazz	\$22.00	_____
<b>Friday, October 9</b>		
"Star Trek" Luncheon	\$ 8.00	_____
Celebration Tribute Dinner	\$28.00	_____
<b>Saturday, October 10</b>		
Picnic on the Patio Lunch	\$ 8.00	_____

TROLLEY TOUR OF GORDON PARKS' FORT SCOTT-\$7.00		
Wed., Oct. 7 @3:00 p.m._____	Thurs., Oct. 8 @ 12:30 p.m._____	Sat., Oct. 10 @ 4:00 p.m._____

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment: (Circle One)    Check    Visa    Mastercard  
Visa or Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to: The Gordon Parks Center, 2108 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS 66701 (Questions? Call 1-800-874-3722, ext. 515) or check on updates at [www.gordonparkscenter.org](http://www.gordonparkscenter.org). PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS.

Lodging in Fort Scott:  
Heritage Inn    Fort Scott Inn    1st Interstate    Lyons Mansion B/B    Courtland B/B    Levine House B/B  
620-768-7000    620-223-0100    620-223-5330    620-223-3644    620-223-0098    620-223-3908

**We try to keep our mailing list as up to date and accurate as possible. If you receive duplicates, have an incorrect address or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please call 1-800-874-3722, ext. 515 or email: [jillw@fortscott.edu](mailto:jillw@fortscott.edu).**