IHC awards $143,456 in grants

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded $143,456 in grants to organizations and individuals in the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. Fifty-eight awards included grants for public humanities programs, 13 Teacher Incentive Grants, four Research Fellowships, and two Planning Grants. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education. The following projects were funded:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Friends of the Pocatello Club, Inc., Payette, received $1,000 to conduct a series of oral histories to explore the history of the town of Payette, its fruit orchards, and the changing role of women in the community. Panelists will present a public forum in July about this project at the Payette County Centennial. The project director is Andrew Joseph Curtin.

University of Idaho-Moscow Languages and Cultures, Moscow, was awarded $3,500 to help support a presentation in November 2017 by a Spanish theater director exploring the refugee crisis. The performance will focus on the hardships that refugees are experiencing. Also, he will lecture on his experiences with refugee camps and help moderate a discussion on the topic of the crisis within a global context. The project director is Marta Buenos Aires.

Madal Valley Welsh Foundation, Middleton, received $1,500 to help support two presentations for the 15th Annual Madal Valley Welsh Festival; to be held June 30-July 1, 2017, in Madal, Idaho. One will examine the unique style and form of traditional Welsh poetry and the second will explore the history of music and poetry in Wales. The project director is Gloria Joan Thomas.

The Idaho Latino Scholarship Foundation, Inc., Boise, received $1,800 to help support corrido presentations and workshops in southwestern Idaho with Juan Carlos Cervantes from Latino out West and Droga Dominguez from Lewiston, and public presentation of the corridos, stories about certain individuals and news of the day, will be presented in September 2017. The project director is Ana Maria Schachtell.

James, Inc., Boise, was awarded $2,000 to help support the Neighbor Narratives project and build a “refugee speakers bureau” by training storytellers. Story Story Night trainees will work with a select number of refugees to tell their stories of relocating to our state, why they fled their countries, how they got here, and how they are settling and beginning new lives. The project director is Juan Reeves.

Caldwell Public Library, Caldwell, received $2,400 to create a local history archive at the Caldwell Public Library and to begin a collection of historical materials and make them accessible in digital and hard copy format to patrons. The project director is Marina Rose.

The Foote Park Project, Boise, received $2,400 to add an interactive audio kiosk at an Interpretive Center at the historic site of the original Foote home on the Boise River. The center highlights contributions of 19th century engineer Arthur De Wint Foote and his wife, writer/illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, significant figures in the development of the Boise area. The project will present selected quotations from Mary’s life and works. The project director is Janet Worthington.

The Redside Foundation, Inc., Boise, received $3,000 to document, archive, and publish the stories of four found accounts of Idaho’s foot-ghosts and outlaws. The narratives will be captured in video, audio, and print media. They will be presented at a public event on November 14, 2017. The project director is Emerald LaFountain.

Community Library Network, Hayden, was awarded $2,000 to bring sci-fi writer Fonda Lee, award-winning author of Zeroes and Exit to Eden and Rathdrum High School alumnus, to present her talk on the world of space in the distant future. The project director is Twyla Rieder.

Beautiful Downtown Lewiston, Lewiston, was awarded $2,000 to produce and install interpretive vinyl “Historic Wrap” on traffic signal boxes in downtown Lewiston, featuring interpretive content and historic images. Local residents and tourists will have the opportunity to read about the history and cultural resources of the Lewis Clark Valley. LCSC history students will research and write the interpretive text for the wraps. The project director is Courtney Kramer.

City of McCall, Idaho, McCall, received $2,000 to preserve, protect, and make publicly accessible the archive of historic documents, clippings, photos, and other records that make up the McCall Public Library collection; they will host a public presentation on accessing the collection. The project director is Carol Coyne.

Boise Art Museum, Boise, was awarded $2,000 to present a panel discussion using the artwork of Native American artist Rick Bartone (1946-2016) as a focal point for conversations about heritage, culture, storytelling, translation, and identity. The project director is Melanie Falbo.

Confluence Press, Whitney, received $2,000 for their annual One Book program featuring Black River by S. M. Halan. Halan will participate in a five-day residency to discuss her book with readers throughout the region. The project director is Jennifer B. Ashby.

Idaho State University, Pocatello, was awarded $2,000 to support a “eahd in the day” program examining how alternative perspectives and methodologies might be employed in pursuing research and teaching. The project director is Elizabeth Stout.

Why the Public Humanities Matter: A Three Decade Perspective

By Susan H. Swetnam

Editor’s Note: On March 29, the Idaho Humanities Council presented its 2016 award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” to Susan Swetnam, Idaho State University English Professor Emeritus (see related story, pag 4). Susan began teaching at ISU in the fall of 1979, and soon after became involved in public humanities programming through the Idaho Humanities Council (then the Association for the Humanities in Idaho). Over the next 30-plus years, she served as a scholar on numerous humanities projects and programs, writing some of Idaho’s smallest towns, delivering IHC Speakers Bureau lectures, leading “Let’s Talk About It” library book discussions, teaching teachers at IHC summer institutes, and writing and publishing. In the late 1980s, she served as Chair of the IHC. At her award ceremony in ISU’s Stephens Center for the Performing Arts, several colleagues roared and toasted Susan, who afterwards accepted the award from IHC Chair Jennifer Emery Davidson, and made the following remarks.

What an honor and delight it is to receive the Idaho Humanities Council’s award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities—a capstone to so many years of involvement with the organization. Celebrating this award has brought up so many memories of so many incredible people and projects, and as I reminisce for a few minutes about them (and perhaps remind you of your own past experiences with the Council’s work), I also want to use that narrative to emphasize how crucial it is that such programming continue. Without the public humanities activities that IHC, the other state councils, and NEH champion, I’ll insist, we would resist revealing it very briefly before I address more about public humanities in general, and I can’t do so many incredible people and projects, and as I remember one of the most important things IHC do and why we should fight for their continuation—because it’s an origin myth of sorts for me. On the day in question I’d just given one of those slide-show talks in Arco and had turned for home in the late afternoon. Unfortunately a big January blizzard had blown in during the event. As I sat out across the desert on Idaho Highway 20, horizontal snow squalls were gusting across the car’s bow (similar to the ones that gusted on a night just a month ago this spring of 2017 as I drove home from a Tri-Ad in Preston). Even though it was daylight, seeing the edges of the road was difficult, and since it was Saturday there weren’t many other cars and I had nobody to follow. I was feeling good, though—the session had been a lively one—and I was thinking about the people back in my doctoral program in Michigan
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over the years, I’ve been rehashing in my head the day I would begin these words, and the time is here to finally write them. At the beginning of this year, I informed the Idaho Humanities Council Executive Committee that it is time to think about Executive Director succession for the IHC, as I prepare to transition away from the Council after 26 years. It’s been a beautiful ride. And it’s time for new leadership for the IHC. I have no immediate calendar deadline to turn in my keys. I’m flexible to work for the smoothest transition for this great organization that has so enriched my life and helps so many teachers, scholars, libraries, museums, colleges, and other organizations throughout the state. I’ll still be on board this fall for IHC’s annual Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Coeur d’Alene and Boise, maybe even into early 2018, if need be. It’s been my privilege to work with an ever-changing, renewing board of directors who care deeply about the importance of the humanities in Idaho. Their love of literature and history and belief in the mission of the IHC has been truly motivating to me. And every fall, when board members who have completed their terms of service must say farewell to the rest of us, often with tears in their eyes, I can’t think of a better group of selfless volunteers with whom to be involved. Against tough odds, we work to convince skeptical political leaders and even our closest friends that active reading of literature and history, a love of art and music, and a belief in civil discourse are necessary for preserving democracy. My staff—three dedicated, hardworking individuals with whom it seems I spend more waking hours each week than I spend with my own wife—has made our work look so easy. Always flexible, adaptable, open to new possibilities, their passion, intelligence, professionalism, and positive attitudes have fueled my love for the work and sustained me in challenging times. I’ve made a lifetime of friends whose faces are my good memories. I’ll always be involved in the humanities, just in a different way in the years ahead, supplemented by Medicare and Social Security. My wife Rosemary and I will renew our commitment to our Limberlost Press and redevote ourselves to the Old World art of letterpress printing in our shop on a canyon above More’s Creek in the mountains northeast of Boise. The Idaho Humanities Council is a strong, respected, mission-driven organization vitally important to the intellectual health of the state. The IHC deserves our continued support. I intend to remain a very strong advocate.

