

Idaho Humanities Council awards \$75,000 in grants

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$75,982 in grants to organizations and individuals at its fall board meeting in Boise. Forty-four awards include 25 grants for public humanities programs, four Research Fellowships, nine Teacher Incentive Grants, and six 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:



**Boise Art Museum, Boise**, was awarded \$2,000 to bring Chinese photographer and performance artist Liu Bolin to Boise for an exhibition of his work at the museum and a public lecture at the Egyptian Theater. Bolin is a dissident artist in China, and he will talk about how his work and the work of other artists can be used to make bold sociopolitical statements. The project director is **Melanie Fales**.

**Boundary County Museum, Bonners Ferry**, was awarded \$2,000 to develop an additional series of interpretive panels that tell the story of the railroad history of Bonners Ferry. The Museum sits next to railroad tracks at an important crossroads in the town. Over the past decade the planners have developed a courtyard behind the museum, and rebuilt a scaled depot with grant support of Burlington Northern. **Dottie Gray** is the project director.

**Council Historical Museum, Council**, received \$1,000 to develop an outdoor exhibit of a steam-powered sawmill to enhance interpretation of the logging history of the area. Interpretive signage would incorporate historical photographs of a similar sawmill and text about the local logging history. The project director is **Dale Fisk**.

**Idaho State University, Pocatello**, received \$1,500 to host a five-session “Humanities Café” off campus that will explore the theme of “Revolutions.” Faculty members will explore this theme from a variety of perspectives in art, literature, history, music, gender study, and other humanities disciplines. Each night over several weeks a panel of scholars will explore a subtheme of “Revolutions” and invite audience members to join the conversation. **Jennifer Attebery** is the project director.

**The Cabin, Boise**, received \$2,500 to help support its annual “Readings & Conversations” series, which brings four



Writer Sherman Alexie will speak in Boise on March 11.

nationally prominent writers to Boise for a reading of their work at, most often, the Egyptian Theater in downtown Boise, followed by a book signing. Presenters in the 2014-2015 series included novelists Erik Larson, Chris Albani, Sherman Alexie, and Karen Russell. **Mark Blaiser** is the project director.

**Boise State University Basque Studies, Boise**, received \$2,000 to support an evening of talks in Boise’s Egyptian Theater billed as “Meet the Basques” as part of the Jaialdi Basque Festival in July of 2015. The Jaialdi Festival, a major cultural festival featuring music, food, talks, museum events, and other activities open to the general public, occurs every five years. The “Meet the Basques” program will provide an opportunity for audiences to learn more about the history and culture of the Basques. **John Bieter** is the project director.

**Boise State University, Boise**, received \$1,000 to help support a lecture series on “The Idea of Nature” during the spring of 2015. Presenters include Maria Tatar, professor of folklore and mythology at Harvard University, speaking on “Nature in Fairy Tales”; David Lowenthal, professor emeritus, University College London, speaking on “From Howling Wilderness to the Call of the Wild,” Rebecca Kneale Gould professor of environmental studies, Middlebury College, speaking on “The Nature of a Spacious Life.” **Samantha Harvey** is the project director.

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IDAHO Humanities

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Spring 2015

Research and Discovery: On the Trail of the CCC in Idaho Forests

By Patricia Hart and Ivar Nelson



Enrollees at Camp F-42, St. Joe National Forest, September 1933: Between 1933 and 1942, Idaho had 423 Civilian Conservation Corps companies (80,000 enrollees) in 270 camps, the second largest number of camps in the nation. Photo by K.D. Swan, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.

**Editor’s Note:** Idaho was hard hit by the Great Depression. Economic derailment dogged rural and urban areas alike. Farmers struggled against low prices, heat, drought and insects; home and farm mortgages went unpaid; banks closed; teachers were let go, and millworkers were laid off as demand for timber collapsed. In that climate and like many western states, Idaho benefited directly and significantly from New Deal programs. Between 1933 and 1942, Idaho was headquarters for 423 Civilian Conservation Corps companies living in 270 camps spread throughout the state. The CCC partnered with national and state forests and parks, the soil conservation agencies, national grazing programs, and federal reclamation projects. With an estimated 80,000 enrollees serving in Idaho over the period, the CCC had widespread and long-term impact on the state’s economy, its resources, its communities and its people.

With the help of an Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship Grant, historian Patricia Hart of the University of Idaho and Ivar Nelson have identified sources related to the CCC in Idaho forests with plans to make those sources publically available through collaboration with the University of Idaho Library’s Department of Digital Initiatives. When completed in 2015, the CCC in Idaho Forest Digital Portal and Finding Guide will give public access to thousands of documents, photographs, memoirs, newspaper and magazine articles, and oral histories related to the work of the CCC in Idaho forests.

This past summer, Hart and Nelson concentrated their research within Idaho and the region, visiting CCC sites and meeting with librarians, U.S. Forest Service personnel, historians, and preservationists. Through this process Hart and Nelson have located a

wealth of new material and insights into the workings of the CCC, its impact on land and forests, and on individuals and their communities. They share a few of their recent findings here.

rafters bobbed their way down the Salmon River in June as we left Highway 95 at Riggins and drove east along the Salmon River Road. We were beginning eight weeks of summer research gathering material about the role of the Civilian Conservation Corp in Idaho forests. Most of the rafts we saw that day were taking it easy on the lower Salmon, not challenging the Wild and Scenic Salmon River upriver and farther east. We knew that the CCC played a central role in the Salmon River road story, and we were heading upriver to make a site visit at the former French Creek CCC camp.

We find concrete slab foundations, stone retaining walls and waterworks in the area now occupied by a Boy Scout camp, formerly the site of Camp F-109. Perched on a dry bench above the river and the mouth of French Creek, the duff-covered remains recall competing visions of resource conservation, wilderness preservation and economic development that marked much of the CCC activity in Idaho.

During the 1920s and 1930s, local boosters from Lewiston in western Idaho and Salmon in eastern Idaho wanted an east-west transportation corridor through the middle of the state. Especially vocal were successive chambers of commerce in Salmon, who created a regional campaign “to boost the Salmon City-Lewiston” road, as the *Idaho County Free Press* reported in their August 31, 1933 edition. The Chamber opposed the expansion of the Idaho Primitive Area, newly created in 1931, because

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# 2015: A busy year of humanities activities

By Rick Ardinger

I cut out a cartoon from *The New Yorker* recently and posted it on our IHC office bulletin board. In it, the calendar for the year is displayed like a pie chart, eleven months being small slivers, and January taking more than half the pie. That's the way I see most Januarys, and 2015 is no different, as we prepare for a busy year of humanities activities in Idaho.



This issue of *Idaho Humanities* highlights some great events to look forward to in 2015, from grant-funded projects, to Distinguished Humanities Lectures, to a summer teacher institute on the Harlem Renaissance, and more.

One new program to kick off the year explores the experience of war. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, "Read Me Treasure Valley," the Ada Community Library's annual communitywide reading program in southwest Idaho, will explore war through a powerful novel entitled *Fatal Light* by Richard Currey. The terse, groundbreaking novel explores the horror of combat in Vietnam through the eyes of a medic, which is what Currey was from 1968 to 1972. IHC is partnering with Ada Community Library to bring Currey to Boise on March 18. To complement the choice of Currey's book, the IHC also is supporting a series of talks about the history of the Vietnam

War, along with other programs for the benefit of Idaho veterans, their families, and their communities (see related story, page 10).

IHC also will sponsor a three-evening series of programs about the Vietnam War at the Idaho Falls Public Library, March 16, 17 & 18, featuring lectures by BSU Constitution scholar David Adler, BSU Asian historian Shelton Woods, and ISU English Professor Cathy Peppers (see IHC website for details).

On April 9, the IHC's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture will bring Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter to Idaho Falls to talk about the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. McWhorter, a Harvard University professor and author of *Carry Me Home*, grew up in Birmingham during the turbulent Sixties, and so her brilliant study of Alabama in turmoil is also a personal story about her family witnessing the collapse of segregation and Jim Crow laws and the courageous leaders who pushed for change.

In Twin Falls, the IHC is helping to bring bestselling novelist Jamie Ford, author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, for a dinner and lecture on April 30.

And that is just one season.

Stay tuned for news about IHC's Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Coeur d'Alene and Boise in the fall, and other activities throughout the year through IHC's website.

No wonder January is such a big month.

## News & Opportunities

### IHC elects new board member

The Idaho Humanities Council recently elected University of Idaho English Professor Scott Slovic to join its board of directors. He will attend his first board meeting in February of 2015. Currently serving as Chairman of the English Department, Slovic is a specialist in nature and the environment and strengthens the university's Wilderness studies programs in environmental literature and writing. He is the author of more than 200 articles and author, editor, and co-editor of 17 books, including *Seeking Awareness in American Nature Writing: Henry David Thoreau, Annie Dillard, Edward Abbey, Wendell Berry, and Barry Lopez* (1992), *Going Away to Think: Engagement, Retreat, and Ecocritical Responsibility* (2008), and several textbooks and anthologies. He holds a B.A. from Stanford University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University. Prior to joining the U of I faculty in 2012, he taught five years at Texas State University and 17 years at the University of Nevada. Over the years he has also held Fulbright grants to teach and study in Germany, Japan and China. He serves on the editorial board of *Orion* magazine, one of the foremost environmental journals in the nation. He fills a northern Idaho academic vacancy left by University of Idaho Provost Katherine Aiken, who served two terms on the IHC board, including a term as chair.



