

Idaho Humanities Council
awards 32 grants at Winter
meeting

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$78,984 in grants to organizations and individuals at its winter board meeting in Boise. Thirty-two awards include 26 public humanities programs and six Teacher Incentive Grants, including seven projects funded through the NEH *We the People* program exploring American history and culture, and six awards for educational programs funded through IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education. The following projects were funded:

NORTHERN IDAHO:



Timothy Egan Greater Wallace Community Development Corp., Wallace, received \$3,000 to bring acclaimed journalist Timothy Egan to Wallace this summer to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1910 fire that destroyed towns and millions of acres of forests in Northern Idaho and Montana, and took the lives of nearly 80 individuals. Egan is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*. Jim See is the project director.

Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries, Hayden, received \$1,490 for a collaborative project between the Rathdrum Library, the Rathdrum/Westwood Historical Society and Lakeland High School students. The project will catalogue and provide public access to an archive of historical photographs from the area. The project director is Sandy Burnett.

City of Plummer received \$1,950 to help develop a temporary exhibit of historical photos for display at the centennial celebration July 16-18. The project director is Donna Spier.

University of Idaho Dept. of Philosophy, Moscow, received \$1,996 to support a public forum titled “Civil Language in Public Discourse,” as part of the 13th Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (INPC), slated to take place at Moscow’s University Inn on Friday evening, April 30. Michael O’Rourke is the project director.

Idaho Association of Museums (statewide) was awarded \$2,000 to help support its annual conference held in Nampa on April 16 and 17. The conference theme was “Full Speed Ahead: Practical Guidelines for Developing Interpretive Exhibits” and focused on exhibit research, interpretation, and planning for small museums. The project director is Mary Reed (Moscow).

Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, was awarded \$2,000 to collaborate with several Kootenai County libraries for a series of 11 free public lectures from March through December. The lectures will focus on topics exploring the history of Coeur d’Alene, Northern Idaho, and the Inland Northwest. Skip Kuck is the project director.

Boundary County Historical Society, Bonners Ferry, was awarded \$2,000 for an oral history project coinciding with the May/June display of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Journey Stories*. The project includes digitizing earlier taped oral histories and conducting new interviews of residents, exploring reasons why people came to and stayed in northern Idaho. Gini Woodward is the project director.

Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston and Surrounding Area, was awarded \$3,000 to help support its regional Speakers Bureau comprised of Lewiston-area speakers and Chautauqua presenters exploring the Lewis and Clark story, Nez Perce history, regional history, and other topics. The project director is Deborah Snyder.

Confluence Press, Lewiston, was awarded \$3,500 for its tenth year of “Everybody Reads,” a program encouraging and promoting the reading of the same book throughout the local region. *The Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss is the book chosen for 2010. Gloss will lead discussions and make presentations at local libraries and schools. The project directors are Heather Stout and Jennifer Ashby.



Molly Gloss

Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, received \$5,000 to complete a video documentary called *Ordeal by Fire*, about the history of the 1910 fire that raged through three million acres of forests, destroying the town of Wallace and other towns and taking the lives of 78 people. The film will be shown at public events commemorating the centennial of the fire. The project director is George Sibley.

SOUTHWEST IDAHO:

Alma Mater, Inc., Fruitland, received \$1,500 to develop a local exhibit of artifacts to complement the Smithsonian exhibit tour of

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Humanities

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Journey Stories

By John Bieter
Boise State University



John Bieter’s grandmother, Fermina Garmendia (Archabal), poses on horseback (second from right) next to the author’s grandfather, Lorenzo Garmendia (far right). An immigrant to Idaho from the Basque Country, Lorenzo sent many letters home, which are today preserved as a treasured archive of family history.

Editor’s Note: Beginning in May, the IHC will begin touring a unique Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit to six Idaho communities titled Journey Stories. Journey Stories will use engaging images, audio and artifacts to tell stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. The exhibit will visit the Boundary Country Historical Museum (Bonners Ferry), The National Oregon/California Trail Center (Montpelier), Blaine County Historical Museum (Hailey), Olde School Community Center (Fruitland), Jerome Public Library (Jerome) and the Hayden Branch Library (Hayden) between May 2010 and March 2011. The exhibit will be displayed for six weeks in each community. John Bieter, Associate Professor of History at Boise State University, is the consulting scholar for the tour, and we asked him to offer his own take on the theme of the exhibit.

It reminded me of a scene from the *Godfather* film series: checkered tablecloths, plentiful food, wine flowing, tables alongside the centuries old stone farmhouse against the sloping mountain in the Basque Country. We were celebrating the pending wedding of our oldest brother, who was marrying a woman from the Basque Country and we were gathered with family and friends at the farmhouse from which our grandfather left to come to America. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the stories flowed along with the wine. A younger brother and I seized the opportunity to speak with our great aunt Virginia about any family artifacts that might help us understand part of our own family’s journey story: “Did our grandfather ever write any letters home?” She thought for a minute, “I think so. Let me check around and see.” The celebration continued for hours.

The day of the wedding, Virginia approached me at the reception, blew dust off of a stack of letters held together by string and said, “Here, these are for you.” The package contained 52 letters dated from the first day when he (our grandfather, Lorenzo Garmendia) left home, all the way through his time herding sheep and raising a family in Idaho. As an historian of immigration, a collection of letters like

this represents a rare treasure, let alone their personal value to our family.

These letters represent just one of the millions of stories of migration included in our national narrative. It is precisely these types of stories that the Smithsonian’s traveling exhibit captures with *Journey Stories*, an exhibit that will tour six Idaho communities beginning in June (see above Editor’s Note). From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic, religious or racial background, migration is central to our story. However, the stories differ greatly. Some came with wealth, English language and vast opportunities. Many more left behind everything—families and possessions—reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and forcefully relocated to a strange land.

Yet migration, in one form or another, has played a central role throughout our history. Even the experience of the earliest settlers, the Pilgrims and Puritans, have much in common with those defined as immigrants in later decades. We tend to think of them as founders or settlers but when we examine their experience a bit more closely, we recognize many of the elements common to the immigrant story: they left the familiarity of England, said goodbye to family and friends—many to never see them again, carried relatively little with them and came to a country they knew little about. Their experiences were trying, to say the least, and their impact on native populations deadly. Nevertheless, many thousands and eventually millions followed, all seeking something: religious or political freedom, economic opportunity.

Their reception has been mixed. For the Native Americans, the early settlers brought great devastation and a loss of their way of life. Migration had also been central to Native American culture, yet eventually they were often held fixed on reservations. American citizens both welcomed and shunned later immigrants. The expanding American economy needed laborers to settle the frontier, to work in fields, and later to work in factories. However, by

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I recently attended the annual conference of the Idaho Association of Museums, held this April in Nampa. It was a gathering of museum staff and volunteers from Bonners Ferry to Montpelier. Participants for two days heard presentations about how best to tell their stories through exhibit displays, new inventory database software, and a sharing of best practices. The Idaho Humanities Council helped fund the conference, and I was there to talk a little about how IHC grant opportunities might help their efforts to preserve and interpret local history. I admire this great group of folks who deserve a lot of recognition for what they do.