IHC welcomes four new Board Members

The Idaho Humanities Council earlier this year welcomed four new members to its 18-member Board of Directors. The four new members from Idaho Falls, Coeur d’Alene and Boise attended their first board meeting in February.

Tim Hopkins (Idaho Falls) is an Idaho native and senior partner at the law firm of Hopkins Roden. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Stanford University and a Juris Doctorate from George Washington University Law School. He has served on a number of nonprofit boards over the years, including the board of the Nature Conservancy. He is a founding member of the City Club of Idaho Falls.

Rocky Owens (Coeur d’Alene) is Executive Director of the Lewis-Clark State College Coeur d’Alene Center. He holds a B.A. in Media and Pacific Rim Studies from UCSC and an M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Wales. He is the Chair of the North Idaho Consortium of Higher Education (NICHE) and a member of the Idaho Education Network.

Andrea Partington (Coeur d’Alene) is an English teacher and co-chair of the English Department at Lake City High School in Coeur d’Alene. She holds a Masters in English from Boise State University and holds a law degree from the University of Idaho.

The four new members replaced retiring members Margo Aragon ( Lewiston), Lisa Brady (Boise), Wendy Gibson (Boise) and John Ysursa (Boise). IHC also hosts annual Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, and Coeur d’Alene.

The IHC sponsors statewide reading and conversations programs, supports the work of the City Clubs of Idaho Falls and Boise, brings annual tours of Smithsonian traveling exhibitions to the state, hosts an ongoing Humanities Speakers Bureau, funds the statewide annual ‘Let’s talk About It’ program in partnership with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, underwrites Idaho Public Television programming, and has renewed our commitment to our Limberlost Press and the Old World art of letterpress printing in our shop on a canyon above More’s Creek in the mountains northeast of Boise.

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The Idaho Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from other foundations, private corporations, and individuals. IHC’s mission is to increase the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities in Idaho. It accomplishes this through educational projects for the general public and various target audiences. The Council plans and conducts projects on its own and in concert with other organizations such as universities, colleges, libraries, civic clubs, professional associations, historical societies and museums and other cultural, educational, and community entities. IHC also provides grant support for humanities projects throughout Idaho. Opinions expressed in Idaho Humanities do not necessarily reflect views of the Idaho Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Idaho Humanities Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.
The City Club of Boise was awarded $4,000 to help support its 2017 series which will present the visual, auditory, and literary representations of difference among ISU and Pocatello’s population, and how those differences influence humanities scholarship and set an inspiration for human expression. Kathleen Kele de Peralta was the project director.

The Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise, received $7,500 for toward fabrication and installation of the “Origins” exhibit in the museum’s main building. The exhibit will feature a large exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts, several public presentations, book readings and film screenings at other places on the campus. The project director is Kaelin Gallington.

The Sun Also Rises, an educational outreach program, was awarded $1,500 for to cover honorarium and travel for writer Shawn Vestal, author of “Trees of Honor” and guest speaker at the 80th anniversary of that event during the Spanish Civil War. The second $1,999 was awarded to support a one-day workshop for up to 35 Idaho middle school students to learn about the Holocaust in the context of World War II, and Korean soldiers from Genesee and compiled them into photo books and to enlarge photos for display at the museum. The project director is Dan Prinzing.

The Boise WaterShed Exhibits, Inc., Boise, received $4,000 to support a program called “The Watershed 101 Tour.” The 105-minute program features an extensive exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts, several public presentations, book readings and film screenings at other places on the campus. The project director is Nellie Baker.

The Boise Public Library, Boise, received $2,000 for to support its annual Boise StorySlam “The Write Stuff” at the Basque Museum and Cultural Center. The event is a chance for people to test their literary skills. The money will help defray costs associated with the event. The project director is Diane Conroy.

The Center for Civic Education, Boise, received $4,000 to help support its annual teacher workshop focusing on the history of the United States. The project director is Tisha Flora.

The Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, was awarded $2,000 to help support its annual Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Henderson, Ky., trip. The project director is Jamie Nielsen, Capital High School, Boise.

The Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum, Twin Falls, received $1,875 for the cost of developing an exhibition project. “Idaho: a mirror of Susan Fenimore Cooper (1813-1894),” an educational outreach program, was awarded $2,000 to purchase a copy of “The Leatherstocking Tales” for the museum’s collection. The project director is Tisha Flora.

The Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received $3,500 for its 2017 tour: “Shakespeare in the Classroom.” The festival is presenting a condensed Shakespeare play and workshops to rural Idaho secondary schools for this season. The project director is Lindsey Riggs. The “Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Over 20,000 students and teachers are reached each year. Christine Zimowsky was the project director.

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Pocatello’s Susan Swetnam receives IHC award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities

T he Idaho Humanities Council honored Idaho State University Professor Emeritus Susan Swetnam with its Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities" at a special award ceremony on March 29 in ISU’s L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center. Swetnam, who retired for her career in teaching, scholarship, and personal writing, and her devotion to the public humanities for more than 30 years.

Over the years, Swetnam has served as a scholar in numerous IHC programs, developing humanities programs for other organizations, and traveling the state as a lecturer and moderator for scores of “Let’s Talk About It!” Programs at public libraries in some of Idaho’s smallest communities.

On the national level, she has served as a consultant and grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a key evaluator of humanities programs in several other states.

At the ceremony in March, several of her colleagues roosted onto the stage, including Chair Jenny Emery Davidson formally presented a plaque and a $1,000 honorarium. In her acceptance of the award, Swetnam recounted many years of lecturing in Idaho’s small towns, and made the case for why the public humanities are essential for a civil society (see related story, page 1).

Young people are also involved directly in our present programming. Those who are trained in public humanities methodology and contribute project content. That was true in the Silver Sage Girl Scout Centennial Project I directed in 2012, where 6th graders learned about the girls who had interviewed adults who were once scouts, gathering information for a book-length history of the Silver Sage council’s work.

There are many, many more things that could be said about the important contribution of public humanities programming to citizens’ lives across Idaho and the United States. But I’ll mention just one more, one that is especially relevant given current developments: the ability of the events that IHC sponsors to break down barriers and misunderstandings by bringing neighbors together in civil, respectful conversation.

At scholar-moderated humanities events, Idaho citizens have been sharing their points of view for many years, respectfully listening to each other and discovering that they have much in common than they thought. I’m not naïve enough to claim that such sessions have led to comprehensive tolerance and enlightenment, but I am certain that at the micro, community level, the person-to-person level of individual sessions, the larger community, and the public have gained new respect and understanding for “the other.”

The most moving example I’ve ever seen came at a Let’s Talk About It in the Portneuf Library one night about eight ago. That night the text was Yoshiko Uchida’s Desert Exile, the story of her father’s relocation to the internment camp in Delta, Utah, during World War II. Being a good little humanities scholar, I’d made a detailed lesson plan—a history of the 1942 internment order for starters, then a series of questions designed to artistly draw whoever showed up into discussion first of this book in particular and gradually into larger questions of prejudice and civic responsibility. I’d led discussions on this book based on a similar outline many times, and they’d gone well before, so I was anticipating simply a pleasant repetition on that night.

“Whoever showed up,” though, conclusively demolished that little fantasy. Among the participants were two local dignified elderly Japanese-American couples—who had never before attended a LTAI. They’d called earlier in the week, the librarian confidant, to profess interest in that particular book and ask if the volunteers were still around. I’m not sure how nervous I presented that historical background, imagining that these listeners would know so much more about the topic than I did—though, being very polite people they were, they did not. It was when discussion arrived that the night veered magnificently away from any prearranged topic.

As I invited the older couple to join a Van Morrison classic, seemed so perfect for the occasion. At one point, the other couple seemed to grasp that my choice had been absolutely perfect. I

Late as it was on this January day on Highway 20, I found only the radio station that would come through in the weather (long before satellite radio), a Twin Falls oldie venue. Call this magical el irreversible “purnal and cookies” for a long periods beyond the formal discussion.