### Register now for NEH grant writing workshop at BSU

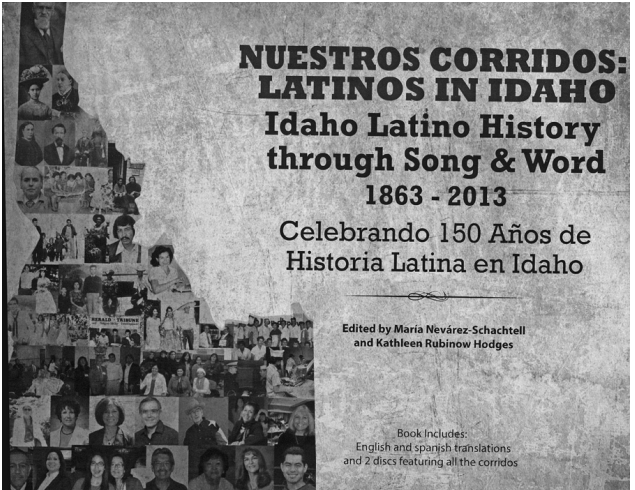
Boise State University in cooperation with the Idaho Humanities Council will offer a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Writing Workshop on **Tuesday, March 10, 2015**, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at BSU's Student Union Building Lookout Room. The workshop is free but advance registration is required.

John Cox, Senior Program Officer with the NEH, will offer an overview of NEH grant programs, including public program grants, Challenge Grants, NEH Summer Stipends for scholars, and more. On a first come-first served basis, Cox also will offer 20-minute, one-on-one private consultations with prospective applicants between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on March 10 and discuss strategies for developing strong applications.

Idaho Humanities Council Executive Director Rick Ardinger also will be on hand to provide a brief overview of IHC grants, including IHC Research Fellowships for humanities scholars.

NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio stations, and to individual scholars.

To register for the morning workshop, or to reserve a slot for an afternoon private consultation, prospective participants should register online at [www.research.boisestate.edu/NEH](http://www.research.boisestate.edu/NEH). or contact BSU Office of Sponsored Programs, at 208-426-5732.



### Project exploring the musical art and history of corridos culminates in book and CDs

*Nuestro Corridos: Latinos in Idaho, Idaho Latino History through Song and Word, 1863-2013* has just been released by Mujeres Unidas de Idaho. The unique project, long in the making, was a labor of love for project director Ana Maria Nevárez-Schachtel of Boise, and funded in large part by the Idaho Humanities Council over several years. Published in a bilingual edition, *Nuestro Corridos* features two CDs (27 corridos) and an illustrated spiral-bound book, edited by Nevárez-Schachtel and Kathleen Rubinow Hodges, with all the words to the corridos and the interpretive text in both Spanish and English.

Corridos are songs that explore "news of the day." For many, a traditional corrido is a ballad, or "a song that tells a story with a message," according to Errol Jones, BSU Professor Emeritus of Latin American history, who wrote a Foreword to the book. But many Mexican and Mexican-American communities interpret the purpose of corridos differently. "Naturally, since so many Mexicans are immigrants themselves or come from immigrant families," Jones writes, "the theme of immigration is a popular corrido topic."

Nevárez-Schachtel met musician and composer Juan Manuel Barco in 2006 at a Latino Arts and Culture conference in Portland, and, with the help of an IHC grant, brought him to Boise for a series of "how-to" corrido workshops, where he taught a number of prospective corrido writers from across southern Idaho the tradition of the Mexican corrido. After the workshops, Nevárez-Schachtel organized public concerts where the workshop participants shared their newly written corridos. Following the concerts, Nevárez-Schachtel set to having the corridos professionally recorded.

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## 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.



# Get your tickets now: Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter to speak in Idaho Falls, April 9

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter, author of *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, the Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*, will be the speaker at the IHC's 8th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7 p.m., at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls.

The event is generously supported in part by the William J. and Shirley A. Maeck Family Foundation, Teton Toyota and Volkswagen, Bank of Idaho, the Post Register, Idaho Public Television, INL, Barnes and Noble, Melaleuca, and KISU Radio.

Currently a Harvard University professor, McWhorter is an American journalist and commentator who has written extensively about race and the history of civil rights in America. *Carry Me Home* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction and the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize in 2002. It also won the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, is one of *Time Magazine's* All-Time 100 Nonfiction Books since 1923, and made the "Best Books List" in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Publishers Weekly*,



*Library Journal*, and *American Heritage*. She is a long-time contributor to the *New York Times* and has written for the op-ed page of *USA Today*, *Slate*, and many other publications.

"The Year of Birmingham," 1963, was a cataclysmic turning point in America's long civil rights struggle. Demonstrators young and old faced down police dogs and fire hoses in huge nonviolent marches protesting segregation and American apartheid. Ku Klux

Klansmen retaliated by bombing homes, hotels, and other places, including the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, killing four young black girls.

In *Carry Me Home*, McWhorter, the daughter of a prominent Birmingham family, weaves together police and FBI records, archival documents, interviews with

black activists and Klansmen, and personal memories into an extraordinary narrative of the personalities and events that brought about America's second emancipation.

**Tickets are available NOW for purchase online at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) under "IHC Events," or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346.** General tickets are \$45. Benefactor tickets are \$75, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with McWhorter in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out. The evening will begin with a no-host reception at 6 p.m. at the Shilo Inn. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with McWhorter's talk to follow. Copies of *Carry Me Home* will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite and McWhorter will be available for signing afterwards.

Since 2008, the IHC has brought top historians, journalists, and other writers to Idaho Falls for the annual event. Previous speakers include presidential biographer Robert Dallek (2008), Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (2009), Western American historian Elliott West (2010), National Book Award-winner Timothy Egan (2011), Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Rick Bragg (2012), best-selling author Alexandra Fuller (2013), and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson (2014). ♦



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## IHC to honor historian Judy Austin for Outstanding Achievement

The IHC will honor former *Idaho Yesterdays* editor Judy Austin with the council's award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities" at a wine/dessert reception and ceremony on Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m., at the Basque Center of Boise, 601 Grove Street. The award, which includes a \$1,000 honorarium, will be presented to Austin, honoring her career as an editor, consultant, and resource for projects exploring Idaho history.

Austin joined the staff of the Idaho State Historical Society in 1967, and served for 35 years, most notably as editor of *Idaho Yesterdays*, the quarterly journal of Idaho history, until the print magazine was discontinued in 2002. *Idaho Yesterdays* was the magazine devoted to Idaho history scholarship, and during her years as editor Austin became a mentor, writer, bibliographer, co-author, consultant, and general *encourager* to countless researchers, young and old, engaged in exploring the history of Idaho and the American West.

Today she remains a resource to the ISHS, Idaho Public Television, Idaho Legal History Society, and to other cultural institutions and many scholars. She is active in the Conference of Historical Journals and the Western History Association, from which she has received two high honors.



Born in San Diego in 1940, Austin moved with her family to New York City in 1949, when her father began a doctoral program and later served on the faculty of the Teachers College at Columbia University. After graduation from high school, Austin went on to earn a B.A. with honors at Duke University and returned to New York to earn an M.A. in the history of education at Columbia.

In 1962, she accepted a job as editor at the Teachers College Press, where she edited a series of booklets on state history for high school students. Most of the authors she worked with were staff in state historical agencies. One of her authors was legendary Idaho historian Merle Wells, who became mentor, role model, and friend when he hired Austin in 1967 to join the staff of the Idaho State Historical Society.

Having worked with Austin on various projects and programs over the years, BSU Emeritus Professor Robert Sims, Boise, says "Anyone doing research and writing on Idaho history benefits from Judy's support."

Idaho author Cort Conley thinks Austin "deserves to be regarded as a state cultural treasure." During her tenure as editor, Conley says ISHS publications "rivalled or surpassed those of other western states and were a source of pride for Idahoans."

Idaho Public Television's Bruce Reichert concurs. "Judy has been our 'go-to' person for as long as I can remember... whenever we needed verification of some nebulous historical rumor. She kept us from making fools of ourselves on more than one occasion."

Sometimes acknowledged and often not, behind countless articles, essays, books, and documentaries exploring Western history is Austin's guidance and encouragement.

In addition to her work with the ISHS and other organizations over the years, Austin was a founding board member of the Idaho Humanities Council (the Association for the Humanities in Idaho in the 1970s), and to this day she remains a resource to the Council as a consultant, Speakers Bureau presenter, and believer in the importance of the humanities as essential to a civil society.

"We look forward to recognizing Judy," says IHC Chair Lisa Brady. "She exemplifies the mission of the Idaho Humanities Council and clearly demonstrates outstanding achievement in the humanities."

**Anyone interested in attending the February 26 reception and award ceremony should RSVP to the Idaho Humanities Council at (208) 345-5346, or at [Debra@idahohumanities.org](mailto:Debra@idahohumanities.org).**

IHC has presented its award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities" annually since 1986. Previous recipients of the award have included independent historian Keith Petersen, Twin Falls anthropologist James Woods, former Governor Robert E. Smylie, College of Idaho Professor Louie Attebery, State Historian Merle Wells, BSU Andrus Center Director David Adler, Moscow writer Mary Clearman Blew, Idaho poet William Studebaker, Nez Perce elder Horace Axtell, former Lewis-Clark State College English Professor Keith Browning, Idaho State University History Professor Ron Hatzenbuehler, Basque Museum and Cultural Center Director Patty Miller, Boise Independent School District Administrator and history teacher Russ Heller, LCSC anthropologist Alan Marshall, Idaho Public Television's Peter Morrill, and others. ♦

### NEWS

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*Nuestro Corridos* is an outstanding project that preserves traditions, educates the public about Idaho Latino history and culture, and stands as a model humanities project.