Most are not professional historians. They're the people who often ask themselves, "If I don't do it, who will?" They see local history as vital to the economic and cultural life of their communities. They know an understanding of the past can illuminate the future, and they want others to know this as well.

Chronically underpaid, understaffed, and underappreciated, they usually are the people who volunteer for many other activities that bring "community" to their towns. They ask for help. They ask for people to get involved in their labors of love as they pertain to stories with buildings, artifacts, photographs, and obscure items linked to the past. They ask people to become as involved in their communities as they are.

Two of the presentations I heard exemplify what it means to practice and inspire community stewardship.

South Bannock County Historical Center Director Cathy

Sher led the group on a virtual tour of her Lava Hot Springs museum through images of various exhibits in her museum. Though warned several times during her enthusiastic talk that she was out of time, she begged everyone's patience as she just had just "one more" thing to show everyone, "one more" example, "one more" corner exhibit, "one more" image that told a unique story of that great town.

Barbara Coyner, of the Potlatch and Latah County Historical Societies, gave a slide presentation about how her small town of Potlatch saved its dilapidated train depot and restored it from new foundation to new shake roof, thanks to donated labor and materials and determination to see a dream come true—defying a city councilman's suggestion when restoration was first proposed that all the old depot really needed was "a little diesel and a match."

In my presentation I tried to express to them that they may see the Idaho Humanities Council as helping them meet their missions, but that they should remember that their efforts on the local level indeed really help the IHC meet its own mission to "deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas."

Over sandwiches and potato salad for lunch, I heard these community organizers comparing notes about their museums, their towns, and their lives, and how a small grant of a few thousand dollars could be stretched with imagination, and I could not help but reflect upon the cynical comments by nationally prominent politicians about "community organizers" these days.

These folks exemplify grassroots organizing. They deserve all the support we can offer. ♦

IHC seeks new board members

The Idaho Humanities Council seeks applications to fill six positions on its volunteer board of directors. Information about the Council and applications are available from the IHC office by calling (888) 345-5346 or online under the link "About Us" at www.idahohumanities.org. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2010. The board will review applications and elect the new members at the Council's October meeting.

The Idaho Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that has served as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities for nearly 40 years. IHC is dedicated to advancing greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho and meets its mission by awarding grant funds to local communities for public programs in history, literature, languages, archaeology, law, and other humanities disciplines.

The IHC also conducts special initiatives of its own, such as regional Distinguished Humanities Lectures, weeklong summer institutes in the humanities for Idaho teachers, a Humanities Speakers Bureau, special lectures, the statewide tours of Smithsonian traveling exhibits, and other programs and activities. IHC receives funding from the NEH and donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

The Council maintains a balance on the board of Public and Academic members, strives for fair regional representation and gender balance, and encourages ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity. An Academic member is currently defined by the Council as a scholar in the humanities or an administrator of an

educational or cultural institution. A Public member may be a citizen from any profession who has a strong belief that the humanities are essential to a civil society, contribute to lifelong learning, and enhance quality of cultural life.

The Council must fill the following positions from three regions of the state:

Southwest Idaho: The board seeks applications to fill two Academic positions. Southwest Idaho is geographically defined by the Council as the region west of the western border of Twin Falls County to the Oregon border and south of Riggins.

Southeast Idaho: The board seeks applications to fill one Academic position and one Public position. Southeast Idaho is geographically defined by the Council as the region east of the western border of Twin Falls County to the Wyoming border.

North Idaho: The board seeks to fill two Public positions. North Idaho is geographically defined by the Council as north of Riggins to the Canadian border.

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.

For more information, prospective applicants are invited to call Executive Director Rick Ardinger toll free at (888) 345-5346, email rick@idahohumanities.org, or write to the Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702. ♦

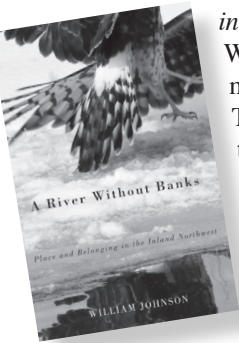
News & Opportunities

New collection of essays by William Johnson

Oregon State University Press announces publication of *A River without Banks: Place and Belonging in the Inland Northwest*, by former Idaho Writer-in-Residence (and former IHC board member) William Johnson of Lewiston. The book chronicles one family's journey to Idaho, with all of its uncertainties, promises, and hopes. It explores their encounters with a place still partly wild, whose communities and landscapes teach them how to respect the earth and each other. He examines how family relationships affect how we see the natural world. He explores the power of words to divide and to heal. He illuminates the challenges of sustaining a vital relationship with a home place.

The essays move from a family vacation spent observing moose, to a comparison of the creation myths from *Genesis* and the Nez Perce, to watching a raptor seeking prey. Johnson mediates on how places, animals, and people teach us "how to see, and how we do, and don't, belong."

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Writer Scott Russell Sanders notes that Johnson "seeks to reconcile the inner landscape of memory and emotion with the outer landscape of rivers and mountains." And Idaho writer Mary Clearman Blew says the book is "unique in its quiet emphasis on the day-to-day rewards of observing the natural life at hand, almost always within the context of a human family."

A River without Banks is available for \$18.95 from Oregon State University Press, 121 The Valley Library, Corvallis, OR 97331; or online at www.oregonstate.edu/dept/press

State Farm Insurance supports Mark Twain Institute

Many thanks to State Farm Insurance for a grant to help support the IHC's Summer Teacher Institute *Why Mark Twain Still Matters: Exploring the Mississippi River Books*, held July 11-16 on the campus of the College of Idaho in Caldwell. The institute has proven to be enormously popular among K-12 teachers who will be immersed in a week of study with some of the nation's top Mark Twain (See NEWS, Page 4)



IDAHO *Humanities* COUNCIL

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The Idaho Humanities Council, 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 Humanites Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.

Basque Museum Director Patty A. Miller honored for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities

The IHC honored Boise Basque Museum and Cultural Center Director Patty A. Miller with IHC's Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities" at a dessert reception and award presentation ceremony in February at the Basque Cultural Center in Boise.

The IHC annually recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding contributions that promote greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. The IHC selected Miller to receive the award because of her longstanding commitment to the public humanities and her work to promote greater public understanding of Basque history and culture.

A third-generation Idahoan of Basque ancestry, Patty was a founding board member of the Basque Museum in 1985, and was asked to be the Executive Director of Boise's Basque Museum & Cultural Center in 1993. Over the years, she's been instrumental in helping to develop the Basque Block as a cultural jewel for the City of Boise. Her work has strengthened the Basque community in so many ways—from preserving buildings and teaching the Basque language, to developing interpretive exhibits that enhance greater awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Idaho history and Basque culture



Patty Miller (center with plaque) poses with friends at her award ceremony. L to R: IHC board members Dave Lachiondo and Alice Hennessey, BSU History Professor John Bieter, IHC Chair Jeff Fox, and IHC Executive Director Rick Ardinger.

in particular. She has been involved over the years in the Oinkari Basque Dancers (1976–1987), Biotzetik Basque Choir (1986–2004), and Gaupasa Basque Folk Band (1996–2006). At the heart of every organization is someone who inspires it to be all it can be. For the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, that person is Patty A. Miller.