That’s been my experience, too. To give just the most recent example, it would certainly have come as a surprise to the enthusiastic folks who sat between me recently in the Public Library and hear the contention that NEH and IHC fund “elite” and “irrelevant” programs. That night we talked about Elmore Pratt Stewart’s Letters of a Woman Homesteader, in an enthusiastic session that involved thoughtful consideration of myths of neighborliness on the frontier and of self-fashioning (though I didn’t use that term) work in autobiography. This session went wide, for instance, because they made me write on the board the titles of other works I’d mentioned so that they could order them for the library. Annie Pike Greenwood’s W-Scrubber Folks, Mary Clearman Blew’s Balsamroot, and Fierce’s Irrigated Eden. That example also evokes another virtue of public humanities programming: it encourages people to understand their own “ordinary” experience as a dignified, important facet of the human condition, a topic worthy of serious study and consideration. This is especially true in the case of programming centered in local history/culture-topics for which there are precious few other support resources.

Arguably the epitome of local culture programming during my time with IHC came in the Council-conducted “Idaho, Tough Paradise” project, a NEH-funded initiative that explored Idaho’s literary heritage. As lead scholar, I was delighted to see how this project made so many Idahoans aware of the rich heritage of their state. For instance, we launched reading-discussion groups (establishing a LTAI series that exists to this day), radio shows, a summer teacher institute, and IHC Speakers Bureau presentations with huge trickle-down reach.

During projects like these, as scholars we go out into communities and show respect and interest in such topics, a crucial benefit also takes place: we become friendly faces with names, and the ivory tower prejudice is undermined.

In addition to spreading the word about how the public humanities touch out-of-school adults, we should also emphasize their important influence on young people. Through IHC Teacher Incentive Grants, for example, we’ve seen improvements in individual public schools have enriched the education of Idaho students for many years. These grants also encourage teachers’ professional development, but not just funds to support new curricula but the much-needed assurance that they are respected as professionals.

One of my favorite examples here has always been the Idaho Shakespeare Festival’s “Talking Shakespeare” project, which annually brings actors to public schools to perform, discuss plays, stagecraft, and history.

During just my time as an IHC board member, we had 1,000 ISF to visit remote rural schools in Picabo, Genesee, and Murphy, among other small towns.
shake my hand as he stood next to me. “It was very good. But I want to add something, if you will. I’ll let me, about what it was like to be a Japanese-American here, in Fort Hall and Pocatello and Blackfoot, during all about that.”

For twenty minutes, the other fifteen of us sat rapt as he recounted a side of local history—told in the achingly personal level—that none of us had ever imagined. Although these American citizens had not been relocated to an internment camp (their well-established farming operations were too important to curtail) they suffered terrible limitations of their basic human rights. Their movements beyond their property were limited (they couldn’t even go to church); they had to tolerate snooping “inspections” by soldiers, and no obvious doubts of their patriotism. Some property, including a beloved shortwave radio, was confiscated. Their liquid assets were frozen and unavailable.

After he finished, applause rang, loudly and prolonged, and I saw tears in some eyes. “Let’s keep this going,” I said. “What questions do you have for Mr. and Mrs. S. and Mr. and Mrs. K7?” Soon even the shy Japanese-American women were drawn out, and they spoke of fear for their children, of feeling isolated, of inability to shop for family essentials, and even (with touching relevance in our venue) of how frustrating it was not to be able to go to the public library to get books that might temporarily divert the family from shame and anxiety.

“When we were allowed to go into town and shop,” one said, “we were supervised, and people stared and said horrible things. These were people I thought were my neighbors and my friends.”

That was another night when we “sure talked about it” long beyond the announced scope of the program. As I prepared to leave, they were still deep in conversation over the punch and cookies, and I overheard a visitor from the3 symposia circle. “I’d overheard a teacher telling the man who spoke to her classroom, and a woman inviting one of the women to come and tell about her experiences to an LDS young women’s group.***

These are the sorts of examples, I believe, and the sorts of arguments that have a chance to sway the minds of those in power at the moment. But we have to take the time to make those arguments, to write the letter or make the call to members of our Congressional delegation. And most, because it is tax-funded, public humanities programming would mean an undeniable loss to the quality of our civic life, especially in a state like Idaho that has relatively fewer sources of free access to cultural resources. Who better to make those arguments than those of us who love the humanities? I challenge all who read this piece—both those who enjoy attending IHC events as participants and those of us who give our lives to making those events happen—to become advocates. Public humanities programming has contributed immeasurably to Idaho’s past; it has even more to offer our future.△

News and Opportunities

New memoir by former Idaho Congressman

Congratulations to former Idaho Congressman Orval Hansen, 90, for recently publishing his long-awaited memoir Climb the Mountains. Born in Firth, Idaho, in 1926, Hansen is a Navy WW II veteran, who later served in the Idaho Legislature before being elected to the U.S. House as Representative of District 2, from 1969 to 1974. He returned to Idaho several years ago after many years in the Washington, D.C., area. The title of his memoir is a metaphor for a lifelong interest in hiking and climbing mountains. Hansen spent much of his life in the world, while raising seven children with his wife June.

A great supporter of the arts and humanities throughout his life, Hansen was a member of Congress during a bygone era of bipartisanship legislation. As a Republican member of Congress he rubbed shoulders with the movers and shakers of environmental conservation in Idaho. One of Hansen’s legacies was his involvement in getting through Congress the bill that established the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972. He opens his 350-page memoir with “I learned a lot about life from climbing mountains.” His life story is available in area bookstores or by writing orvalhansenpress@cableone.net.

21 years in the Idaho Wilderness

Caxton Press announces publication of 7003 Days, a 266-page memoir by Jim and Holly Akenson that chronicles their 21 years on end without seeing other people but focused on their responsibilities as caretakers of the University of Idaho’s Taylor Ranch in Idaho’s Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The book focuses on many important issues that have resonance to this day, such as race and slavery, presidential power, federalism, and American exceptionalism. He explains how their common views provide valuable insight into modern-day debates. Akenson began teaching American history at Idaho State University in the early 1970s, retiring recently to devote himself to other projects. Research for this new book was supported in part by an IHC Research Fellowship grant awarded to O’Connor several years ago. The book is available through the distributors Rowman and Littlefield (www.rowman.com).

New book illustrates work of Idaho Heritage Trust

In commemoration of 25 years preserving Idaho’s historic structures, the Idaho Heritage Trust has published a beautiful book of photographs entitled Bridging the Past, Present, and Future. Established in 1990 as a lasting legacy of Idaho’s statehood, the IHT has preserved structures from Bear Lake to Bonners Ferry—Masonic halls, old Forest Service lookouts, historic schools and hotels, Carnegie libraries, log cabins, Grange buildings, churches, and railroad depots— all of which reflect the identity and character of many small communities throughout the state. The book is available for $25 plus shipping from the Idaho Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 140617, Boise, Idaho 83714, or at www.idahoheritage.org.

The story of Boise’s Greenbelt

Ridenbaugh Press announces publication of Pathway of Dreams: Building the Boise Greenbelt, by former Idaho Statesman reporter David Proctor. The book is a history of civic planning, political negotiation, and dreams going back to the 1890s of a walking pathway along the Boise River. It is a story of the river itself, and how the pathway inspired local regard for the river, and fueled the transformation of the city. Today, the long pathway is a jewel of the city, used in all promotion as an example of what Boise is a good place to live. Yet, the riverbanks of the Boise River were once littered with old abandoned cars and appliances and trash. The book details the stories of how decades of city
and county government and the tenacity of diehard advocates worked to acquire easements, purchase private property, and made the deals to keep the pathway growing. It is a story of model planning for a city that writer L.J. Davis once said “stands an excellent chance of becoming the first American city to deliberately eradicate itself” (Harper’s, 1974). The book is available at www.ridenbaugh.com.