For more information or to purchase a copy of *Nuestro Corridos: Latinos in Idaho*, contact: Dulce/Sweet Events & Consulting, P.O. Box 8252, Boise, Idaho 83707, or email project director Ana Maria Nevárez-Schachtel at [anasch@cableone.net](mailto:anasch@cableone.net)

#### Congratulations to Idaho Book Award winners

The Idaho Library Association chose two books in

2014 as co-winners of the 2013 Idaho Book Award. Congratulations to College of Southern Idaho History Professor (and IHC Board Member) Russ Tremayne and Boise State University History Professor Todd Shallat, editors of *Surviving Minidoka: The Legacy of WW II Japanese American Incarceration*, and to Priscilla Wegars, author of *As Rugged as the Terrain*. Both books explore the story of Japanese incarceration during WW II. Each year the Idaho Library Association recognizes one work that makes an outstanding contribution to Idaho literature. But in selecting a winner for the 2013 ILA Book Award

Chair Ruth Funabiki said, "The selected titles were considered among many marvelous 2013 Idaho books. In the end, committee members simply declined to choose between these two remarkable, contrasting works."

#### New history explores Old West vs New West

Texas Tech University Press announces publication of *Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth, and Government in the American West*, by John Bieter, associate professor of history at Boise State University.

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# Capacity crowd hears writer Jess Walter in Coeur d'Alene

Bestselling writer Jess Walter gave the IHC's 11th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in early October. Walter spoke to an audience of over 460 about how reading fiction teaches readers the power of empathy and how to see the world through other eyes.

Earlier in the day, Walter spoke to several hundred Lake City High School students about stories from his 2013 collection, *We Live in Water*. Prior to speaking at the Resort that evening, Walter also greeted dozens of Benefactors at the beautiful lakefront home of **Denny Davis and Kathy Canfield-Davis**, sponsored in part by the **Hagadone Corporation**.

Enormous thanks goes to longtime supporter Marc Brinkmeyer and the **Idaho Forest Group** for generously sponsoring the event. IHC thanks media sponsors **Idaho Public Television** and the **Coeur d'Alene Press** for promoting the event, and **Barnes and Noble** for facilitating book sales (with a portion of the sales going to support IHC programming).

The IHC is grateful to Benefactors for their added generosity, including the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Tables: **Idaho Forest Group, Hagadone Corporation, Intermix Networks, Jo Ann and K.V. Nelson, Paine Hamblen, Coeur d'Alene Press, Idaho Public Television** and the **Margaret Reed Foundation**.

Thank you also to Diversions Window Coverings, Sarah McVey, George and Juli Ives, Sandy and Jeanne Emerson, Kenneth and Mary Thompson, and the University of Idaho--Coeur d'Alene for contributions to the student scholarship program.

We thank IHC Coeur d'Alene board members, Jo Ann Nelson and Mike Kennedy and the planning committee: Andrea Partington, Cindy Haagenson, Erin Davis, Fran Bahr, Melody Melton, Nancy Flagan, Virginia Johnson and Kathleen Schmidt, whose dedication to the humanities in their community made the evening possible. Lastly, tremendous thanks to Karen Yother for her instrumental assistance in helping to arrange, plan, and coordinate the event. ❖



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Hagadone Corporation

1. Novelist Jess Walter spoke to IHC's largest audience ever in Coeur d'Alene.
2. Walter meets Coeur d'Alene's Marshall Mend.
3. Friends of the IHC meet at the Benefactor Reception in the home of Denny Davis and Kathy Canfield-Davis.
4. Walter and his wife meet Denny Davis and Kathy Canfield-Davis.
5. Kay Nelson shares a moment with humanities booster Virginia Johnson.



# Journalist Isabel Wilkerson spoke to hundreds in Boise

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson gave the IHC's 18th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner in late October to an audience of over 500 at the Boise Centre. Wilkerson spoke about her prize winning book *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*.

Before the event Wilkerson was welcomed at the posh 17<sup>th</sup>-story offices of **Holland & Hart** for the Benefactor Reception.

The IHC thanks its underwriters for helping make a very successful evening. Thank you to Major Event Sponsor **Holland & Hart**, and Event Co-Sponsors **University of Idaho College of Law** and **Boise State University**. In addition, IHC's media sponsors **The Idaho Statesman**, **Boise State Public Radio** and **Idaho Public Television** were tremendous media partners.

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

The IHC also is grateful to the following firms and organizations that purchased Benefactor Tables: University of Idaho College of Law, Boise State University, Holland & Hart, the College of Idaho, the Idaho Statesman, Boise State University History Department, Futura Corporation, and Idaho Public Television.

Thank you to the following very generous individuals and organizations who helped share the evening with students through their donations to the student scholarship fund:

Gary Wyke, John Kriz and Carol Cronin Kriz, Steven Fields, Sisti and Rory O'Connor, Conrad and Sharon Colby, Jim and Wendy Jaquet, Sarah Churchill, Dick and Susan Parrish, Chuck Guilford, Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson, Lewis and Connie Ulrey, Murray and Nancy Feldman, Mary Reiman, Carolyn Morris, Dianne and Kenneth Wiley and Idaho Power. ❖



1. Isabel Wilkerson spoke to more than 500 in Boise.
2. Friends of the IHC enjoy the Benefactor Reception in the office of Holland & Hart.
3. A fan has a book signed.
4. IHC Board Member Murray Feldman, Isabel Wilkerson, IHC Chair Lisa Brady, and IHC Director Rick Ardinger pose for a photo at the Benefactor Reception.
5. IHC Chair Lisa Brady presents a copy of Isabel Wilkerson's book to Holland & Hart attorney Murray Feldman.
6. The band entertains the audience in the Boise Centre lobby before and after the dinner lecture.
7. Friends pose for a photo at the Benefactor Reception.

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GRANTS

(Continued from Page 1)

**Bud Moore Legacy Film Team, Missoula, Montana,** and independent documentary producer **George Sibley** were awarded **\$2,000** to support production of a documentary about a legendary Montana forest ranger named Bud Moore. Moore devoted his entire life to forestry, working as a firefighter in the 1930s and rising in the ranks to manage large tracts of forest land in Idaho and Montana. Many of the practices and policies he set in place remain standards in forest service resource management. The project director is **George Sibley**.

**GCG Productions, Boise,** and independent documentary producer **Karen Day Zak** received **\$3,000** to support production of a documentary about silent film actress/director Nell Shipman, who produced several silent films in and around Priest Lake in the 1920s. Entitled *Girl from God's Country*, the documentary is about Shipman as a nearly forgotten pioneer female film director and the challenges women faced in the film industry then and now. **Karen Day Zak** is the project director.



**The Gunk Foundation** and independent filmmaker, **Janet Kern, New York,** received **\$2,000** to complete a documentary film titled “Horse Tribe.” The film documents the struggle of the Nez Perce Tribe and Rudy Shebala, a Navajo horseman, as they work to bring horses back to their lands and their lives. The film will be aired on public television and available for distribution. **Janet Kern** is the project director.

**The Center for Civic Education, Boise,** received **\$3,136** to offer a two-day seminar for Idaho Social Studies teachers on “Race and Gender in American History, Politics, and Law.” Held in Boise on February 20-21<sup>st</sup>, the seminar will focus on historical issues, major Supreme Court cases, and Federal laws that have emerged over time. Continuing education credit through BSU will be available to up to 50 social studies teachers at all levels within Idaho. **Troy Hamilton** is the project director.

**The Global Lounge Group (GLG), Boise,** received **\$3,500** to help support “World Village,” an annual event involving various international and traditional artists, musicians, storytellers, crafts people and other representatives demonstrating cultural traditions through performances, workshops and other interactive activities. The event will be held June 20 - 21, 2015 in Boise Capitol Park. The project director is **Dayo Ayodele**.

**The Idaho Falls Arts Council, Idaho Falls,** was awarded **\$3,500** to bring two production companies to Idaho Falls for educational programming. The American Place Theater (APT) will present a public performance of *The Kite Runner* and take an educational outreach program to one of the alternative high schools. Another company, called “Living Voices,” will present four presentations exploring the Holocaust, the Latin American farm worker’s movement, Japanese internment camps, and government-run boarding schools for Native American children. Each program also will be taken into two area schools. The “Living Voices” organization presents dynamic solo performances combined with archival film to explore historical events. The project director is **Brandi Newton**.

**The University of Idaho, Moscow,** received **\$3,000** to help support a public film forum, featuring two documentaries on grassroots social change, tentatively slated for August 29, 2015, at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre in Moscow. One film, made by MAS (Movimiento Activista Social), a group of Latino students at the University of Idaho, is about the immigrant farmworker communities in Idaho where they grew up. The second, made by a French filmmaker, is about the Senegalese rap group Keur Gui (meaning “our house,” or “the family”) and the social movement they helped found, called Y’en a Marre (a French expression meaning “fed up,” or “enough is enough”). Discussion with members of MAS, Y’en a Marre, and the audience will follow. **Sarah Nelson** is the project director.

**Idaho State University, Pocatello,** received **\$500** to help support a talk by Dr. Ronald C. McCurdy, a professor of music at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, during a showcasing of the work of Langston Hughes. Held during Black History Month in February 2015, McCurdy will present a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes’s kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, “Ask Your Mama.” **Howard Grimes** is the project director.