What Patty has done for the Basque Museum has been instructive as well to members of the Idaho Association of Museums, which elected her President

of the organization in 2006. A graduate of Boise High School and the University of Idaho, she has devoted her life to the Basque community.

In the words of Bishop Kelly President and IHC Board Member Dave Lachiondo, Boise, in addition to her accomplishments, Patty is "wonderfully kind, relentlessly upbeat, incredibly humble . . . and a fantastic ambassador for the Basque community, the City of Boise, the State of Idaho, and the human race."

Community activist and fellow IHC board member Alice Hennessey, Boise, concurs: "I want to emphasize Patty's work ethic," Hennessey says. "She has never worried about the wording of her job description. She's endlessly generous with her time and experience in helping other museums in the state to learn to grow. Sharing is essentially her middle name. She welcomes groups to the Basque Museum and Cultural Center with the same warmth and hospitality that she would show visitors to her own home."

Over 100 friends, colleagues and family members attended the award ceremony. Her friends, BSU History Professor John Bieter, Roy Eiguren, Dave Lachiondo, Alice Hennessey and Idaho historian Arthur Hart, read tributes and helped roast Miller before she gave her own talk about her life in the humanities. ♦

GRANTS

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Journey Stories in October. Items will focus on farming and profile the people who settled Fruitland. The project director is **Kevin Tams**.



Cambridge Community Library will develop a walking tour brochure featuring historic photos of buildings in the community, such as the one above.

Cambridge Community Library, Cambridge, was awarded **\$1,800** to produce a self-guided walking and driving tour brochure listing some of the historic buildings, cemetery, and other structures in Cambridge. **Nina Hawkins** is the project director.

Idaho Botanical Gardens, Boise, received **\$1,960** in support for the 2010 summer lecture series focusing on topics of historical interest in Idaho. Featured speakers include Linda DeEulis, Herman Ronnenberg, Gary Eller, Kathy Deinhardt Hill, and Susan Stacy. **Elizabeth Dickey** is the project director.

Women of Color Alliance, Boise, was awarded **\$2,000** to help complete the editing of a video documentary called *Idaho's Forgotten War* about the Kootenai Tribe around Bonners Ferry declaring war against the U.S. Government in the fall of 1974 to draw attention to the plight of the Kootenai people at the time and to gain federal designation as an official tribe. **Sonya Rosario** is the project director.

Adams County Historical Society, New Meadows, was awarded **\$2,000** to create a series of interpretive photo exhibits at the Depot Community Center. Themes include logging, transportation, ranching/homesteading, Native American history, and community events. The project director is **Marla Krigbaum**.

Friends of Kelly's Whitewater Park, Cascade, received **\$2,500** to create a rotating exhibit of historical photos and interpretive text related to early settlers, transportation, timber, ranching, mining and recreation with tourists, visitors and locals. The exhibit will be on display at the new visitor center gallery that will open in June. The project director is **Wayne Brown**.

City of Boise, Department of Arts & History, Boise, was awarded **\$3,000** to help support the Fettuccine Forum, a monthly lecture series that runs October through May each year. Held in the Union Block Rose Room in downtown Boise, the series features lectures by scholars

in the humanities and provides an opportunity for civic engagement and thoughtful public dialogue. The project director is **Mark Baltes**.

Mujeres Unidas de Idaho, Boise, received **\$3,500** to help fund a corrido-writing workshop in May for young Hispanic musicians. A public presentation of the corridos in the fall will be open to the public. Corridos are a Latino musical tradition, as they put into music and lyrics stories from history and news from the day that is conveyed to public audiences. The project director is **Ana Maria Schachtell**.



Seattle musician Juan Manuel Barco will conduct a corrido workshop in Boise this summer.

Boise State University, Boise, received **\$3,682** to develop, in conjunction with the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, three permanent, outdoor interpretive signs that tell the story of three Boise structures important to the history of Basque culture in Boise. The signage would identify and tell the story of the former Church of the Good Shepherd (corner of 5th and W. Idaho Street), the former Star Rooming House (512 W. Idaho), a former Basque boarding house, and the Basque Mural, which is on the wall at 619 Grove. The project director is **John Bieter**.



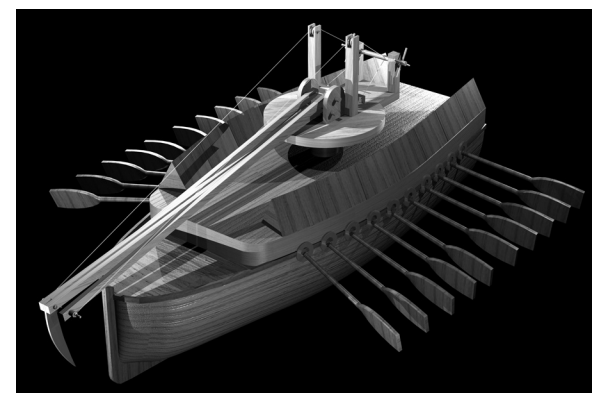
The Idaho Shakespeare Festival will bring its Shakespearience educational tour to Idaho schools throughout the state.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received **\$5,000** to help support the 2010 season of *Shakespearience*, an educational touring program reaching about 20,000 students in schools throughout Idaho. For *Shakespearience*, ISF condenses a Shakespeare play into a 50-minute performance and presents it to school classes and assemblies with post-performance workshops. *Othello* will be presented in 2010. **Mark Hofflund** is the project director.

Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, was awarded **\$4,335** for a traveling exhibit and summer educational program focusing on "Rock Art." The "Rock Art Perspectives" exhibit was produced by the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, and explores current interpretations, including new ideas about the meaning of prehistoric rock art. **Jody Ochoa** is the project director.

Boise State University, Boise, received **\$364** to support a student-produced poster exhibit at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference held at BSU on April 12, 2010. Using Herman Melville's personal marked and annotated copy of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, four students – Eric Austin, Scott Clark, Joshua Preminger, and Nate Spann – developed a pictorial and prose display illustrating the significance of Dante's work on Melville's literary style and philosophical considerations. The students also made public presentations on their findings at the conference. **Steven Olsen-Smith**, Associate Professor of English and General Editor of *Melville's Marginalia Online*, was the student intern advisor.

CENTRAL/EASTERN IDAHO



Models of Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions will be part of an exhibit in Idaho Falls.

Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls, received **\$5,000** to support an upcoming museum exhibit entitled "Decoding Da Vinci" that will run from September 23–December 4, 2010. The exhibit consists of reproductions of paintings and models of machines, as well as reproductions of Da Vinci's original sketches and personal notes. **Rod Hansen** is the project director.

Community Library Association, Inc., Ketchum, was awarded **\$2,500** to help support the Ernest Hemingway Symposium on September 30th and October 1st. This year's theme is "The Hemingway Touch" and will include literature scholars and creative writers discussing Hemingway's influence on contemporary writing. **Colleen Daly** is the project director.