Religion & Politics

Routeledge announces publication of Far-Right Fantasy: A Sociology of American Religion and Politics by Idaho State University Professor Emeritus James Aho (Pocatello). The book is a straightforward, jargon-free study of contemporary American right-wing extremism, accessible to the layman. It allows activists to speak for themselves in their own words, and it takes the religious motivations of extremists seriously. Aho avoids being preachy or judgmental, but challenges readers to examine far-right extremism from a vantage of a formal ideological critique. The book does this by examining how such foundational right-wing ideas— including a marketplace free of regulation, draconian immigration restrictions, an end to the federal reserve and income tax, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, anti-union right-to-work laws, the privatization of schools and the U.S. Postal Service— contradict the goal of enhancing and protecting middle-class interests. Aho is considered one of the eminent academic authorities on the subjects of religious extremism, neo-Nazi movements, extreme Christian patriotism, and mainstream conservation. For many years, Aho has been sought out by the media, including the PBS NewsHour, to serve as a commentator on stories of the day related to religious and ideological extremism. Hardcopy and e-book versions of this study are available from www.routeledge.com.

U of Denver professor releases ethnographic memoir

Washington State University Press announces publication of Carry forth the Stories: An Ethnographer’s Journey through Oral Traditions by University of Idaho Professor Rodney Frey. In this “ethnographic memoir” Frey, a seasoned anthropologist, offers personal and professional insights into the power and value of indigenous storytelling, and describes what he has learned over 40 years of working successfully with tribes and Native peoples. He frames his story as “the quest of an ethnographer to learn from his hosts and engage in collaborative, applied, ethical-based research, writing, and classroom pedagogy.” He addresses issues of permissions and cultural property rights, tribal review, collaboration, applications of research, and “giving back” to the host community. He considers Indigenous learning styles and perspectives, and their research, writing, and teaching. His own experiences with collaborative research projects offer a model for others seeking to work with tribal communities.

Interwoven throughout are stories: gathered from interviews, oral histories, and conveyed by elders, as well as Frey’s personal story about his experience with cancer, drawing from both Native and Western healing traditions.


IHC anthology on Idaho wilderness is a statewide popular favorite

The Idaho Humanities Council’s Idaho Wilderness Considered, an anthology of essays, photos, and other reflections in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the establishment of new wilderness areas in Idaho in 2015, has been a popular favorite for hundreds of readers throughout the state since its appearance in October of 2016.

The book features contributions by 26 Idahoans, including an interview with Governor Cecil Andrus on his life in conservation, an essay by U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson on 2015 Boulder-White Clouds legislation, and more.

Edited by Boise environmental attorney and IHC Board Member Murray Feldman and Ketchum Community Library Director and IHC Board Chair Jennifer Emery Davidson, the book is more than a field guide, more than a map and pictures of Idaho’s vast wilderness areas. It explores how and why those areas have been protected, the very character of the state. Idaho Wilderness Considered charts the conversations, political negotiations, and personal journeys that have influenced—and been influenced by—Idaho’s wild places.

The anthology is the capstone of a popular Idaho Humanities Council reading and conversation series on the history and meaning of wilderness, hosted in libraries and other venues throughout the state between 2014 and 2016. The contributions to the anthology by more than two dozen advocates, scholars, hikers, journalists, photographers, and others, explore the history, policy, law, literature, art, and science of Idaho wilderness, evoking the story of the land itself—deep, textured, and ongoing.

Idaho Conservation League Director Rick Johnson and Idaho Wilderness Society Regional Director Craig Gehlke reflect on their vocation to conservation advocacy, novelist Judith Freeman tells a story of lifelong learning in the humanities helps build a more literate, tolerant, and intelligent Idaho citizenry. If you agree that lifelong learning in the humanities improves civil discourse and enhances informed civic involvement, then please return your envelope today. The IHC will put it to good use funding summer institutes and workshops for teachers, traveling Smithsonian exhibits, our Humanities Speakers Bureau, reading/discussion programs, lectures by some of the best writers, historians, and journalists writing in the world today, and many other timely programs.

Remember to send back that envelope...
But I resisted and stuck with history, and I’m exceedingly glad that I did. When I was an undergraduate, I didn’t do well in math and science. I’m afraid. But I was getting all A’s in the history field, and I wrote an article as an undergraduate about the Campers Union in Ohio. And then I got a fellowship to Georgetown University, where I got my master’s and doctorate. My first book was my doctoral dissertation on Dean Acheson, who was Secretary of State under Harry Truman. Acheson was the progenitor of NATO. He was Secretary of State during the Korean War, during the creation of Israel, during the Berlin Blockade of 1948, during the Communist takeover of China in 1949, during the time the Soviets acquired atomic weapons in ’49. So I really was immersed in the Cold War period of Truman, and was off to the races when my first book got published. Today, I do a lot of lecturing, and I’m the historian for CNN. I’m trying to write serious books, but also I try to be part of the consciousness of my time by weighing in and looking at issues that are affecting our own generation right now.

RT: You started out as a diplomatic historian. I was a diplomatic historian of sorts, but the field of diplomatic history as an academic profession seems to be dying. Is that your take? Do you see foreign policy as not as a significant field in which to specialize?

DB: No, I wasn’t really wired like that. I didn’t think of myself as a diplomatic historian.

When I was writing my book on Dean Acheson, I was doing diplomatic history, of course, but I was thinking more of the history of the Cold War. There used to be a big thing in colleges called American Studies, where you study the history and culture of the United States. I like American Studies. I don’t just want to know, for example, that Eisenhower was President, that Nixon was Vice President, and Khrushchev was the Soviet Premier during the Cold War. I also want to know about Marlon Brando and the Beat Generation, and women’s rights, and the showdown at Little Rock, and Rosa Parks. That’s all happening in the 1950s. I don’t want to constantly be segregating myself into a box—Duke Ellington used to say, “No boxes,” you know. When you have to look for academic jobs, they may want you to be a diplomatic historian, or an environmental historian—but for me it’s very limiting; it’s a straight-jacket. So I just try to write on whatever. By the end, I’m productive because I follow my curiosity.

What I’m most interested in right now is U.S. presidential history. It’s not, incidentally, a right-left thing. It has nothing to do with being a liberal or a conservative, a Democrat or a Republican. I’m trying to look at the American presidency. Jimmy Carter gave me access to all of his diaries and private papers for a book I wrote called The Unfinished Presidency—all about Carter, a Democrat, who lost to Ronald Reagan in 1980. Later, Nancy Reagan gave me access to Ronald Reagan’s White House diaries, for a book I did called The Reagan Diaries. When you start getting serious as a scholar, you don’t let all the partisan noise affect you at all. You just try to understand America’s past.

RT: What challenges do you see in the history profession?

DB: Being a historian, in the end, is being a judge, you try to be very judicial. The big disease we face today, is what I call “presentism,” where people of today kind of beat up on people in the past because they’re judging the past by today’s standards. It’s very problematic to me. I mean, civilizations have marched forward. If we judged Theodore Roosevelt on race relations by today’s standards, he would get an F. He was a politician at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, however, he’d probably get about an A-minus compared to the other people in society at that time.

RT: You’ve written books on CBS newswoman Walter Cronkite, and on Henry Ford [Wheels for the World], and many other people and eras. Your last three major works are focused on the environment, one on Teddy Roosevelt, The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and His Crusade for America [1999], and another on Carter, that I wrote in 1981, that also dealt with the environment, Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and His Crusade for America [2010], and his most recent work Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America, which appeared in the spring of 2016. The books explore the conservation legacies of the two Roosevelts. Rightful Heritage explores how FDR in the depths of the Great Depression, created new National Parks, new national forests, recreational areas, and how the nation employed millions of young unemployed workers as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to plant millions of trees, maintain lakesides, and build parks and camping areas, and in the process grow to love outdoor America. Rightful Heritage touches upon the story of how Idaho benefited from New Deal programs, particularly the work of the CCC.

In addition to his evening public lecture in Twin Falls, Brinkley met earlier in the day with College of Southern Idaho History Professor and HBC Board Member Races Temyme. What follows is a portion of that interview in which Brinkley often spoke directly to the students in attendance.

RT: Dr. Brinkley, thank you for agreeing to this interview, and welcome again to Idaho. You’ve been here before.

DB: Thank you. It’s great to be here. The Idaho Humanities Council has brought me here before, but also Boise State University has had me come in to speak. We’ve been to Coeur d’Alene and Moscow. Idaho is a beautiful part of the world and you’re very blessed to be living here in Twin Falls, Brinkley met earlier in the day with College of Southern Idaho History Professor and HBC Board Member Races Temyme. What follows is a portion of that interview in which Brinkley often spoke directly to the students in attendance.