**The Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise,** was awarded **\$3,000** to help support “Shakespeareience,” an educational outreach touring program, presenting fully staged and costumed productions of William Shakespeare’s work in schools across Idaho. *Comedy of Errors* performances will be followed by question/answer sessions. An online study guide is made available, and additional educational workshops are offered to explore themes and issues in more depth. The project director is **Christine Zimowsky**.

**The Idaho Writers Guild, Boise,** received **\$1,500** to help support a writer’s conference, May 14-16, 2015, at the Boise Centre. About 20 authors, literary agents, professional editors and publishing experts will present a series of workshops, readings, and interactive discussions on a wide variety of topics. **Doug Copsey** is the project director.

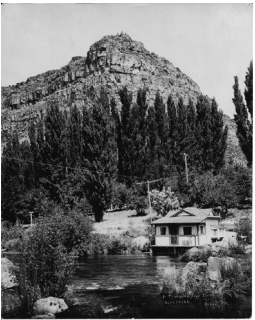
**The White Spring Ranch Museum, Genesee** received **\$1,450** to help preserve and archive artifacts at their unique family-ranch-turned historical center. The museum is on the National Register of Historic Places and staff continues to find new items in the Victorian farmhouse, an 1876 log cabin, and in an 1880 curio cabin. **Diane Conroy** is the project director.



**The Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls,** was awarded **\$3,500** to help host a traveling exhibition titled “Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship” from May 8 – November 28, 2015. The exhibit, developed in partnership with the National Geographic Society, tells the story of the slave ship and its capture by pirate captain Sam Bellamy in 1717. That same year it sunk off the shore of Cape Cod. Stories from Bellamy’s pirate crew help illustrate the 18<sup>th</sup> century world of slavery, piracy, trade, and commerce. The project director is **David Pennock**.

**Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston,** received **\$2,000** to help support the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Awareness Week to be held March 16-20, 2015. Activities help educate students and the general public about Native Americans and Native American cultures. Native American elders and tribal leaders will focus on topics relating to preserving the culture, history and traditional knowledge of their individual tribes. **Bob Sobotta** is the project director.

**The Twin Falls County Historical Society, Twin Falls,** was awarded **\$1,200** for a photo archive project. The museum has many old photos that will be digitally saved, printed and mounted, and preserved. The preserved photos will be used in museum exhibits and made available to the general public for viewing in binders and a digital photo frame. **Laurie Warren** is the project director.



**The Latah County Historical Society, Moscow,** was awarded **\$1,350** for a newly designed oral history program called “Recordings for Posterity.” The

project will focus on oral history interviews about regional experiences from the mid-twentieth century through the most recent decades. The resulting archival resource will be available to researchers and the general public. **Dulce Kersting** is the project director.

**The Salmon Arts Council, Salmon,** received **\$2,000** to help support the third annual celebration of the History of Lemhi County and the City of Salmon in June 2015. The theme is “The History and Culture of Mining in Lemhi County,” and will feature three lunchtime lectures, one evening lecture and a day-long group tour of the now-abandoned mining community (and mines) of Leesburg. The project director is **Caroline Stivers**.

**The Northern Pacific Depot Foundation, Wallace,** was awarded **\$1,230** to help create a display of antique and vintage Wallace promotional and souvenir items. The new display will include photographs of street scenes and the businesses that the items were from. **Shauna Hillman** is the project director.

Research Fellowships:

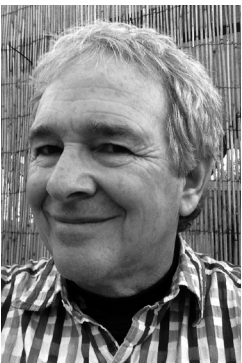
**Tara Penry, BSU Professor of English, Boise,** received **\$3,500** to support research on the life and work of 19<sup>th</sup> century fiction writer Bret Harte and the way his fiction assesses national reconciliation and social cohesion in the U.S. after the Civil War. Her research will culminate in a book.

**Keith Petersen, Idaho State Historian, Moscow,** received **\$3,500** to assist with research on the story of how the state of Idaho got its unique shape. He notes that Idaho’s state boundaries have had serious political, economic, and cultural repercussions over time, and that many stories about the boundaries are exaggerated and distorted and passed along as fact.



**Brandon Schrand, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Idaho, Moscow,** was awarded **\$3,000** to support research for a book about Frank B. Robinson and the rise of “Psychiana,” Robinson’s own self-help “psychological religion” that was invented in Moscow, Idaho, during the Great Depression. Though nearly forgotten today, Psychiana became the 7<sup>th</sup> largest religion in the world within five years, many seeking self-help in the forlorn days of national economic strife of the 1930s.

**College of Southern Idaho Anthropology Professor James Woods, Twin Falls,** was awarded **\$3,500** to support his participation in an international conference in Pachuca, Mexico, with anthropologists trained in the lithic art and science of flintknapping, the experimental study of making and using ancient stone tools to interpret and understand the anthropological past. Flintknapping was pioneered by the late Don Crabtree, a native Idahoan who was a mentor to Woods and many others. Woods continues to practice and demonstrate flintknapping as a method of studying ancient cultures.



Teacher Incentive Grants:

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom. The following grants were supported by IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education.

**Judy Barbera, Garden City Public Library, Garden City,** received **\$1,000** to help purchase new books for its Bells for Books program, a mobile literacy program of the library. The program serves low income children and their families in the Garden City area, including many immigrants and refugees, whose primary language is not English.

(See GRANTS, Page 9)



## CCC

(Continued from Page 1)

they saw it as a threat to the road and commercial development.

Forest Service managers were split on the road project: Regional Forester Evan Kelley from Region 1 north of the Salmon River contended that the road-building project had “little to commend it except the booster spirit of but a relative few.” His counterpart in Region 4 south of the Salmon River, Richard Rutledge, dismissed opposition to the road as “abstract and hypothetical.” Thanks to wilderness historian Dennis Baird, we know Kelley’s retort: If Rutledge’s support of the Salmon River road project wasn’t itself “abstract and hypothetical,” he shot back, “I’ll eat blubber.”

The “Good Road Boosters” won the first round, and the Idaho Primitive Area was not extended to block the river road construction. Political pressure transmitted through politicians such as Idaho Congressman Compton White assured that the CCC was assigned to build the Salmon River road between Salmon and Riggins. By 1935 CCC companies assigned to build fire trails and fight fires in the summer were reassigned to winter CCC camps at French Creek in the west and Ebenezer (Cove) Creek in the east. Work began in earnest to blast the road along the river and right through the center of Idaho.

Idahoans had heartily embraced the freedom that automobiles provided. The possibilities for tourism and commerce seemed limitless, and with Idaho having one of the highest fatality rates from auto accidents per capita in the country, road improvement seemed not only advisable but also positively necessary to the state’s wellbeing and economic recovery.

On the other hand, wilderness advocates Aldo Leopold and Bob Marshall joined other conservationists who felt strongly that the automobile and unfettered road building threatened what little was left of wild America. They created the Wilderness Society in 1935 to help prevent precisely the road projects into wild areas that the Salmon River road project proposed (the Wilderness Society later successfully advocated the Wilderness Act of 1964, whose fiftieth anniversary we celebrated in 2014).

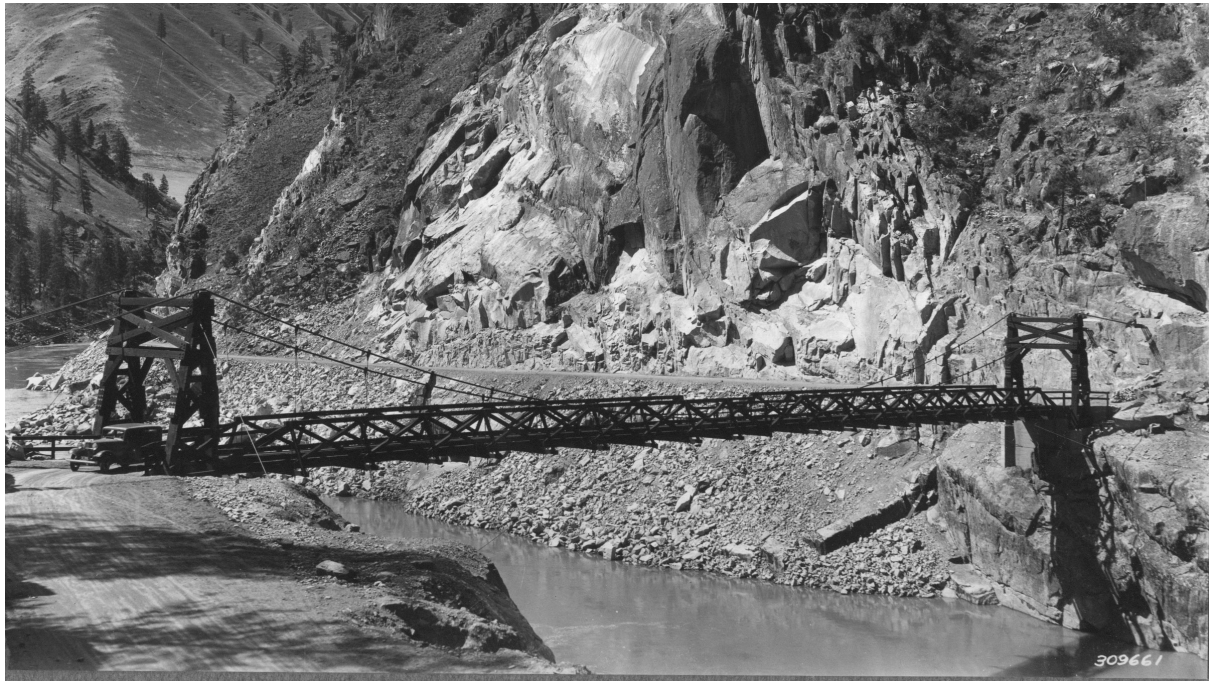


Fire camp, Droogs Creek, South Fork of the Clearwater River, Aug. 10, 1936. Forests devastated by fires in 1910, 1931, and 1934, and overcut by the timber industry were replanted by the CCC. Photo courtesy of St. Gertrude’s Museum.