College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, received **\$3,000** to support speakers at the 2010 Civil Liberties Symposium held in Twin Falls on June 24–25, 2010. The conference is associated with an annual pilgrimage to Hunt Camp where 10,000 Japanese were interned during World War II. The 2010 symposium will explore the role of art in the internment experience and in civil liberties and human rights conflicts

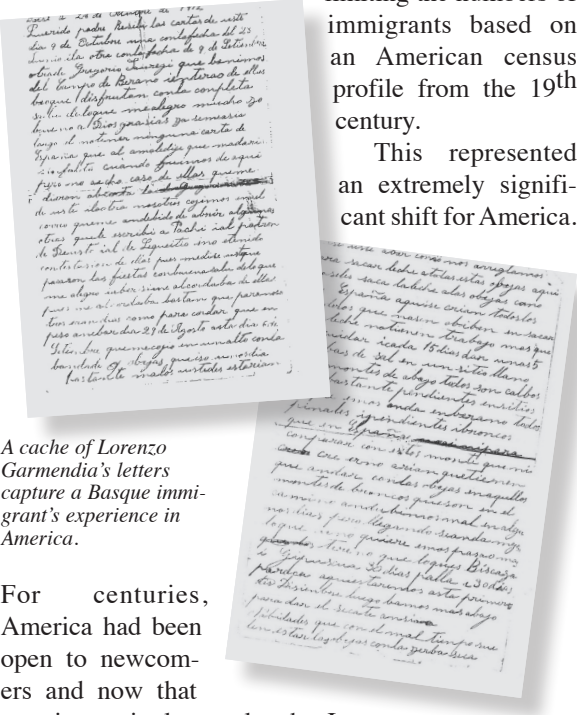
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JOURNEY
(Continued from Page 1)

the end of the 19th century, controversy arose over the countries of origin of these immigrants. Rather than originating from northern and western Europe, these immigrants instead harkened from eastern and southern Europe. Many had darker complexions and different religious backgrounds including Judaism and Catholicism and therefore challenged the dominant White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant (WASP) majority. It resulted in a series of legislation which culminated with the National Origins Act of 1924, which made America a “gated community.” America set quotas

limiting the numbers of immigrants based on an American census profile from the 19th century.

This represented an extremely significant shift for America.



A cache of Lorenzo Garmendia's letters capture a Basque immigrant's experience in America.

For centuries, America had been open to newcomers and now that was increasingly regulated. It gave rise to immigrant processing centers such as Ellis Island in the east and the lesser known points of entry, Angel Island off the California coastal city of San Francisco and a significant, but little known port of entry in Galveston, Texas. These sites remind us that immigrants came to America from all over the world and not just in the east to west pattern that so dominates our way of thinking.

Immigration also likely contributed to internal migration. Americans move more often than citizens of any other developed country in the world. It seems that once individuals, families or groups made the often monumental decision to come to America, moving again was easier. Moreover, they came to a country where movement had been central to the development of the country. From ideas of Manifest Destiny, to later connections of the interstate system, and even the recent “information superhighway,” the movement of people and ideas remains central to the American experience.

However, migration has not affected only America, but also countries of origin. Today many states in America lament a “brain drain” or a movement of some of their most talented youth to cities and states for opportunities outside their borders. For centuries this has happened to countries all around the world. They lost laborers, potential soldiers and leaders of communities. For some countries, America was a welcomed release valve for the pressures of poverty or persecution that existed in their country. Others lamented the loss of their most talented citizens. At the same time, billions of dollars in remittances (money sent home) have flowed into economies all around the world. Many also returned home. Besides money, they brought with them new ideas, practices and values that they had learned in America. This sent rippling affects in communities that continues today.

These return settlers or visitors often had very powerful impacts on their home communities. In one of the letters that our grandfather wrote, we discovered an invitation to his friend Gregorio to “come to America, since there is much more opportunity here.” This often created “chain migration” where families and friends from particular communities in the world reconstituted enclaves of similar settlements in the United States.

Another story paints a powerful picture. One Basque immigrant’s ship sunk on the way to America and had to be rescued by another ship, arriving in Galveston with literally only the clothes on his back. Thirty years later, he was one of the wealthiest citizens of Boise (a millionaire in 1940s dollars) and courted by politicians and others in the community. On his first return visit to the Basque Country, he purchased one of the largest, black automobiles he could buy, had it shipped to England and then to Spain, where he drove it to the peasant family farm from where he had emigrated. Imagine the powerful impact of this

on the imagination of the youth who followed the car as it drove up to the farmhouse. Even immigrants less successful than this one, often sent home pictures from America dressed in their finest clothes and wrote glowing stories of their time in America. Who would want to be the unsuccessful American? When I teach this, I often compare it to my own experience of going away to college and, while miserable in my first semester, writing home and to friends about how well I was doing and how much I enjoyed it.

The idea and experience of moving to America were often not the same. Certainly, many enjoyed success, however many became disillusioned and returned home. They found America too different, too individualistic or simply that it did not live up to the promise of wealth as advertised. One common adage for immigrants states: “They told me that the roads in America were paved with gold. But when I got here I found out that many were not paved at all. Then I found out it was my job to pave them!”

However, immigration also is a generational story. For many of the immigrant generation, they came to America for a better life, but also for a greater opportunity for their children and grandchildren. The second generation often lived a hyphenated existence: ethnic at home and “American” outside of it. They ate traditional dishes from their parents’ countries of origin and for many did not know English until they entered school. Once there, many quickly made their way in American culture by playing American sports, listening to modern music and at times challenging the customs, gender roles and values of their parents. By the third generation, many had been settled and successful for long enough in America that they began to ask questions of their families’ history. The “Roots Movement” of the 1960’s and 1970’s that continues to today speaks to the desire for people to know their past.

Moreover, for many this constant movement has resulted in a certain rootlessness, and consequently many people today ask questions of identity that would have been a given for most of those of earlier generations. The movement has made them adaptable and more broadly experienced in the world than their ancestors, but they have at times sacrificed the stability of having a familiar and traditional sense of place that their ancestors may have taken for granted. Yet leaving home seems also a rite of passage and expectation for many in America. Families expected their children to leave home after high school and begin their lives in college, work, the military, or another arena. For many the expectation has been “to make it on their own” and leaving home—even if only for awhile—has been part of that equation.

All of this movement has created for many, family patterns with relatives scattered from coast to coast. Staying in contact with this far flung group has been part of what has fueled a complimentary industry to migration: transportation. From wagons and trains, to boats, buses, planes, and trucks, the development of transportation technology has paralleled the migration story; many would say “driven” by it. Our economy became dependent on the movement of people, goods and information and the increasing speed and continual cycle remains essential. Oftentimes the absence of these means reveal how dependent we have become. In the aftermath of 9/11 and the grounding of all air transportation, we got a glimpse of how dependent we have become on continuous travel.