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RT: Tell us about your emergence as a historian. How does a young student become a historian? How did you find a love for history?

DB: Well, for starters, I’m a professor of history at Rice University in Texas. I teach three classes every fall, and then I have nine months off to tour the country and mainly to write books. I grew up in Georgia and then Ohio, and I wanted to be a historian when I was young. I started writing little essays, particularly about Western figures or people like Kit Carson and Davy Crockett. I even wrote a Daniel Boone little biography I started doing as a child. My mom was a high school English teacher in my high school, so I had that influence. My father had been a social studies teacher who went into politics, so by the time I went to the Ohio State University as an undergrad, I majored in history, and there was some pressure from people saying to me, “How are you going to make a living in history?” You know, “Go to law school,” they said. “Do something that you can earn a good wage.”
Bird life in the Adirondacks, the parks, National Forests, Wilderness Areas, on and on, open up a Rand McNally map and look at all of the places where it is popular in Idaho. My new book is about the times in Idaho in 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was convinced there was conservation was Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR was a Democrat. The Roosevelts were the heirlooms, gifts to pass on to each generation. The Monuments. He thought that the British have committed to America—National Parks, National Forests, National Conservation Areas. He thought that those places even though our country was in the Depression. We also had the Dust Bowl. The land of America had been skinned by landowners. For a long time, people had been cutting down trees and not replanting. Farmers weren’t doing proper, modern, scientific soil conservation, and our grasslands were destroyed by drought. The topsoil blew away. We had widespread erosion in the Plains states. And the big lesson of all this was that we had to start finding a way to do agriculture and forestry properly. And FDR loved Idaho. He didn’t love it just because the people voted for him. He loved it because Boise was the City of Trees, and he liked to say he was by profession a forester. Whenever Franklin Roosevelt listed his occupation, he’d write “tree forester,” or “tree grower.” The CCC planted three billion trees between 1933 and 1942 to maintain proper forestry management. In Rightful Heritage I write about some of the CCC and WPA [Works Progress Administration] projects that took place in Idaho. The National Parks Frank Roosevelt is responsible for include the Great Smokies; the Everglades; Big Bend National Park in Texas; Joshua Tree in California; Channel Islands, California; Olympic National Park in Washington; the Tetons. You know, I could go on—Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Isle Royale in Michigan. He saved all of those places even though our country was in the midst of the Great Depression. And part of my new book is about how environmentalism or conservation promotes tourist dollars for places in the West. Roosevelt took a city like Moab, Utah, and said, “Look, let’s make it Arches National Park, Canyonlands area, a major recreation hub and that will bring in dollars from tourists.” I write a lot about how money is made places like the West, not just by mining or clearcutting or agriculture, but also by tourism. There’s an economic imperative to all this. Every state is judged by its land management. For both Roosevelt, that was what good citizenship first and foremost was all about.

DB: I keep talking about the CCC because it employed 3.4 million unemployed people during the Great Depression. We could do a lot of things—build recreation areas, build boat launch, build roads, improve infrastructure, help with the beautification of America—a huge success full program. But in 1942 it gets defunded because of World War II. After Pearl Harbor, after December 7, 1941, FDR gets a letter from a woman named Rosalie Edge in New York City. She writes essentially to the U.S. Interior Department but the letter gets to Roosevelt. She tells him the trumpeter swan is going to go extinct because the U.S. Army was training the Tenth Mountain Division at Henry’s Lake, Idaho—just a few miles west of Yellowstone. Henry’s Lake is where the trumpeter swan spends winters. They don’t migrate, they just congregate there in the winter. The Tenth Mountain Division winter camp was doing practice artillery exercises, mountaineering exercises, training soldiers for winter combat, to eventually fight Hitler in Europe.

It cost millions of dollars to build this training compound in Idaho. But Rosalie Edge says “If you don’t do the protection, the trumpeter will go extinct.” Beautiful bird, you know. So what does the president do? He looks into the matter and he writes Secretary of War Henry Stimson: “Dear Henry, I’ve heard about the; between the CCC and the trumpeters at Henry’s Lake. I’ve looked into it and the verdict is in favor of the trumpeters. The U.S. Army must de-nest.” And Roosevelt booted them out of Idaho down to Camp Hill, Colorado. He sends a broad message that we are not going to go in, willy-nilly, and destroy public parklands, grasslands, forests and throw away all the protective layers of federal land management. He tells the War Department [paraphrasing], “We’re not going to throw away all of our protection for birds. That’s part of what we’re fighting for—public lands, but that land for public recreation.” He knew soldiers would come back from World War II, and would want to hunt and fish in Idaho. He did not want to squander that heritage.

That’s just one little anecdote about Idaho. RT: Doug, let me ask you to put on your political analyst hat for a little bit. In Idaho, this is the $64 million question. The federal government manages a lot of public land in Idaho, and there are a lot of people who are not very happy about that. What are your thoughts about this environmental debate over states’ rights versus federal management of public lands? How do you see this playing out?

DB: Well, let me be optimistic. I think what you in Idaho are inheriting is an amazingly cool public lands system. I know some people don’t like the reach of the federal government in the West, but that public lands belongs to us all. It is public land. Commitments to the environment change with each administration. A new administration may want more mining or more clearcutting. And it is about if you take us back and forth. I defend the park rangers and people who work for BLM and Forest Service and people who work for parks. These are fantastic people who work as biologists and foresters and deal with insect infestation and soil conservation. These are people of science; these are people that are really great public servants. They’re not going into this kind of work to get rich, and I think we need to respect these people. And when you see some yahoos—like the Bundys—go into a National Wildlife Refuge, it’s just nutty. They’re just breaking laws.
Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham to speak in Coeur d'Alene, Thursday, September 7

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Jon Meacham will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council’s 21st Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Coeur d’Alene Resort. Meacham’s topic will be “America Then and Now: What History Tells Us about the Future.”

The event is made possible in part by major support from Marc and Vicki Brinkmeyer and the Idaho Forest Group. As the lead sponsor of the IHC’s Distinguished Humanities Lecture for the past 14 years, Idaho Forest Group once again has stepped up to the plate to bring to Coeur d’Alene (and to many area high school students) one of the most popular and insightful historians of our time.

Tickets are available online at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling the IHC at 888-345-5346. General tickets are $60 and Benefactor tickets are $125. Benefactors are invited to a private pre-event reception with Meacham at 5 p.m. The evening will begin with a no-host reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. at the Resort. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Meacham’s talk to follow. Meacham’s books will be available from the Well-Read Moose onsite for signing afterwards.

The IHC also gratefully acknowledges additional critical support from the event from Lewis-Clark State College, Coeur d’Alene, University of Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, Hagadone Corporation, Coeur d’Alene Press and Idaho Public Television.

A presidential biographer and contributing editor at Time magazine, Jon Meacham is one of America’s most prominent public intellectuals. A regular guest on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, he is a skilled storyteller with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion, and current affairs, and a concise analyst of how issues and events impact our lives.

His latest biography, Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush, debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestsellers list. The Times said, Destiny and Power reflects the qualities of both subject and biographer: judicious, balanced, deliberate, with a deep appreciation of history and the personalities who shape it.”

Meacham’s bestseller Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power was hailed as “masterful and intimate” by Fortune magazine. His other books include Franklin and Winston, American Gospel, and American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House, which won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009.

Meacham is Executive Vice President and Executive Editor at the Random House Publishing Group. He served as Newsweek’s managing editor from 1998 to 2006, and as senior editor from 2006 to 2010. The New York Times called him “one of the most influential editors in the news magazine business.” Now a contributing editor at Time, he writes for its “Ideas” section.

He has appeared on the PBS’s The Colbert Report, PBS’s Charlie Rose, Ken Burns’ documentary series The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, and other television news programs and documentaries.

Named a “Global Leader for Tomorrow” by the World Economic Forum, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a fellow of the Society of American Historians, and he chairs the National Advisory Board of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University.

National Book Award Winner Evan Osnos to speak in Boise, Friday, September 15

National Book Award winner and New Yorker staff writer Evan Osnos will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council’s 21st Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture on Friday, September 15, 7 p.m., at Boise Centre. Osnos’ topic will be “America in the Age of Trump: Who Are We? Who Will We Become?”