The debate about wilderness challenged natural resource conservationists. While most were strong supporters of the CCC, the question of roads penetrating wilderness divided them. And here was a firsthand example of the CCC building a road through what Marshall called “one of the few areas still largely in the state of undevelopment.” The debate was in full swing when the National Geographic Society sent an expedition down the river on wooden rafts in 1935 that stopped overnight at the French Creek CCC camp (Their story of the expedition appears in the Society’s July 1936 issue).

Between 1933 and 1941, the CCC crews blasted, bulldozed and shoveled their way through the sheer rock canyon wall that dropped dizzyingly to the river’s edge. Hampered by persistent opposition from wilderness advocates, increasing cost of construction, and the lack of demonstrable economic or social benefits, road building stopped completely when the CCC camps closed in 1942 as the United States entered World War II.

The CCC had finished less than half of 135 miles needed to complete the road, leaving the remote Salmon River wild. In 1980, the River of No Return Wilderness was created (with the “Frank Church” added in 1984) on approximately the same “expanded” boundaries that Bob Marshall had advocated 50 years earlier at the time he opposed the Salmon River road. In 1968, the Wild and Scenic River Act ended the decades-long debate by including the Salmon River and precluding a road through its canyon. Although no



The CCC built the one-lane, 240-foot Manning Crevice Bridge across the Salmon River in 1934, named after a CCC enrollee who died in a fall from the bridge. Photo by K.D. Swan, courtesy of Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

one now seriously proposes a road along the Salmon River, the struggle continues in Idaho over the control of public land, road access, and natural resources, as shown in contemporary debates over sage hens in southern Idaho and mega loads on Highway 12.

As we drove the winding river road back toward Riggins, we stopped at the Manning Crevice Bridge that spans the Salmon River downriver from the French Creek Camp. The Manning Bridge is as recognizable a CCC-built structure as any in the state, named after a CCC enrollee who died in a fall from it. The one-lane, 240-foot wooden bridge built in 1934 has been used by generations of rafters to reach the takeout several miles upriver at Carey Creek and to access the back road to Warren and Bergdorf. Without much fanfare, the U.S. Department of Transportation plans to demolish the Manning Bridge and build a concrete span nearby, in order to facilitate the passage of larger vehicles.

The contest between conservationists, wilderness advocates, and boosters were remote from the concerns of the desperate families in New Jersey, Ohio, Idaho or Tennessee, many of whom had been without income for more than two years. In 1933 they learned that Franklin D. Roosevelt’s new Emergency Conservation Work (later renamed the Civilian Conservation Corps) would soon be enrolling unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 25. Their sons could work on conservation projects for \$30 a month for six months, \$25 of it sent directly back home. For parents, the CCC was a godsend that would help their family through the Depression while keeping their sons decently fed, clothed, employed and out of trouble.

Likewise, national debates were not priorities for unemployed Idaho craftsmen and loggers, who possessed work experience in trades and who, as Local Experienced Men (LEMs), could train and supervise the generally unskilled young men at CCC camps. It meant getting back to work at a time when unemployment was at a national all-time high. Military officers facing layoffs were pleased to be reinstated to provide oversight and discipline for the enrollees at CCC camps. Small business owners and farmers who supplied the many camps eventually became strong supporters of the program. Out-of-work teachers coached weekend students toward literacy and perhaps a high school diploma. Supervisors, medical personnel and service providers—the CCC economic stimulus reached deep into local communities and economies, offering steady work during a decade of economic turmoil.

CCC enrollees and employees may not have known what “conservation” meant, but everyone knew that the forest resources were in deplorable condition, destroyed by massive overcutting, stream degradation, fire, insects and disease. Franklin D. Roosevelt made forest conservation a top priority when he created the CCC. The Forest Service, just 25 years old and short of manpower, suddenly acquired hundreds of thousands of strong young men who

could be trained and employed to complete forest management projects. The CCC not only transformed forests, it transformed the Forest Service into the modern institution it is today, expanding its mission and shaping its policies. No longer merely the custodians of the forest, the Forest Service became its managers. The same infusion of manpower transformed state and national parks, soil conservation efforts and land reclamation.

Because 39 percent of Idaho land was managed as national forest, Idaho provided a unique laboratory in which to apply the techniques of forest management and conservation. Of the 50 states, Idaho had the largest proportion of its land in the national forest system and had the second largest number of CCC camps in the nation (California, a much larger state with a larger population, was first). Federally funded CCC work programs in Idaho built fire lookouts, trails, roads, structures, and parks, fought fires and blister rust, planted trees and strung thousands of miles of backcountry telephone lines.

The incredible influx of manpower of the CCC, suddenly arriving in Idaho in 1933, helped restore a vigorous forest to the state. Forests devastated by the 1910, 1931, and 1934 fires and overcut by the timber industry were replanted by the CCC; forest fires were greatly reduced, giving forests the opportunity to regenerate; and rapidly spreading tree diseases were slowed. CCC-built roads opened access to forests for firefighting and also served recreationists, rural residents, and private businesses.

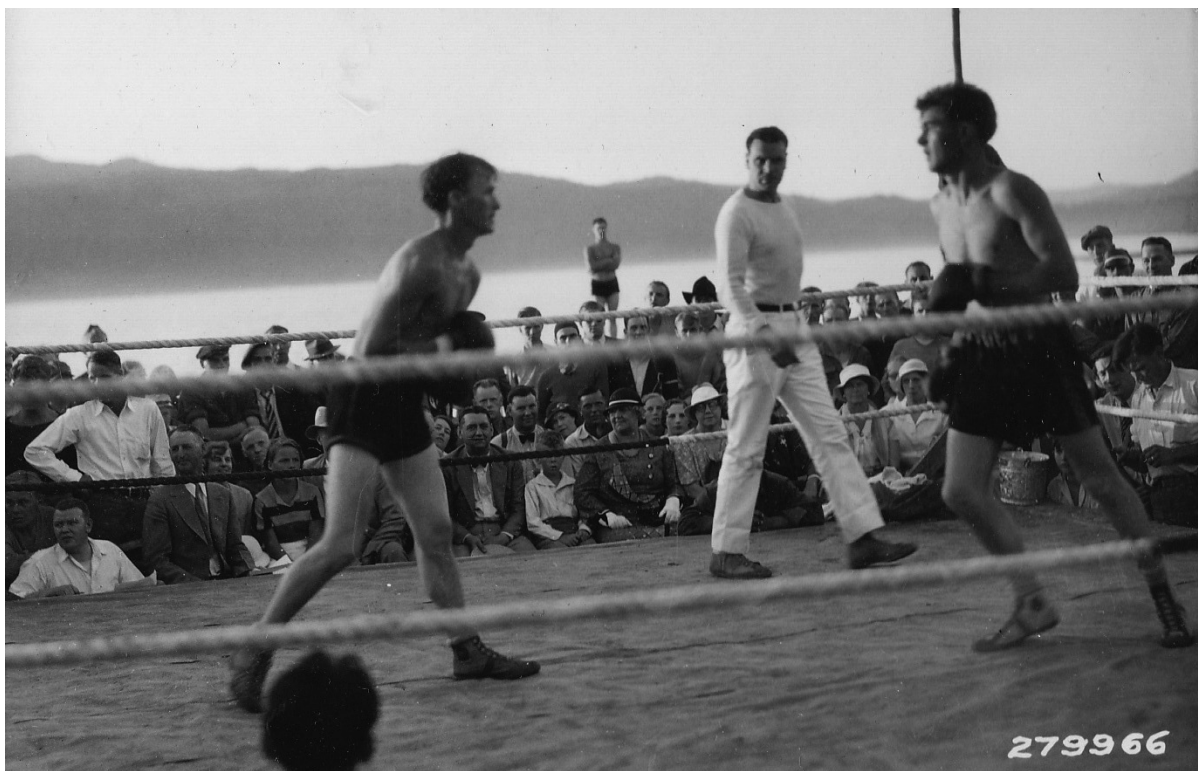
The CCC also had direct and diverse impact on local communities and economies, which leads us to some of our most productive sources of local history--newspapers. McCall Public Library’s quiet backroom houses a fine collection of materials about McCall and Valley County, including paper versions of the Cascade News and the Payette Lakes Star newspapers. In communities like Cascade and McCall, CCC and other New Deal projects were front-page news for most of the decade. State and national news mingles with CCC recruitment notices, fire reports, project updates, reports on seasonal camp movement, and community-camp sponsored events, such as the CCC-McCall Summer Carnival.