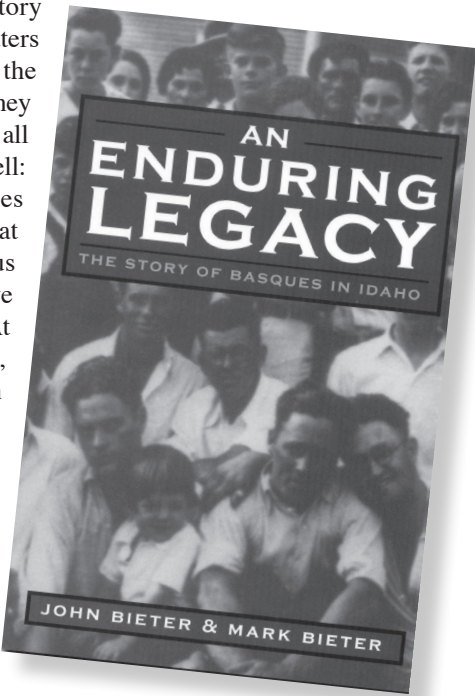
Besides the practical aspects of transportation, movement represented freedom or a chance to begin again for many. For settlers who moved West in the mid 19th century, the trip represented the possibility to start all over again, to own land or create a better life. For freed African American slaves, moving meant acting in a way previously banned to them. Later in the 20th century, African Americans migrated in very large numbers as they escaped the racism and lack of opportunity in the South and settled in industrial cities like Chicago and others in the Midwest. The creation of the automobile brought generations of Americans, especially the youth, an unprecedented opportunity for freedom and movement. Whole industries have grown up around these types of migration, music and hotels, diners, museums and gift shops, movie theatres and drive-through banks and drive-ins—all of it catering to people on the move. Later, Sunday drives became common, the joys of road trips would be remembered by many, and we would even give a name to those seasonal migrants who seek the sun—the snow birds that leave for warmer climates in the winter.

Perhaps some of the greatest affects of immigration and migration, however, are still to come. In the

wake of the National Origins Act of 1924, Americans went through a great period of ‘Americanization’ with the accompanying pressure to create a more common identity, and it paralleled worldly involvement of America on the international stage to a degree not seen in previous centuries: World War I and II and their aftermath. However, by the later third of the 20th century, America had morphed into a different place and the change of legislation represented this shift. In 1965, America passed the Immigration and Nationality Act which reset the country quotas for entry to the United States. The Act allowed for far greater diversity than had been granted previously, and the figures changed accordingly. Far larger numbers of Asians, Latin Americans and Africans entered, which is literally changing the face of America. The shift from areas of Europe that had marked the previous periods of immigration paled in comparison to the change that this brought. A number of commentators have suggested that this piece of legislation has been one of the most significant pieces passed in the second half of the 20th century. In short, from the time my grandfather entered to today, the journey stories continue and their diversity is increasing.

My grandfather’s letters even have their own journey story. My brother and I returned with them from the Basque Country and used them as primary source documents as we wrote a book on the history of the Basques in Idaho. They were recorded by other more recent Basque immigrants and became part of an exhibit in the restored boardinghouse which is part of the Basque Museum and Cultural Center. They traveled back to the Basque Country electronically and became a translation project (funded through the Idaho Humanities Council) for a good friend from Boise who now lives in the Basque Country with her husband. Finally, they are rich in memory since making copies of them together was the last thing my mother and I ever did together. For some reason she felt nervous about not having enough copies of them and so at midnight, before I was to catch my plane back to Boston for graduate school, we went down and carefully copied each letter. We finished after 2 am and the next morning I said my goodbye. Tragically we lost both parents in an automobile accident the next week. The letters remain even more of a treasure.

The story of the letters parallels the larger journey stories that all of us can tell: the verities of life that brought us to where we are now. At its simplest, migration occurs from push and pull forces. People leave areas of famine, or persecution, or lack of economic opportunity and are attracted to locations that offer the opposite. Often people leave behind very difficult circumstances and consequently create a forward-looking perspective. Yet for many, the human desire to know one’s story compels them to understand their past. Although the stories differ as much as we do, there are many common elements and patterns. The chance to explore these stories and the accompanying artifacts—photos, posters, song lyrics, poetry, letters, and all the other elements that tell this story are at the heart of the *Journey Stories* exhibit. It brings with it the possibility of understanding your story in the much larger American context. I hope you will consider visiting the Smithsonian *Journey Stories* exhibit and add to it with your own. ❖



John Bieter is an Associate Professor of History at Boise State University, and of second generation Basque heritage. He co-authored with his brother Mark Bieter *An Enduring Legacy: The Story of Basques in Idaho* (University of Nevada Press, 2000), and he serves as IHC’s scholar consultant for the Smithsonian *Journey Stories* exhibit tour in Idaho.

Smithsonian exhibit on Journeys to tour Idaho in 2010-2011

The IHC will bring a unique Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit to six Idaho communities in 2010 and 2011 titled *Journey Stories*. *Journey Stories* will use engaging images, audio, and artifacts to tell stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. **The exhibit will visit the Boundary County Historical Society (Bonners Ferry), The National Oregon/California Trail Center (Montpelier), Blaine County Historical Museum (Hailey), Olde School Community Center (Fruitland), Jerome Public Library (Jerome) and the Hayden Branch Library (Hayden) between May 2010 and March 2011.**

Journey Stories – including tales of how we and our ancestors came to America – are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything – families and possessions – to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. The reasons behind those decisions are myriad. Many chose to move, searching for



The Smithsonian exhibit *Journey Stories* explores the meaning of moving from one place to another.

something better in a new land. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and relocated to a strange land and bravely asserting their own cultures, or like Native Americans, who were often pushed aside by newcomers.

The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom. Our transportation history is more than trains, boats, buses, cars, wagons, and trucks. *Journey Stories*

will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans’ desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It includes accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun and frolic on the open road.

The exhibit will be on display for six weeks in each of the six Idaho communities. While on display, each community will develop around the exhibit its own local programming, ranging from school projects, to lectures, films, local displays, reading and discussion series, and other activities limited only by the imagination. Project scholar and Boise State University Associate Professor of History, Dr. John Bieter, will also give the opening talk at each of the six grand openings.

Journey Stories has been made possible in Idaho so far by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” Program and the Idaho Community Foundation.

GRANTS

(Continued from Page 3)

that have involved artists. The project director is **Russ Tremayne**.

Cassia County Historical Society and Museum, Burley, received **\$3,450** to overhaul its historical displays and retell the Cassia County story with a new interpretive plan. With the help of ISU History Professor Laura Woodworth-Ney, the museum will focus on new themes and redesign its exhibits accordingly. The project director is **Valerie Bowen**.

Trailing of the Sheep, Hailey, was awarded **\$3,500** to help support speakers for the October 8 kickoff to the weekend festival. The 2010 festival is focusing on a timely and popular topic—sustainability. Funds will enable planners to bring to the festival Alisa Smith and J. B. MacKinnon, authors of *Plenty: Eating Locally on the 100-mile Diet*. The program also will highlight the sheep industry’s contribution to Idaho’s history and economy and its place as a healthy, renewable food source. The project director is.