Tickets are available online at www.idahohumanities.org or by calling the IHC at 888-345-5346. General tickets are $60 and Benefactor tickets are $125. Benefactors are invited to a private pre-event reception with Osnos at 5 p.m. The evening will begin with a no-host reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. at the Boise Centre. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Osnos’ talk to follow. Osnos’ book will be available from Rediscovered Books onsite for signing afterwards.

The event is supported in part by Holland & Hart, Futura Corporation, University of Idaho College of Law, Boise State University, Idaho State University, Boise State Public Radio, and Idaho Public Television.

Osnos specializes in politics and foreign affairs, spanning the U.S., the Middle East, East Asia and China. He won the National Book Award in 2014 for Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China.

His May 8, 2017, New Yorker feature “Endgames”, explores the Trump family’s alleged international business conflicts of interest. The article caught national attention, and won Osnos numerous media interviews, including a substantive interview on NPR’s Fresh Air, with Terri Gross.

Osnos has covered presidential American concerns, from modern conservatism and gun control, to the Flint Water Crisis and the last election. Osnos forecasted the implications of a Trump presidency in his extensive New Yorker piece, “President Trump’s First Term,” one of the magazine’s 16 most-read articles of the year. Consulting economists, scholars, and presidential historians, Osnos outlined what could be expected in the first hours to the first 100 days under a President Trump. Osnos also co-wrote the cover story, “Trump, Putin, and the New Cold War,” about Russia’s interference in the election.

Based on his eight years living in Beijing, Age of Ambition is a multi-layered look at the rise of the individual in China and the clash between aspiration and authoritarianism. A Pulitzer Prize-finalist, Age of Ambition was called “a splendid and entertaining picture of 21st century China” by The Wall Street Journal. The Washington Post wrote that “Osnos has portrayed and explained … this new China better than any other writer from the West or the East.”

In 2003, Osnos embedded himself with the US Marines during the invasion of Iraq and spent two years as the Chicago Tribune’s Middle East Correspondent. His piece “The Fallout,” about the events and aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown, won a 2012 Overseas Press Club Award.

Prior to joining The New Yorker, Osnos worked as the Beijing Bureau Chief for the Chicago Tribune, where he contributed to a series on the global trade in unsafe imports, a series that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. He was the 2007 recipient of the Livingston Award, the nation’s leading prize for young journalists, and the Asia Society’s Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia.

Osnos graduated magna cum laude from Harvard. A fellow at the Brookings Institution, he is a contributor on This American Life and Frontline, and has made numerous appearances on PBS’s Charlie Rose, MSNBC’s MTP, and Fareed Zakaria GPS.

Idaho Humanities 9
Idaho Humanities 10

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components of a civil society."

"As a relative newcomer to Idaho, I was delighted to discover and now support the work of the Idaho Humanities Council. Expansive programming is vital opportunities for citizens across the state to gather together to learn and engage with each other -- important vital opportunities for citizens across the state to gather together to learn and engage with each other -- important

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Forty Idaho teachers attend the Idaho Humanities Council’s weeklong summer institute exploring the themes of Wallace Stegner and the Conservation of Place, July 16-21, on the campus of Boise State University. Participants received lodging and meals, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply.

Teachers will receive institute texts, including Stegner’s memoir of his youth Wolf Willow, his novel The Angle of Repose, the collection of essays Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs, and an electronic compilation of other pertinent primary and secondary readings. In addition to attending daily lectures and discussions, teachers attended special evening presentations, viewed films, and shared ways of teaching Stegner’s works in the classroom.

Often referred to in his time as the Dean of Western Writers, Wallace Stegner (1909-1993) was a prolific novelist, memoirist, historian, journalist, and conservation activist whose work explored the American West. He once described the American West as the “native home of hope,” even as he persistently exposed the rough edges of its contested terrain. Stegner ushered in a new era of western literature and history in the latter half of the twentieth century, disrupting both popular myths and academic traditions, and prompting new considerations of what it means to live in the arid West.

Stegner founded the now-famous creative writing program at Stanford University in 1946, and was the recipient of numerous awards for his writing, including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Institute scholars analyzed how Stegner’s work proposes new western identities and responsibilities. Participants examined the relevance of his legacy to contemporary regional literature, conservation policies, and even popular culture. Scholars considered what kinds of aesthetics and ethics are advanced by Stegner’s work, how they describe a distinctly western consciousness, and how we think about stories of place, the environment, social justice, and politics in the West today.

Institute presenters included Tara Penry, Professor of English, Boise State University; Jennifer Emery Davidson, Director of The Community Library in Ketchum and current Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council, Matthew Stewart, doctoral candidate in environmental history at Syracuse University, Richard Etulain, History Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico, Michael Branch, Professor of English, University of Nevada, Judy Austin, Boise-based western historian and Mary Hallock Foote scholar, and others.

I know some people don’t like the reach of the federal government in the West, but that land belongs to us all. It is public land.

When Theodore Roosevelt appointed his first bird wardens to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he had four people appointed to protect birds in Florida, to make sure the egret and heron and spoonbills weren’t decimated. Two of the wardens were murdered, shot, because they were deputized to protect birds. I think that communities in Idaho need to embrace people who work with public lands. Argue with them at times, sure, but we need to deal with them with respect. People can’t become knee-jerk reactionaries about issues that are more complicated than you might think.

Can it be better? Of course. But I take objection to people who want to do away with the Environmental Protection Agency, or say that the EPA is evil. The EPA makes mistakes, but the EPA is making sure your drinking water’s safe, making sure an aquifer is protected, making sure you have air quality that’s good for your children so they don’t get respiratory diseases. I don’t do a lot of public advocacy on anything very much, but when you’re asked to visit a president or testify before Congress, as I have, to explain the laws of the Arctic (The Quiet World), then you go and comment on them, and let the chips fall where they may.

I urge everyone to vote, to be active, to care about your community and not get too cynical.

I often get asked if I’d rather live during the Civil War, or Revolutionary War, or World War II. Are you kidding me? I mean, we have electricity and running water, and sewage treatment. We’ve got medical miracles happening every second. This is an exciting time to be alive. Nobody has ever had it better than Americans have it right now. History reminds us that our own times are not uniquely oppressive.

DONATIONS

IN MEMORIAM

(Continued from Page 10)

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Howard Martinson

IN MEMORY OF Paul Olsamp and Sherry Fagerness
Ruth Pratt and Doug Fagerness

IN MEMORY OF Tom Hennenay
Marby and Barb Peterson
Stephen and Carol Trott
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

IN MEMORY OF Scott Reed
Mary Lou Reed

IN MEMORY OF Stephen Schaper
Mark and Cindy Wang

IN MEMORY OF Gary Peterson
Stephen and Carol Trott

IN MEMORY OF Charles Hummel
Joanne Wilson

IN MEMORY OF Dr. Robert Sims
Bettie Sims
Hope Benedict and Stewart Carrington
Ron and Linda Hatzenbuehler
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

IN MEMORY OF Vickie J. Simmons
Melinda Lindauer

IN MEMORY OF LaVar Steel
Mike and Glenda Green

IN MEMORY OF Angelina Angelos-Uhrich
Cassie Angelos

IN MEMORY OF Helen Coppie Williamson
Patti Kundson Copple

IN MEMORY OF Julie Rose Glenn
Jerry Glenn

IN MEMORY OF Lee G. Taylor
Kathleen Taylor

IN MEMORY OF Randy Stimpson
Courtney Morgan

IN MEMORY OF William A. Truetta
Gail Conlin-Trieu

IN MEMORY OF Gene Drabinski
Tom and Pam Rybus

IN MEMORY OF Kirk Hanson
Katherine Aiken

IN MEMORY OF Marjorie Ann Carlson
Kevin and Laura McCarthy

IN MEMORY OF Harold Forbush
Jerry Glenn

IN MEMORY OF Gregory Jones
Anne Marie and Harold Jones

IN MEMORY OF Phyllis Ward
Jennifer Holley

IN MEMORY OF Rosie Sorells
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

IHC summer teacher institute explored the work of Wallace Stegner

Fagerness

IHC summer teacher institute explored the work of Wallace Stegner and the Conservation of Place, July 16-21, on the campus of Boise State University. Participants received lodging and meals, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply.