The amount spent on food and supplies infused cash into local economies. An article in the Nov. 9, 1935, edition of the *Sandpoint Daily Bulletin* reported that the total amount of CCC payroll and supplies for Idaho at the peak of CCC activity was \$7.5 million, the equivalent of \$130 million in 2014 dollars. The money spent locally was a bonanza for local farms and ranches, and won over many merchants suspicious of F.D.R.’s alleged “socialist” experiments. According to the Moscow *Daily News Review* of January 23, 1936, seven firms in the Lewiston CCC District received food contracts for February totaling \$40,098.

For some towns, however, the coming of the CCC brought an unwelcome influx of young outsiders who often outnumbered the inhabitants. The resulting relationship between local towns and CCC boys was not always smooth. Indian enrollees worked on tribal projects and could live at home. But new federal non-discrimination policies for black enrollees encountered white resistance. Idaho originally had sixteen camps with African American enrollees. All served as kitchen helpers. At Camp Osborne Springs, F-94,

(See CCC, Page 8)





Boxing at the CCC carnival at McCall, Idaho. For more than a decade, news of CCC activities and other New Deal projects and programs often were front-page news in local newspapers. Photo by K.D. Swan, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.

African American enrollees who complained about harassment in camp and in the town of Ashton were dismissed from the CCC after an Army investigation. The *Spokesman-Review* headed its October 3, 1933, report, “Negroes Go to Virginia.” In the article, Assistant CCC Director Charles Taylor noted, “all of the colored enrollees are being returned to the Corps Areas of origin.”

Within camps, ethnic-racial relations challenged deep prejudices in enrollees and supervisors. As one white CCC enrollee related in an oral interview, “You had to take ‘em and treat ‘em like a white person.” In the Bovill CCC Camp, African Americans were not allowed to go into town on the weekends. When enrollees were taken to Moscow they could not leave the Moscow CCC camp site. An African American enrollee in the Bovill camp with previous experience as a boxer refused to box whites at the Bovill camp, aware of problems he might have if he won.

Generally, few problems between CCC enrollees and Idaho communities erupted over the decade, and we find that CCC enrollees from elsewhere often stayed on or returned after their term was up, got jobs with the Forest Service or local businesses, and married local women. Our continued research of Idaho newspapers and personal histories will undoubtedly uncover many more connections between the CCC and Idaho communities, made easier by the number of local efforts to digitize their newspaper collections. We are grateful for the extraordinary efforts made by local communities to discover and preserve their

history, and for their willingness to share those sources with historians and the wider public.

A wealth of documentation about the CCC was produced in the 1930s through government’s aggressive promotional campaigns employing newspapers, photography, film, and radio. Once implemented, every agency involved generated periodic reports. Newspapers large and small picked up national stories and wrote their own local coverage, while enrollees carried small lightweight Kodak cameras, kept simple diaries and wrote letters home about their experience. However, after the nation entered World War II and New Deal programs were ended, not much was written about the CCC until the 1980s, when intensive research and oral history initiatives with CCC survivors took place in recognition of their fiftieth anniversary.

We are entering a critical moment in the preservation of resources related to the CCC in Idaho. Although very few CCC enrollees and employees are still living, Forest Service employees, historians, CCC alumni volunteers, and history society workers who collected materials and conducted interviews with participants are still active, although many are approaching retirement. Their knowledge could be lost. The preservation of their work on the CCC is urgent because of drastic funding cuts to all government agencies, especially evident in the little time available to forest historians, archaeologists and architectural historians to store and work with archival material.

Many of the significant issues challenging the nation in the 1930s are still topics of national debate

## Do you have photos or stories about the CCC in Idaho?

With the support of an Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship, Patricia Hart and Ivar Nelson have been traveling throughout Idaho visiting people, libraries, and archives large and small to research stories of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Idaho. They have gathered more than 200 personal accounts of CCC enrollees and staff at Idaho camps, and they say they would be delighted to get more.

A recent talk at the University of Idaho about their research attracted an audience of nearly 200, and Hart and Nelson say they welcome other invitations for them to speak elsewhere in Idaho about the CCC or the CCC digital portal.

“We keep running into people who have photographs, letters, stories, and diaries about the CCC in Idaho,” Hart says. “Thus far, we have arranged for them to be donated to the U of I library at the owners’ request.”

Hart and Nelson look forward to hearing from anyone who has information about a CCC enrollee or staff member who was at a CCC camp in Idaho. They can be contacted at [psh@uidaho.edu](mailto:psh@uidaho.edu) or [ivar@moscow.com](mailto:ivar@moscow.com).

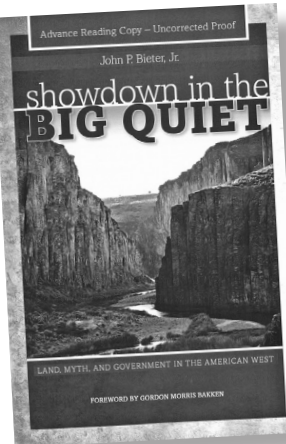
today, including conflict over control and best use of public lands; debate over wilderness preservation and commercial development; public policy toward western lands and forest management; forest fire policy; job training and education of youth; and the role of outdoor recreation in society. In various ways, the CCC dealt with all of these and shed light on public policy today.

Fortunately, there is a renewal of interest in these topics and dedicated history conservationists throughout the state and the region committed to sharing their knowledge and collections digitally with the public. We look forward to our continued collaboration with them and with the University of Idaho Library as the *CCC in Idaho Forests Digital Portal* becomes a resource for all to share. ♦

Patricia Hart and Ivar Nelson are the authors of *Mining Town: The Photographic Record of T.N. Barnard and Nellie Stockbridge from the Coeur d’Alenes* (University of Washington Press, 1993).

## NEWS (Continued from Page 3)

The book explores the history and mythology of the Old West as lived and told in Owyhee County, Idaho, the largest and least inhabited area in the lower 48 states, and thus known as “The Big Quiet.”



From violent mine wars of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary environmental disputes, people in the West have battled over the role of government and notions of their American identity in determining the question of who decides how to use the arid land of the West, and how it influences Western identity. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century,

Frederick Jackson Turner argued that interactions on the Old West frontier formed American characteristics of rugged individualism, democracy, aggression, and innovation. While “New” Western historians of the late-1970s attempted to debunk Turner’s theory, the myths of the Old West prevail, as people crave identity offered in Western themed novels, films, and tourism—more than they crave historical facts. *Showdown in the Big Quiet* demonstrates how the “Old West” speaks to the

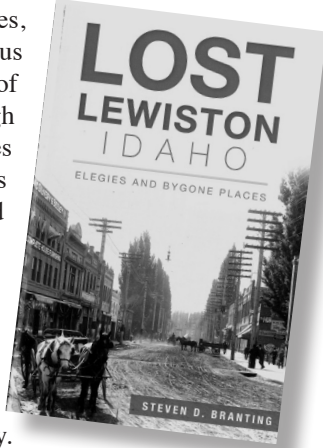
“New,” and how the power of Western mythology moved from background to central character in the evolving narrative. The book explores 19<sup>th</sup> century range wars, the story of Claude Dallas, the controversy over the Saylor Creek Bombing Range, the establishment of the Owyhee Canyonlands, and more. Bieter is co-director of BSU’s Center for Basque Studies and author of *An Enduring Legacy: A History of the Basques in Idaho*. *Showdown* is available for purchase online at [www.ttupres.org](http://www.ttupres.org).

### Three new histories of Lewiston published

Lewiston historian Steven D. Branting has published three new books through The History Press that explore the rich past of Lewiston, Idaho. The first, *Lost Lewiston, Idaho: Elegies and Bygone Places*, explores the architecture of historic structures and places in Lewiston that today are all but forgotten due to new development, urban renewal, and other efforts in the name of progress. The book is well illustrated with photos of buildings and places and those individuals responsible for constructing them or tearing them down. The second book, *Hidden History of Lewiston, Idaho* explores the lesser-known events that had a large impact on the history of the town.

A diverse collection of tales, the book tells the humorous and harrowing history of the community through a series of brief stories of people and incidents of the town. The third book, *Historic Firsts of Lewiston, Idaho* is a collection of stories of unprecedented events, accolades, and incidents in Lewiston from its founding to present day.

All three books are available from The History Press at [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net).



### New volume of Nez Perce stories published

Lewis-Clark State College Nez Perce Language Program announces publication of *hey’úuxchacwal kaapalxc: Ten Nez Perce Stories from Archie and Mary Phinney*, edited by Harold D. Crook and Michael B. Wasson. Born in 1903 near Culdesac, Idaho, ethnographer Archie Phinney collected many stories in the Nez Perce language early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, publishing some in anthropological journals

(See NEWS, Page 9)



GRANTS  
(Continued from Page 6)

**Patty Bolinger, William Thomas Middle School, American Falls,** received **\$1,000** to support a field trip to Boise for her government class. She notes that a majority of the students have never been to Boise. She and other teachers and counselors will teach about the history of the capitol and the levels of government prior to the field trip.

**Deloris Davisson, The Museum of Winchester History, Winchester,** was awarded **\$1,000** to work with local schools in the study of Idaho history. They will help students collect stories from their families, focusing on diverse heritages, values, and changes in their communities in the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The museum will prepare a temporary exhibit for the museum and host an all-day hands-on rendezvous for students in May.

**Kara Donnelly, Rendezvous Upper Elementary School, Driggs,** was awarded **\$700** to improve access to primary sources on the internet while teaching research skills to her students. The small school shares outdated textbooks between classrooms and has limited access to computer labs. The access to classroom technology will allow students to conduct their own research, work in groups, and create presentations.