Teacher Incentive Grants:

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 twice a year to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom.

Jamessa Williams, Lapwai Elementary School, Lapwai, received **\$500** to support a kindergarten project profiling students’ families and cultures. The project

includes compiling a book made from photos of students’ families and answers to a questionnaire, describing family traditions, cultures, and memories.



Nancy L. Gray, Initial Point High School, Kuna, received **\$600** to provide a workshop by the Idaho Shakespeare Festival’s Theater for Youth program. Teachers will also prepare study guides, presentation materials, and conduct collaborative workshops with students and parents to encourage student love of literature and history.

Siimone Mansfield, Hawthorne Elementary, Boise, received **\$500** for an end-of-year field trip bringing history alive for 3rd and 4th graders. “Wagons Ho! of Idaho” provides a hands-on experience complementing the Idaho history curriculum.

Luke D. Waldron, Malad Middle School, Malad City, was awarded **\$975** to help fund a two-day field trip to historical sites and activities around Malad City. Students will prepare a brochure for tourists and a website about these local sites, and will make several public presentations.

David Badger, Burley High School, Burley, was award-

ed **\$996** for an innovative pilot project to enhance reading for sight-impaired students at Burley High School. The school will acquire two new electronic book devices. They will allow students to listen to the book while reading along, allow font size adjustments, and allow access to hundreds of titles and other content.

Shirley Ewing, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Boise, was awarded **\$750** to help support the “Rock Party” at the museum September 19, 2010. The museum presents the mining history of Idaho, and this event includes several hands-on activities for children. ♦



THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR IHC GRANTS:

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2010**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique by mid-August 2010. Grant guidelines and application forms, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

NEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

scholars. State Farm will help support lodging and meals for 40 teachers to attend the institute this year. The Council is extremely grateful for State Farm support, which will enable IHC to involve more teachers this year than in years past. Teachers who attend will receive lodging, meals, texts, and other materials, as well as an opportunity to receive optional graduate or in-service credit. Thank you, State Farm!

Idaho Songbag profiled in NEH Humanities Magazine

The Idaho Songbag, a music CD from the Idaho Humanities Council of more than two dozen historically based songs inspired by Idaho people, places, and events from the mid-19th century to the present, has been profiled in the spring issue of *Humanities Magazine*, the publication of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Compiled by Nampa musician Gary Eller, the CD features musicians as diverse as folk music icon Pete Seeger to Salmon River loner “Dugout Dick” Zimmerman. *The Idaho Songbag* features songs about

mining, murder, labor disputes, politics, protests, and cowboy laments, and comes with an illustrated 72-page booklet of lyrics and stories behind the songs. Idaho City’s Beth Wilson sings a song that was first published in the *Idaho World* newspaper in the 1880s. Fellow Idaho City musician John Thomsen performs a humorous song he wrote about nuclear potatoes. St. Maries musician Earl Gleason sings a song of labor woes in north Idaho logging camps. Givens Hot Springs musician John Larsen sings a catchy autobiographical tune written by an inmate of the Old Idaho Penitentiary in the 1950s. Former Idaho Fish and Game manager Stacy Gebhards, of Lake Fork, sings a satiric song about the natural and manmade challenges salmon face as they return from the ocean to Idaho to spawn. Ione Thielke, the 1950s “Musical Poem Recorder of Cascade, Idaho,” sings a song about wild horses in the Owyhees. Other features include two short songs from Frank Church’s 1956 Senate campaign; a song of 1850s Mormon pioneers; an 1880s Oregon Short Line railroad song, a ballad about the infamous murder of Lloyd Magruder . . . and much more.

If you’ve not purchased your copy of the CD, you can buy one through IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, by ordering over the phone at 208-345-5346, or by sending \$15 plus \$3 ship-

ping and Idaho sales tax to the Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

Teachers invited to attend state history conference

The Idaho Council for History Education announces its theme for this conference held at Boise High School, October 7-8, 2010—“From Rome to Iraq: Civil Wars in History.” Keynote and plenary presenters include a number of major scholars, exploring the conference theme as well as topics on state history, politics, law, anthropology and other topics. Teachers may apply to receive in-service credit for attending the two-day conference. For more information, contact Linda Barker at Linda.barker@boiseschools.org or write c/o Idaho Council for History Education, Boise Schools District Services Center, 8169 West Victory Road, Boise, ID 83709

Need a speaker?

The Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau offers a number of humanities scholars available to talk to your group. From the U.S. Constitution to Idaho history, to the American Presidency to Middle Eastern culture, topics are wide ranging, and speakers are from all over the state. The application process is easy. The complete Speakers Bureau catalog and application guidelines are on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org

(See NEWS, Page 4)

Best-selling author Sara Paretsky will speak in Coeur d’Alene, October 15

Best-selling author Sara Paretsky will present the IHC’s 7th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on Friday, October 15, at the Coeur d’Alene Resort. The event includes dinner, lecture, and a book signing. Paretsky’s books will be available for sale at the event. Paretsky will speak on “Truth, Lies, and Duct Tape: Writing in an Age of Silence,” based on the title essay of her 2007 best-selling collection of essays of the same title.

Last year’s event was generously supported in part by Idaho Forest Group, North Idaho Title, the Coeur d’Alene Press, the Hagadone Corporation, and Idaho Public Television.

Tickets are available now for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under “IHC Events,” or by calling the IHC at 888-345-5346. General tickets are \$45. Benefactor tickets are \$100, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Paretsky in a private home and close-up seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out.

Paretsky is most known for her detective V.I. Warshawski series of novels. Paretsky revolutionized the mystery world in 1982 when she introduced her detective in *Indemnity Only*. By creating a female investigator who uses her wits as well as her fists, Paretsky challenged a genre in which women typically were either vamps or victims. Hailed by critics and readers, *Indemnity Only* was followed by twelve more best-selling Warshawski novels.

In addition to her popular V.I. Warshawski series,



Paretsky has written two highly-acclaimed stand-alone novels, *Ghost Country*, used in many seminary classrooms, and *Bleeding Kansas*, set in the part of rural Kansas where Paretsky grew up. In her collection of essays *Writing in an Age of Silence*, Paretsky explores the traditions of political and literary dissent that have informed her life and work, against the unparalleled repression of free speech and thought in the U.S. today. In tracing the writer’s difficult journey from

silence to speech, she turns to her childhood and youth in rural Kansas, and brilliantly evokes Chicago from her arrival during the civil rights struggle in the mid-1960’s to her most extraordinary literary creation, V.I. Warshawski. *Writing in an Age of Silence* was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist.

In her talk in Coeur d’Alene, Paretsky will discuss issues regarding freedom of speech, the Patriot Act, historical limitations on speech and their disastrous results, as well as those who defend freedom of speech (librarians, supporters of the humanities, etc.).