Teachers will receive institute texts, including Stegner’s memoir of his youth Wolf Willow, his novel The Angle of Repose, the collection of essays Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs, and an electronic compilation of other pertinent primary and secondary readings. In addition to attending daily lectures and discussions, teachers attended special evening presentations, viewed films, and shared ways of teaching Stegner’s works in the classroom.

Often referred to in his time as the Dean of Western Writers, Wallace Stegner (1909-1993) was a prolific novelist, memoirist, historian, journalist, and conservation activist whose work explored the American West. He once described the American West as the “native home of hope,” even as he persistently exposed the rough edges of its contested terrain. Stegner ushered in a new era of western literature and history in the latter half of the twentieth century, disrupting both popular myths and academic traditions, and prompting new considerations of what it means to live in the arid West.

Stegner founded the now-famous creative writing program at Stanford University in 1946, and was the recipient of numerous awards for his writing, including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Institute scholars analyzed how Stegner’s work proposes new western identities and responsibilities. Participants examined the relevance of his legacy to contemporary regional literature, conservation policies, and even popular culture. Scholars considered what kinds of aesthetics and ethics are advanced by Stegner’s work, how they describe a distinctly western consciousness, and how we think about stories of place, the environment, social justice, and politics in the West today.

Institute presenters included Tara Penry, Professor of English, Boise State University; Jennifer Emery Davidson, Director of The Community Library in Ketchum and current Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council, Matthew Stewart, doctoral candidate in environmental history at Syracuse University, Richard Etulain, History Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico, Michael Branch, Professor of English, University of Nevada, Judy Austin, Boise-based western historian and Mary Hallock Foote scholar, and others.

I know some people don’t like the reach of the federal government in the West, but that land belongs to us all. It is public land.

When Theodore Roosevelt appointed his first bird wardens to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he had four people appointed to protect birds in Florida, to make sure the egret and heron and spoonbills weren’t decimated. Two of the wardens were murdered, shot, because they were deputized to protect birds. I think that communities in Idaho need to embrace people who work with public lands. Argue with them at times, sure, but we need to deal with them with respect. People can’t become knee-jerk reactionaries about issues that are more complicated than you might think.

Can it be better? Of course. But I take objection to people who want to do away with the Environmental Protection Agency, or say that the EPA is evil. The EPA makes mistakes, but the EPA is making sure your drinking water’s safe, making sure an aquifer is protected, making sure you have air quality that’s good for your children so they don’t get respiratory diseases. I don’t do a lot of public advocacy on anything very much, but when you’re asked to visit a president or testify before Congress, as I have, to explain the laws of the Arctic (The Quiet World), then you go and comment on them, and let the chips fall where they may.

I urge everyone to vote, to be active, to care about your community and not get too cynical.

I often get asked if I’d rather live during the Civil War, or Revolutionary War, or World War II. Are you kidding me? I mean, we have electricity and running water, and sewage treatment. We’ve got medical miracles happening every second. This is an exciting time to be alive. Nobody has ever had it better than Americans have it right now. History reminds us that our own times are not uniquely oppressive.
National Book Award winner Timothy Egan welcomed in Twin Falls in April

National Book Award winner Timothy Egan, author of The Big Burn and the Worst Hard Time, delivered the IHC’s 3rd Annual Magic Valley Distinguished Humanities Lecture on April 13 at the Canyon Crest Event Center in Twin Falls. He spoke about his newest book The Immortal Irishman: Thomas Francis Meagher and the Invention of Irish America to 250 dinner guests.

During the afternoon Egan visited the College of Southern Idaho, where he was interviewed on stage before an audience of honors students and members of the public by IHC board member and CSI History Professor Russ Tremayne. Egan later was the guest of honor at Blue Lakes Country Club for a Benefactor Reception before dinner.

The IHC thanks the following event sponsors for making a very successful evening: the College of Southern Idaho, D.L. Evans Bank, Glanbia, the Times-News and Idaho Public Television.

An additional thank you goes to Barnes and Noble for facilitating book sales at Canyon Crest, with part of the proceeds going to support IHC programming.

1. Timothy Egan delivered IHC’s 3rd Annual Magic Valley Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner in Twin Falls on April 13.
2. Egan poses with Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson and IHC Director Rick Ardinger.
3. Egan reunites with old friends, Diane Joseph Peavy and John Peavy.
4. Ron and Barbara Hardy pose with Egan at the IHC Benefactor Reception at Blue Lakes Country Club.
5. Prior to his evening lecture, Egan was interviewed on stage before College of Southern Idaho Honors students by CSI History Professor Russ Tremayne.

Record audience attends lecture by novelist Anthony Doerr in Idaho Falls

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Anthony Doerr, of Boise, delivered the IHC’s 10th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on April 20 to a sell-out crowd of 500 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. Doerr spoke about how his prize-winning novel All the Light We Cannot See came about and the things that inspire his writing.

Before the event Doerr was welcomed at the downtown offices of Bank of Idaho for the Benefactor reception.

The IHC thanks the following event sponsors for helping to make a very memorable evening: the William J. and Shirley A. Maeck Family Foundation, Bank of Idaho, Teton Toyota and Volkswagen, Idaho Public Television, Idaho National Laboratory, KISU Radio, the Post-Register and the City Club of Idaho Falls.

An additional thank you goes to Barnes and Noble for facilitating book sales at the Shilo Inn, with part of the proceeds going to support IHC programming.

Thank you for the following very generous individuals who helped share the evening with students through their donations to the student scholarship fund: Margaret Johnson, Daniel and Lilly O’Handley, Robin and Steven Pet, Anne Voillequé Foundation, Linda and Tom DeLia, Lindsey Cerkovnik, Bobbie Fabish, Arthur and Annalies Kull, Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson, Ron and Linda Hatzenbuehler, Courtney Morgan, Anne Marie and Harold Jones, Ernie Hughes and Mary Lee Moore, Cathy Peppers, Justina Gooden-Helton, Virginia Willard and George and Jackie Morrison.

1. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Anthony Doerr delivered IHC’s 10th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture in Idaho Falls on April 20.
2. Idaho Falls City Councilman Ed Marohn gets a book signed by Doerr at the Benefactor Reception.
3. IHC Chair Jenny Emery Davidson (L) and IHC Director Rick Ardinger pose with Congressman Mike Simpson and his wife Kathy at the Bank of Idaho Benefactor Reception for Doerr.
4. Doerr meets with guests at the Bank of Idaho Benefactor Reception.
5. Doerr signs a book for ISU writing Professor Cathy Pappers.
The Idaho City Historical Foundation received the 2016 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award for outstanding museum interpretation and historical preservation at a special award ceremony on April 1, 2017, at Idaho City’s historic Pon Yam House.

Given annually by the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award carries a pooled $10,000 prize to be used by a chosen museum, historical society, or interpretive center to continue its educational efforts. The Sister Alfreda Elsensohn award is the highest honor currently awarded to a museum in the state.

Established in 1958, the Idaho City Historical Foundation’s mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the Boise Basin. Over the years, the ICHF has met its mission in some innovative ways. With help from the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Idaho Humanities Council, the ICHF has preserved buildings, interpreted history, and often brings scholars to the community to nurture interest in the history of Idaho, the region, and Idaho City. In addition to a museum, the ICHF maintains a number of other historic structures and several parks and cares for the historic Idaho City Cemetery. Idaho City was a gold-mining boom town of the 1860s, and today many buildings and artifacts are preserved thanks to the ICHF.

“The Idaho City Historical Foundation is the cultural center of the Idaho City community,” said IHC Executive Director Rick Aravich. “History is the reason why so many people visit the town throughout the year. The ICHF’s John Brogan Park is a place for weddings, family reunions, music festivals, and more. Every July 4th the town meets to read aloud the Declaration of Independence, and then enjoy picnics. The ICHF is the town’s cultural hub.”

“We are so honored to receive this award,” said Idaho City Historical Foundation President Beth Wilson. “We are all volunteers giving our time and money from a deep need to protect our part in the history of Idaho. But we could not do it without the assistance and expertise of the very entities that are now recognizing our efforts.”