**Susan Dransfield, Mary McPherson Elementary, Meridian,** was awarded **\$752** to enhance study of American history. She will collaborate with the librarian to purchase new resource materials. Students will analyze historical artifacts, read primary texts, and more.

**Julie Hahn, The Treasure Valley Family YMCA, Boise,** received **\$750** to support their Government Program designed to help students learn about and participate in state government. Over 300 students learn how to be active citizens through a nine-month, hands-on experience, exploring the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Idaho state government.



Michelle Harmon

makes the papers more accessible to students and alumni.

**Luke Waldron, Malad Middle School, Malad,** received **\$1,000** to publish a compilation of his students' research about historic sites in Malad and surrounding towns. The book will be made available to local community members and sold at the Malad Valley Welsh Festival.

**Diane Williams, Anser Public Charter School, Garden City,** received **\$1,000** to support a collaborative project for her students and recent refugee students designed to create better understandings of new cultures and ideas.

Planning Grants:

The **Foote Park Project, Boise,** received **\$250** to host a meeting to explore future interpretive plans at the site of the Mary Hallock Foote home. Planners hope the meeting will help form a nonprofit organization for continued interpretation of the site. **Janet Worthington** was the project director.

The **Idaho Potato Museum, Blackfoot,** received **\$1,000** to involve professional public historians from TAG (Boise) to help draft an interpretive plan for the redesign of the museum's exhibits. **Tish Dahmen** was the project director.

**Michelle Harmon, Borah High School, Boise,** was awarded **\$750** to continue developing on-line searchable access to decades of back issues of the school newspaper. The digitization of the school newspapers allow students easier access to research story ideas, historical patterns, and trends, and

The **Nez Perce County Historical Society, Lewiston,** was awarded **\$700** to support three meetings with scholars and the filmmaker to discuss the feasibility and details related to producing a documentary on the history of the Chinese community in Lewiston, Idaho. **Lyle Wirtanen** was the project director.

The **Roxy Project, Lewiston,** was awarded **\$750** to support attendance for two individuals to attend a national conference on the restoration of historic theaters, and bring back information on how to restore a Lewiston downtown theater as a venue for lectures, performances, film festivals, and other humanities events and gatherings. Project Directors were **Jan Johnson and Mike Feeney**.

The **Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood,** received **\$964** to bring in scholars to help them review their exhibits and develop a strategic plan for enhancing the displays telling the story of the Camas Prairie history and culture. The project director was **Mary Schmidt**.

The **Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Boise,** received **\$1,000** to support a meeting with scholars near the ghost town of Bayhorse (near Challis) to do some oral histories and develop a plan for a short interpretive documentary. **Evelyn Mason** was the project director.

The Next Deadline for IHC Grants:

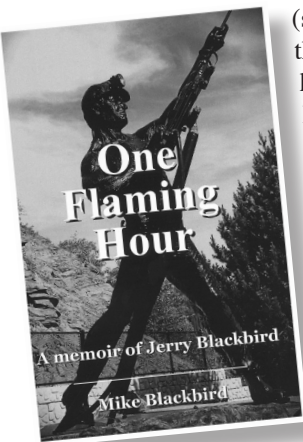
The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2015**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before completing proposals. Grant guidelines and application instructions are available on IHC's website at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org), or by calling 208-345-5346. ♦

NEWS  
(Continued from Page 8)

at Columbia University and elsewhere. He earned a B.A. in anthropology at the University of Kansas in 1926 and later studied anthropology in the Soviet Union in the 1930s. This new, slim volume, funded in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, offers a bilingual transcription and free translations of just 10 of the stories Phinney collected, including stories about "Coyote and Bull," "Cottontail Boy and Thunderer," "Coyote and Monster," and more. Editor Harold Crook, a teacher of the Nez Perce language at LCSC, says these 10 stories are a small sample of the many stories the Phinneys recorded, and he hopes to compile more bilingual editions for use in Nez Perce language classes at LCSC. For more information, contact Harold D. Crook at [hcrook@lcsc.edu](mailto:hcrook@lcsc.edu).

Memoir of 70s-era Idaho legislator published

Ridenbaugh Press announces publication of *One Flaming Hour: A Memoir of Jerry Blackbird*, by his brother Mike Blackbird. Jerry Blackbird was a Vietnam War veteran, Kellogg, Idaho, miner, and Idaho State Senator before his untimely death in a helicopter crash in 1979. While in Vietnam, Jerry flew 1500 helicopter rescue missions in one year. The memoir weaves through the narrative many letters Jerry wrote home during the war, as well as other bits of writing



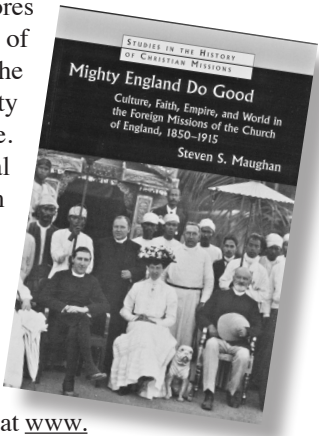
(stories, poems, journals) that he wrote throughout his life. An up-and-coming leader with a clear political future, Jerry was elected to the State Senate in the late-1970s, and the memoir offers a compelling look at government and politics through the eyes of a blue-collar worker and champion of causes benefiting the working man. The title of the

book comes from a quote by Jack London: "Better to drink life in one flaming hour and reel before the sun than sip pale years and cower before oblivion." Author Mike Blackbird also was an Idaho State Senator, serving three terms from 1986-1992, and is now retired in Post Falls. The book is available for purchase online at [www.ridenbaugh.com](http://www.ridenbaugh.com).

C of I historian publishes new book on 19th century missionaries

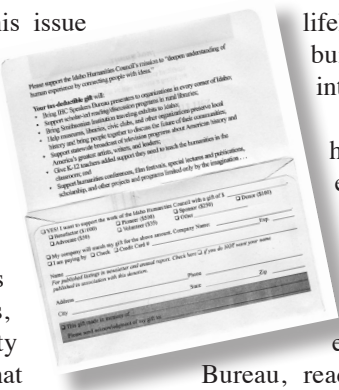
Steven Maughan, College of Idaho professor of history, has just published *Mighty England Do Good:*

*Culture, Faith, Empire, and World in the Foreign Missions of the Church of England, 1850-1915*. Supported in part by an IHC Research Fellowship, Maughan used his IHC grant to travel to archives and special collections in London and elsewhere to complete his research. The book explores the history of British Christian foreign missions, and the complex story of British colonial expansion throughout the world. Maughan explores the competing visions of the relationship of the expansion of Christianity and the British Empire. Praised as a "monumental study" and "an indispensable starting point" for study in British missionary history, the book is available from Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, at [www.eerdmans.com](http://www.eerdmans.com). ♦



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some of the best writers, historians, and journalists writing in the world today, and many other timely programs.

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## IHC summer teacher institute to explore the Harlem Renaissance

Idaho teachers of all grades and disciplines are invited to apply to attend the Idaho Humanities Council's 2015 weeklong summer institute on **the literature, art, and music of "The Harlem Renaissance," scheduled for July 12-17, 2015**, at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. Successful applicants will receive lodging and meals, texts, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Those traveling more than 250 miles one way may be eligible for a modest travel stipend. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply. **The deadline for online applications is April 1.**

Supported by the IHC's Endowment for Humanities Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the interdisciplinary teacher institute will explore the explosion of African-American culture in New York City during the 1920s and 1930s that reverberated throughout American culture in literature, art, music, theater, and more during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Teachers will study works by novelist Zora Neale Hurston, poets James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes, jazz musicians Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, Louie Armstrong, artist Augusta Savage, performer Josephine Baker, and learn about some of the key social political ideas of the time.

The Harlem Renaissance promoted a new sense of racial consciousness, ethnic pride, black identity, and was more than simply an artistic movement. The Renaissance inspired social and political activism that



*This summer's institute will explore the music of Louie Armstrong and Duke Ellington, the poetry of Langston Hughes, the novels of Zora Neale Hurston, - and more.*

eventually flowered in the civil rights movement. The Harlem Renaissance helped America redefine how they saw African-Americans, as the Great Migration brought many more African Americans to relocate from the rural south to the urban north, expanding economic horizons, and inspiring thoughts of a more equal, cosmopolitan, and intellectual African American community of cultural innovators.

While inspiring new cultural innovations, the Harlem Renaissance at the same time fueled a rediscovery of African American folklore traditions, bolstering a greater sense of heritage and identity.

Presenting scholars so far include Florida International University English Professor Heather Russell (Miami), a Zora Neale Hurston scholar, Grammy Museum Director and music historian Robert Santelli (Los Angeles), and others.

In addition to attending daily lectures and panel discussions, participants will attend special evening keynote presentations, view documentaries and Hollywood films, attend Chautauqua presentations, and share ways of teaching the Harlem Renaissance in the classroom.

**The online application deadline is April 1, 2015.** Interested teachers must visit [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) to apply online, or contact the Idaho Humanities Council with other questions at (208) 345-5346, or [cindy@idahohumanities.org](mailto:cindy@idahohumanities.org). ❖

## Sawtooth Interpretive Association receives \$10,000 award

Congratulations to the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA) in Stanley for receiving the Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award, the state's highest honor for museums, historical societies, and interpretive organizations. Awarded annually by the Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT) the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS), and the Idaho Humanities Council (IHC), the Elsensohn Award is a pooled \$10,000 award (\$3,333 from each agency) to be used by the winning organization to continue its community educational and interpretive efforts.