Born in Iowa in 1947 and raised in Kansas, Paretsky went to Chicago in 1968 to do community service work under the direction of Dr. Martin Luther King. She holds a Ph.D. in history and an MBA from the University of Chicago. ❖

IHC’s Distinguished Humanities Lecture & Dinner with Sara Paretsky
7:00 p.m., Friday, October 15, 2010, Coeur d’Alene Resort

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
_____ Benefactor Tickets @ \$100/ person
_____ Benefactor Tables for 8 @ \$800
_____ Attending Benefactors Reception
_____ General Tickets @ \$45/person
_____ General Tables for 8 @ \$360
_____ Vegetarian Meals (include name of guest)
_____ Donation for student scholarship tickets

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If purchasing a table, please attach a sheet with names of guests. Otherwise, their tickets will be held under your name at the door.
If paying by credit card, you may use this form and fax it to (208) 345-5347. Reservations will be made upon receipt of payment. All reservations will be confirmed by letter. Tickets will not be sent, and table designations will be available at the door. If you are supporting student scholarships to attend, you will receive a special acknowledgement letter and recognition from IHC at the dinner. Idaho civics teachers are working with the IHC to identify scholarship recipients. For more information, call (888) 345-5346.

Please clip and complete this form and return it to:
Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702

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Prize-winning historian Douglas Brinkley to speak in Boise, October 29

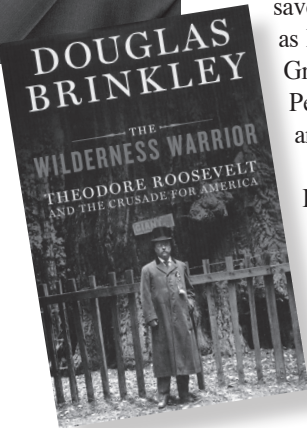
Prize-winning historian Douglas Brinkley will be the featured speaker at the Idaho Humanities Council’s 14th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Friday, October 29, 2010, at Boise’s Centre on the Grove. Brinkley is a professor of history at Rice University and one of the most distinguished historians of our time. He will speak on his latest book *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and his Crusade for America*. The event is made possible in part by the OfficeMax Boise Community Fund, with additional support from Idaho Public Television, the Idaho Statesman, Boise State Radio.

Tickets are available now for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under “IHC Events,” or by calling the IHC at 345-5346. General tickets are \$55. Benefactor tickets are \$125, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Brinkley in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture.

Brinkley is the author, co-author, and editor of more than two dozen books exploring American history and literature, the American presidency, and contemporary culture and events. His books range from biographies of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and histories of World War II, to the compilation of letters and unpublished manuscripts of contemporary literary icons Jack Kerouac and Hunter S. Thompson.

Mentored by historian Stephen Ambrose, with whom he co-wrote three books, Brinkley’s long list of books includes *The Majic Bus: An American Odyssey*; *The Reagan Diaries*; *Voices of Valor: D-Day, June 6, 1944*; *Tour of Duty: John Kerry and the Vietnam War*; *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*; and, most recently, *The Wilderness Warrior*.

In *The Wilderness Warrior*, a groundbreaking, epic biography of Theodore Roosevelt, Brinkley draws on never-before-published materials to examine the life and achievements of our “naturalist president.” By setting aside more than 230 million acres of wild America



for posterity between 1901 and 1909, Roosevelt made conservation a universal endeavor. This crusade for the American wilderness was perhaps the greatest U.S. presidential initiative between the Civil War and World War I, leading to the creation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906. His executive orders saved such treasures as Devils Tower, the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, and more.

Since 1997, the IHC has brought top historians and authors to Boise for the Council’s annual event. Previous speakers have included his-

torian Stephen Ambrose (1997), western writer Ivan Doig (1998), presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin (1999), historian David McCullough (2000), journalist David Halberstam (2001), author Frank McCourt (2002), novelist John Updike (2003), presidential biographer Robert Dallek (2004), Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley (2005), *NewsHour* anchor and author Jim Lehrer (2006), presidential historian Michael Beschloss (2007), *ABC News* Chief White House Correspondent Martha Raddatz (2008), and others, all of whom have inspired audiences with personal and memorable talks that have resonated for months afterward. ❖

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IHC’s Distinguished Humanities Lecture & Dinner with Douglas Brinkley
7:00 p.m., Friday, October 29, 2009, Boise Centre on the Grove

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In memory of Bert Colwell

Edd & Wilma Bolwer

In memory of Juliette Mustard

Edd & Wilma Bowler

In memory of Robert V. Hansberger

Nels, Briane & Brittany Mitchell

In memory of Jay Hill

Bill and Delores Winkle

In memory of Marjorie Scott

Jerry and Julie Glenn

In memory of Forrest Church

Ann Mattoon

In memory of Amy M. Christie

R. Alan & Anne Christie

In memory of Dr. Jeff Peloquin, BSU

Faculty Senate President

Joanne Klein

In memory of Nancy Ann Pohlman

Kenneth Howell & Bernadine Marconi

In memory of Jack Richmond

Bob & Angela Purcell

In memory of Harry Magnuson

Marty & Barb Peterson

In memory of Joyce and Ben Lownsberry

Bob & Jill Wilson

In memory of Alan Sorenson

Mary Sorenson

In memory of Robert C. Dash

David & Deborah Dash

In memory of Raul Aragon

Margo Aragon

In memory of Tom Trusky

Cort Conley

In memory of Katherine Troutner

Ernest Johnson

In memory of John Givens

Barbara Hawley

In memory of Elizabeth Weaver

Connie Weaver

In memory of Fred Harder

David & Marty Mead

IN HONOR

In honor of Bethine Church

Ann Mattoon

In honor of Arthur Hart

Margaret Schiff

NEWS

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idahohumanities.org. For more information, contact IHC Speaker Bureau Coordinator Wilma Bowler at (208) 345-5346, or Wilma@idahohumanities.org.

NEH Calls for “Bridging Cultures” Proposals

Under NEH Chairman Jim Leach, the NEH has launched a new national initiative called “Bridging Cultures,” encouraging projects that explore the ways in which cultures from around the globe, as well as the myriad subcultures within America’s borders, have influenced American society. With the aim of revitalizing intellectual and civic life through the humanities, NEH welcomes projects that expand both scholarly and public discussion of diverse countries, peoples, and cultural and intellectual traditions worldwide.

NEH welcomes proposals to plan and implement a program consisting of a forum and/or workshops on one of two humanities themes: “Civility and Democracy” or “The Muslim World and the

Humanities.” Complete information will be found on the NEH website at www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/BridgingCultures.html

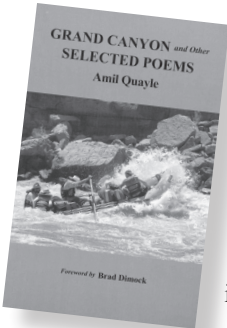
New book from Pocatello poet



from it, but also on all who witnessed it daily in news reports. Wyndham, author of 20 books, and a longtime promoter of music and literary expression in

Blue Scarab Press announces publication of *Sarajevo: A Poem for Four Voices in Five Parts*, by Harald Wyndham. The long poem was written in response to the Bosnian War and the siege of Sarajevo in the early 1990s. It addresses the shock and brutality of that experience, not only on those who suffered directly

southeast Idaho since the 1970s, says his poem took 15 years to complete. The poet explains that the poem was conceived during a concert and borrows the forms and techniques of symphonic music to work through the moral dilemma presented by that experience of the war. *Sarajevo* is available for \$10 plus \$3 shipping from Blue Scarab Press, P.O. Box 4966, Pocatello, Idaho 83205.