U.S. Bank Foundation supports IHC Speakers Bureau

“U.S. Bank Foundation is happy to support a great program that brings people together to learn and discuss history, current affairs, and more,” said U.S. Bank Senior Vice President Rob Aravich, of Boise, who presented a check at the Idaho Humanities Council office recently. “This is a program that educates and builds community relationships, and it touches so many towns throughout Idaho,” Aravich said.

Over the years, through good financial times and bad, the IHC and U.S. Bank Foundation have partnered to promote opportunities for a rich cultural experience with guest humanities scholars, and in-depth conversations on diverse topics.

“ICH’s Speakers Bureau is an intellectual lifeline for many in rural communities where people are eager to meet for a little thoughtful give-and-take with university scholars and other expert presenters,” said Rick Arding, director of the Idaho Humanities Council. “U.S. Bank Foundation’s support is critical to making the program happen.”

Brandi Newton, Idaho Falls Arts Council, Idaho Falls, was awarded $1,000 to support the presentation of three different Living Voices productions for school matinees and two public performances. One presentation examined the plight of migrant workers, one explored the dust bowl and great depression, and the third focused on immigrants and the rapidly changing northwest in the early 1900s.

Diane Conroy, White Spring Ranch Museum/Archive Library, Geneseo, was awarded $600 for a “Little House on the Prairie” Day. Several stations interpreted events and explored pioneer life as depicted in the “Little House on the Prairie” books by Laura Ingalls Wilder and other children’s pioneer literature.

Maria Manning-Finch, White Pine Elementary, Boise, was awarded $600 to attend a Storyline workshop to learn how to integrate all curriculum into the Storyline method. Students apply literary elements of plot, character, setting, and theme to write an interactive story as they learn Social Studies or Science.

Amy Schlatter, Syringa Mountain School, Hailey, was awarded $800 for a 4th grade hands-on, experiential field trip. Students visited historical towns, buildings and mines, and participated in a day of primitive survival skills workshops.

Rebecca Jensen, American Heritage Charter School, Idaho Falls, was awarded $1,000 to help students begin researching their ancestral roots. They researched their family history and shared one of the stories they learned with their class and at a public school assembly.

The Post Falls Historical Society, Post Falls, was awarded $1,000 to develop a QR coded program for a history walking tour of Post Falls. The tour supplemented the existing Centennial Trail walking tour through downtown Post Falls and explored the town’s mill and water history.

Loran Olson, Port Angeles, Washington, was awarded $1,000 to facilitate his ongoing Nez Prince Music Archives project. An ethnographer of Nez Perce music, he is working with the tribe in Lapwai to pull together a comprehensive book including many of the contributors and a CD of Nez Perce Music.

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GRANTS (Continued from Page 3)

U.S. Bank Foundation has recently awarded a generous grant to support the Idaho Humanities Council’s Humanities Speakers Bureau, the program that brings Idaho scholars to lecture throughout the state in communities large and small. The program currently makes possible about 75 presentations annually throughout the state, exploring Idaho history, the U.S. Constitution, women’s history, foreign affairs, folk music, the American presidency, and many other topics. U.S. Bank Foundation will help support travel costs for scholars to make the presentations.

IHC’s Speakers Bureau is one of the Council’s popular public programs. Libraries, museums, civic groups, and other organizations may apply to sponsor up to four community presentations annually. The application to book a speaker is online and simple. The IHC assists that organizations book speakers five to six weeks in advance to ensure adequate time for publicity, as IHC requires a minimum audience of 20 for each presentation (the average audience in 42). Application instructions and a long list of speakers and their topics are on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org.

PLANNING GRANTS

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The Idaho City Historical Foundation receives $10,000 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn award
Idaho Humanities Council seeks two academic board members

The Idaho Humanities Council seeks applications for two academic positions from southwest Idaho on its volunteer board of directors. An academic member currently is defined by the Council as either a scholar who belongs to an offshoot race of humanity who has explored Idaho history and literature, Idaho’s Latino heritage, food and culture, an Idaho folk music CD, and most recently an anthology of essays about the meaning of wilderness in Idaho.

“Rick has been our rock,” says IHC Chair Jenny Emery Davidson of Ketchum. “It is hard to imagine the IHC without Rick at the helm, but we all knew this day would come eventually. Thanks to Rick, the IHC is a strong organization, and we’ll look to the future’s opportunities. When the time comes, we look forward to celebrating with him and honoring him for his many opportunities. When the time comes, we look forward to celebrating with him and honoring him for his many opportunities.

Over the years, Riggins. The IHC’s 18-member board is comprised of academic members and public members from all regions of the state. In addition to fair regional representation and gender balance, the Council encourages ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity.

Board members serve three-year terms, with the possibility of renewal for a second three-year term. The board meets three times each year in February, June, and October to award grants and conduct other business. The IHC covers travel expenses for board members to attend meetings.

The IHC awards grant funds to organizations and individuals throughout the state to support public programs in history, literature, philosophy, cultural anthropology, law, and other humanities disciplines. The IHC also supports a number of its own council-conducted programs, such as regional Distinguished Humanities Lectures, weeklong summer institutes in the humanities for Idaho K-12 teachers, a Humanities Speakers Bureau, statewide tours of Smithsonian traveling exhibits, and other programs and activities. IHC receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

Information about the Council and applications for board membership are available online at www.idahohumanities.org, under “About Us.” The deadline for applications is September 15, 2017. The board will review applications and elect the new members at the Council’s October meeting.

For more information, contact the IHC’s mission and board member responsibilities, prospective applicants are invited to call IHC Executive Director Rick Anderger at (888) 345-3546, email rick@idahohumanities.org, or write to the Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

What Are You Reading?

Reader: Dr. Louis Sylvester
Occupation: Associate Professor of English, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston
Book: The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemison

I am a huge fan of the science fiction/fantasy genre and I vote on the yearly Hugo Award (an award for best Sci-Fi/Fantasy of the year). Lately, I’ve been working my way through the five nominated novels. I just finished a book called The Fifth Season. I thought this novel was amazing. It is a fantasy tale set in a dark future where the earth has suffered numerous devastating seasons that have ravaged the face of the earth and destroyed much of humanity. The surviving cultures are primitive and savage. Living in this world, we get to know our hero, a woman who belongs to an offshoot race of humanity that can control and manipulate rock. Her race of geocasters is feared and hated for their powers. During her life, she is enslaved and seen as a monster. The story caused me to reflect on the nature of environmental havoc and the struggles of racial/cultural differences, all while enjoying a perfectly written adventure. I highly recommend The Fifth Season as my vote for the best fantasy novel of the year!

Reader: Sue Paul
Occupation: Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Warhawk Air Museum, Nampa
Book: Lila: Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

This best-selling novel is about three young women who live in different countries with individual hopes and dreams for their futures during World War II. Each is horrendously impacted by events in 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland and then began to move into France. They are all aware that changes are coming in Europe, but they are caught unprepared for the horrors that await them. The characters are fictitious but the book is based on historical events.

The author has written an intriguing novel that explores history from the perspectives of women. Each chapter weaves into the next in a way that the reader is constantly moving from the mind and experience of each woman simultaneously, crossing continents from New York to Paris, Germany and Poland. This book is a page-turner. Anyone who liked Anthony Doerr’s All the Light We Cannot See will enjoy this book also.

Reader: Bob Bushnell
Occupation: Writer and Raconteur, Boise
Book: The Razor’s Edge by W. Somerset Maugham

I first read The Razor’s Edge in 1965 after transferring from the University of Idaho to Stanford. I grew up in Wilder, Idaho, and was the product of its rural and isolated worldview and of an underfunded educational system. At Stanford, I encountered a world I was unprepared for and I lapsed into what Erik Erikson called an “identity crisis.” I devoted myself to learning about alternative views of the good life, social values and self-awareness. Much to my parents’ chagrin, my motto became, “Don’t let school get in the way of your education.” The Razor’s Edge was a great find. It combines adult “coming of age” themes with the confluence of Eastern mysticism and Western rationalism. In an entertaining and moving story, it portrays disparate cultural and intellectual modes of thinking and interacting in the world, and it illustrates hard choices that lead to different destinations.

A recent re-reading rekindled my affection and appreciation for this book that helped me confront cultural incongruities in the vortex of the Bay Area in the sixties. Perhaps, it is as relevant today as it was then.