In the past year, SIHA's board of directors and staff have unveiled new exhibits and continued restoration efforts at the Stanley Museum & Ice House, added new displays and interpretive programs at the Redfish Lake Visitor's Center, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a popular Forum & Lecture



Series, contributed to a growing oral history and photographic collection of the Sawtooth-Salmon River country, restored the Shaw Cabin in the Pioneer Park, and much more.

The IHC, ISHS, and IHT annually selects an Idaho museum or interpretive association that has demonstrated leadership in working collaboratively with other community partners to create a variety of programs to educate a diverse public audience. SIHA is well deserving of this award.

"Although Stanley is a small community, the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association has demonstrated what can be accomplished by a determined group of folks through partnership," said Rick Ardinger, Executive Director of the Idaho Humanities Council. "The IHC has supported a summer lecture series and other good humanities projects and programs over the years, and this award is made in recognition of that good work."

A formal award ceremony will be held in June 2015 at the Redfish Lake Visitor's Center. ❖

## Series to explore the experience of Vietnam War veterans

In commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, the IHC and Ada Community Library are partnering on "Read Me Treasure Valley," the annual southwest Idaho program that encourages communitywide reading of the same book. This year's selection is *Fatal Light*, a spare but powerful novel about Vietnam by veteran Richard Currey. In addition to the novel, Read Me Treasure Valley activities will include book discussions about *Fatal Light* at area libraries, several lectures about the Vietnam War, a writing workshop, and the showing of a documentary film.



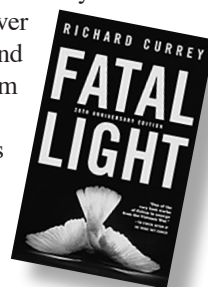
Published in 1988, *Fatal Light* was praised by such writers as Philip Caputo, Jim Harrison, Tim O'Brien, and other writers as a groundbreaking novel and an elegy for an America torn apart by the experience of the War. Currey spent four years in Vietnam as a medic with the Marines. The book was reprinted in a commemorative

anniversary edition with a new introduction by the author. Currey, who resides in Washington, D.C., often teaches writing workshops to veterans.

Author of several novels and a collection of stories, Currey will visit Boise on March 18, to read from and talk about his book, and he will lead a writing workshop for veterans and others at The Cabin on the following day.

Drafted in 1968, Currey joined the Navy in an effort to avoid the Army infantry. However the Navy trained him as a medic and for jungle warfare, and placed him with the Marines.

In preparation for Currey's presentation, "Read Me Treasure Valley" will offer other programming about the Vietnam War for veterans, their families, and the general public, including three public lectures about Vietnam and the war at Boise Public Library's Hayes Auditorium by Boise State University History Professors Shelton Woods and David Walker on



February 12, 18, and 19. In addition, area libraries will host several discussions of *Fatal Light*, moderated by noted Boise writer Alan Heathcock.

The program will culminate with a March 30 showing at Boise's Egyptian Theater of the documentary film *Bravo: Common Men, Uncommon Valor*, about the experience of young U.S. Marines at the 1968 siege of Khe Sanh, produced by Boiseans Ken and Betty Rogers. The film showing is a project in partnership with the Idaho State Supreme Court Alternative Justice Program.

**For more information and a complete schedule of activities for Read Me Treasure Valley, visit the Idaho Humanities Council website at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org).**

Read Me Treasure Valley is supported in part by the Idaho Humanities Council through a special grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in partnership with the Ada Community Library, The Cabin, the Boise Veterans Administration Hospital, Idaho Supreme Court Alternative Justice Program, and several veterans organizations. ❖

## New NEH publishing grants to promote "popular" scholarship

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announces a new grant opportunity that encourages the publication of nonfiction books of general interest and appeal.

The new NEH Public Scholar awards support well-researched books in the humanities conceived and written to reach a broad readership. Books supported through this program might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a

synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic. Most importantly, they should open up important and appealing subjects for wider audiences by presenting significant humanities topics in a way that is accessible to general readers.

The NEH Public Scholar program represents a long-term commitment at NEH to encourage scholarship in the humanities for general audiences. The grant program forms part of a new agency-wide initiative, *The Common*

*Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, which seeks to demonstrate and enhance the role and significance of the humanities and humanities scholarship in public life.

The Public Scholar program is open to both independent scholars and individuals affiliated with scholarly institutions. It offers a stipend of \$4,200 per month for a period of six to twelve months. The maximum stipend is \$50,400 for a twelve-month period. For more information, see [www.NEH.gov](http://www.NEH.gov). ❖



IHC warmly thanks Idaho Humanities Council Donors!

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Throughout the state, IHC programs spark conversations that illuminate and reflect upon human experience in an atmosphere of empathy and critical respect, while supporting the education and research that make such discussions productive. These events help us draw lessons from the past and present to inform our actions and shape a promising future for generations to come.

Chuck Guilford, Boise



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## Award-winning writer Jamie Ford to speak in Twin Falls, April 30

Novelist Jamie Ford, author of the national bestseller *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, will be the featured speaker in a special humanities dinner and lecture in Twin Falls on Thursday evening, April 30, at the city's historic Turf Club on Falls Avenue, near the College of Southern Idaho.

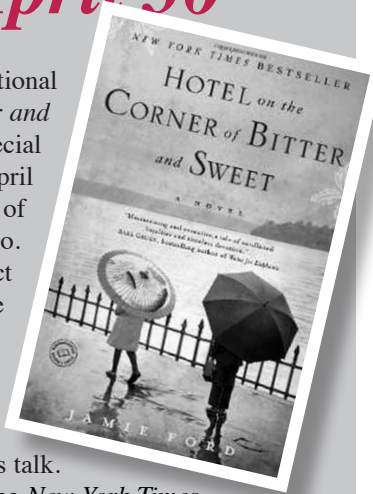
*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* explores age-old conflict between father and son, the sadness of relocation of Japanese Americans from the Seattle area to internment camps during World War II, and the depths of longing and love in an eruptive time in American history.

Ford's most recent novel, entitled *Songs of Willow Frost* (2013), examines similar themes, which will be the subject of his talk.

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, spent two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list and went on to win the 2010 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. His work has been translated into 34 languages.

Ford's lecture will be held at Twin Falls' historic Turf Club on Falls Avenue, April 30, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each and include dinner and the lecture.

For ticket information, contact College of Southern Idaho History Professor Russ Tremayne at [rtremayne@csi.edu](mailto:rtremayne@csi.edu) or 208-732-6885.



## THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR IHC GRANTS

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grants is **September 15, 2015**. IHC staff strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact IHC staff to discuss project ideas before drafting proposals. Grant guidelines are available on IHC's website at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org), or by calling **208-345-5346**.

## What Are You Reading?

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

**Reader:** Lin Tull Cannell

**Occupation:** Author and historian. Retired administrative analyst, Orofino

**Book:** *Frontier History Along Idaho's Clearwater River: Pioneers, Miners & Lumberjacks* by John Bradbury



This book champions the human element of Idaho's past. As I read, I am meeting a few *Nimiipuu*, some gold miners, a number of Chinese people looking to turn a profit before going back home, criminals bent on

stealing and vigilantes bent on stopping them, permanently. There are river boaters, farming families, politicians, Mormons and loggers and, since these divergent people often don't see eye-to-eye, I marvel at the resilient human spirit in all.

When I first began reading this book I thought that it might come up short of documented history, since it has neither source notes nor index. But there is a bibliography, the author has a straight-up writing style, and I am learning much I did not know. Bradbury treats his subjects with due diligence and, notwithstanding its title, the stories cover Idaho's genesis in the interior Northwest in concert with national events. I am not only enjoying the read, but believe this book will wake up the history lover in us all and inspire us to learn more.

**Reader:** Jennifer Attebery

**Occupation:** Professor of English and Chair, Dept. of English and Philosophy, Idaho State University, Pocatello

**Book:** *Miss Lost Nation* by Bethany Shultz Hurst



Schultz Hurst won the 2013 Robert Dana-Anhinga Prize for Poetry with this volume of witty, thought-provoking works. Her poems are brief but always meaty--at the same time that they make you smile, you experience a moment of aha!

or ouch! Schultz Hurst's poem's reflect on ordinary moments and the ethical issues presented to us daily, in our relationships with parents whom we now literally look down upon, our response to the youth waving a roadside fast food advertisement, or the way we internalize cultural constructions of gender. Throughout, the Western landscape is a subtle backdrop.

**Reader:** Bruce Ballenger

**Occupation:** Professor of English, Boise State University

**Book:** *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West* by Wallace Stegner



When I first moved to the Northern Rockies from New England nearly thirty years ago, I remember an afternoon in late spring that first year when I finally found the words that named a vague discomfort I felt living here. We were living in

Montana at the time, and driving south toward Yellowstone. "I find this place intimidating," I said to Karen. "Everything is just too big. It's a picture that's too big to frame in my head." Many years later, after my mother-in-law—a woman who had lived her entire life in Connecticut---visited us in Boise, we heard what she said about the landscape here: "It looks like somebody bombed the place." This week I rediscovered Wallace Stegner's explanation for all of this when I returned to his essay collection *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West*. He writes that to live in the West, you "just have to get over the color green." He also notes that early Eastern writers lacked the palate for describing what they encountered in this country, and could only find the words for what seemed absent. Few writers write better than Stegner about what they missed, and this essay collection remains the work of Western literature that most opened my eyes.