Idaho poet/river guide releases new book

Black Star Press announces publication of *Grand Canyon and other Selected Poems*, by St. Anthony teacher and river guide Amil Quayle. The 100-page collection of poems and photographs includes tales of many river jour-

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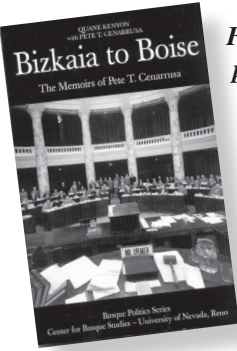
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neys, stories of lives lost, and lives remembered—friends, grandfathers, mothers, fathers, uncles, brothers, and grandchildren who explored wild country and ran rivers for the challenge. Amil Quayle was born near the Henry’s Fork of the Snake River in 1938, and his poems describe many hours spent along that magnificent stream in southeast Idaho. Quayle worked as a full-time river guide in the Grand Canyon, ranched in Nebraska, and later landed B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in English from the University of Nebraska before moving back to Utah and Idaho, where he lives today near St. Anthony.

Grand Canyon and Other Selected Poems is available for \$15 from Black Star Press, P.O. Box 1, St. Anthony, Idaho 83445.



Former Idaho Secretary of State publishes memoir

The Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno, announces publication of *Bizkaia to Boise: The Memoirs of Pete T. Cenarrusa*, by Pete T. Cenarrusa and Quayne Kenyon. For Idaho historians and politi-

cal junkies, this book offers many interesting stories from a half-century of Cenarrusa’s life in public service. He served 52 years in state government under seven governors, in the Idaho Legislature (1950-1967), where he also served as Speaker of the House, and as Secretary of State (1967-2002). He was appointed Secretary of State in 1967 by Governor Don Samuelson, after then-Secretary of State Edson Deal died suddenly after taking office. Pilot, sheep man, and political infighter, Cenarrusa won eight elections as Secretary of State, his last in 1998, which he won handily, 2 to 1.

Over the years, Cenarrusa also has been a leader in Boise’s Basque community, helping to start the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, and the Cenarrusa Foundation for Basque Culture at Boise State University.

Bizkaia to Boise is available for \$20 at Boise’s Basque Museum, or from the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557.

New book about Idaho nursing history

Charting Idaho Nursing History, by Randall Hudspeth and Verlene Kaiser, tells the story of how nursing evolved in Idaho. Like a family genealogy, it starts with questions about where nurses came from, who they were, and

what did they do to establish the foundations for nursing practice in the new state. Since Idaho’s beginning, nurses consistently contributed during wars, epidemics and natural disasters. They built hospitals, established nursing schools, introduced health departments and nursing homes.

The book is available for \$29.95 from VKRH Pubs, LLC, 2739 Starcrest Drive, Boise, ID 83712.

New book about Lake Pend Oreille

Keokee Books announces publication of *Legendary Lake Pend Oreille: Idaho’s Wilderness of Water*, by Jane Fritz “and Friends.” The book is not a mere recreationist’s dictionary, but a book full of historical lore and sketches of flora and fauna. Lake Pend Oreille is Idaho’s largest lake, 43 miles long, with 111 miles of shoreline, and more than 1,100 feet deep. During the last ice age, it was the nexus of the most cataclysmic floods ever to scour the planet. For the native Kalispel Indians it was the center of creation. In 1809, it was the site of the first trading post in Idaho by explorer and mapmaker David Thompson. The 450-page book includes many color illustrations, a foldout map, and many photos. The book is available for \$24 from Keokee Books, 405 Church Street, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864; or online at www.KeokeeBooks.com ♦

What Are You Reading?

In each issue of *Idaho Humanities*, several readers tell us what they've been reading and what they recommend.

Reader: Eve Chandler
Occupation: Author Building Bogus Basin, History Writer, Boise
Book: *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout



Elizabeth Strout creates quirky, complex and nuanced characters in her Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Olive Kitteridge*. Life revolves around the main character, Olive Kitteridge, a tall, fiercely independent, stubborn, sturdy woman who lives in

the small town of Crosby, Maine. The author examines the details of life through her characters and their interactions with Olive. The diverse characters in the book span 80 years of experience and reflect the emotional highs and lows one encounters in life. Strout never resorts to clichés in defining the rich and multifaceted individuals she creates.

As Olive ages, she confronts infidelity, random hilarious moments of life, a spouse declining in a nursing home, and the emotional turbulence of daily life. I found myself laughing out loud and minutes later wincing as I feel Olive’s pangs of humiliation. Elizabeth Strout is adept at describing the rough edges and human frailties of her characters. *Olive Kitteridge* provides insight into the human condition and how we ultimately face conflict, joy, and tragedies.

Reader: Scott Samuelson
Occupation: Professor of English, BYU Idaho, Rexburg
Book: *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O’Donohue



The day John O’Donohue’s *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* came in the mail I roamed among family and friends reading its poems aloud, matched to circumstance: to my 87-year old mother suffering from vertigo, “For Equilibrium”; to

my wife who cares for her, “For One Who is Exhausted,” and to a friend who will lead a group of forty university students to study in Ireland and England for three weeks, “For the Traveler.” O’Donohue, Irish poet, teacher, and philosopher, considers these poems a contemporary renewal of the ancient Celtic tradition of “blessings,” celebrations designed to tap into the innate “kindness that dwells deep down in things.” The sharing of blessings is for O’Donohue a way of renewing the world. As I read these poems and essays silently, I receive rich Celtic wisdom, but as I read them to others, a fresh power connects us.

Reader: Cassie Kelley
Occupation: Youth Services Librarian, Hayden Library, Hayden
Book: *The Last Kingdom* by Bernard Cornwell



If you’ve ever read any of Bernard Cornwell’s *Richard Sharpe* novels, you’ll know that the author has a remarkable ability to bring great figures from history to life, shine a light on their humanity and their flaws, and then bind them tightly to his own unforgettable characters.

In the late 9th century, King Alfred the Great is battling the Danish Vikings for the last kingdom in England—Wessex. If Wessex falls, all of England will belong to the Danes. Uhtred, the son of an English nobleman, is captured at the age of ten and is raised by the Danes who killed his father. He grows to love his adopted father, Ragnar, who loves him like his own son; the kind of love Uhtred wanted, but never had from his own father. As Uhtred grows into manhood, he is taught to hunt and to fight. He then witnesses betrayal and the murder of the family he has come to love. He reluctantly aligns himself with King Alfred, hoping for a chance at revenge and instead finds himself thrust into the light himself and emerges as a great warrior— for England.

I confess that one bloodied sword is like the other to me, but Cornwell’s depiction of battle strategy is an education itself. In battle, Uhtred uses his knowledge of the Danes to his full advantage, as well as to the advantage of King Alfred.