

IHC awards \$72,658 in grants

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$72,658 in grants to organizations and individuals at its October board meeting in Boise. Thirty-two awards include 20 grants for public humanities programs, five Research Fellowships, six Teacher Incentive Grants, and one Planning Grant. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Idaho Humanities Council Education Endowment. The following projects were funded:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Global Lounge Incorporated, Boise, was awarded \$3,000 to support "The World Village Fest," a three-day Arts and Humanities event that will host numerous multi-national performing groups representing Idaho's variety of cultures. This dance, music, storytelling, poetry, film, and food event showcases the community's expanding blend of multicultural arts and humanities activities. The project director is **Dayo Ayodele**.



Northern Pacific Depot Foundation, Wallace, was awarded \$1,780 to help fund an exhibit about women who came to Wallace as political activists, fortune seekers, and entrepreneurs, who advocated for schools, churches, and parks, helping make the community a better place for families. The project director is **Shauna Hillman**.

Boundary County Historical Society, Bonners Ferry, received \$2,000 to develop several interpretive panels for an exhibit on area agricultural history inside and outside the museum, featuring farm equipment and implements, photos, and more. The project director is **Dottie D Gray**.

City Club of Boise, Boise, was awarded \$4,000 for its 2018 series of monthly forums on issues of public concern. City Club of Boise strives for a forum of civil discourse about wide ranging issues exploring politics, religion, refugee resettlement, urban growth, homelessness, education, public health, and more. The forums are broadcast on Boise State Public Radio. The project director is **Danielle Trujillo**.

Center for Civic Education, Boise, received \$4,380 to help support a three-day seminar for Idaho social studies teachers on "Freedom of the Press in Practice, Law, and History." The seminar will be held in Boise February 8-10, 2018, and will explore issues press from the Colonial Era to the present. The project director is **Troy Hamilton**.

Community Library Network, Hayden, received \$3,075 for support of the 2018 "North Idaho Reads" program, featuring the novel *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*. Author Kelli Estes will speak in several local libraries in April 2018 about the inspirations for her book and how she became a writer. The series will include a series of programs exploring the little-known history of Chinese people living in the Northwest 150 years ago. The project director is **Twylla Rehder**.



Author Kelli Estes will visit north Idaho libraries.

Mountain Home Arts Council, Mountain Home, was awarded \$974 to host a Living Voices program entitled "The Right to Dream," about the struggle and sacrifice for civil rights in America. Held in February 2018, the program combines a dramatic solo performance with a montage of archival film and photos, and narration. Three school programs and a community performance are planned. The project director is **Chris DeVore**.

Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center, Salmon, received \$2,000 to help support a community exhibit that interprets the Lewis and Clark Expedition in an innovative way to retell the story of the expedition. The project director is **Lin Gray**.

Weippe Community Club, Weippe, was awarded \$1,500 to help fund the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre's "On the Road" performance of "Across the Divide" at the annual Weippe Camas Festival. The theater group will perform at three area schools as well. The performance explores the history of the

(See GRANTS, Page 5)

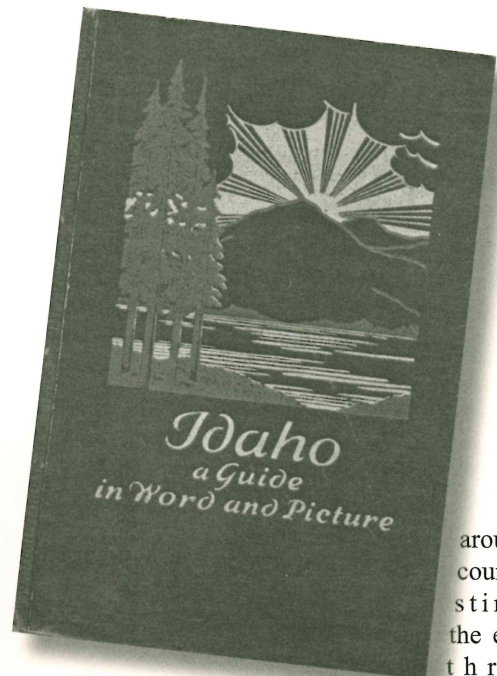
IDAHO Humanities

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Spring 2018

Placing Idaho, Against the Grain, in the Federal Writers' Project

By Jenny Emery Davidson

Editor's note: Eighty-one years ago, Caxton Printers of Caldwell, Idaho, published Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture, the first of the nation's "American Guide Series" books unveiled during the Great Depression as part of the Works Progress Administration's Federal Writers' Project (FWP) guidebooks to the states. How the guidebook to Idaho, published in 1937, became the first of the 48 state guides in the national series (and how the Idaho guide departed from the FWP's guidelines for how the books were to be put together) is a fascinating story. As part of a series of talks in 2017 hosted by the City of Boise Arts and History Committee commemorating the 80th anniversary of a visit to Idaho by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1937, Idaho Humanities Council Chair Jenny Emery Davidson offered a presentation about the unique Idaho guidebook, and the individual who put it together. We asked Jenny to adapt her lecture for this issue of Idaho Humanities.



But the great fact was the land itself," wrote Willa Cather in her 1913 novel, *O Pioneers!*, set on the frontier of the Nebraska prairie. Much of American literature, from the earliest exploration writing through contemporary works, has grappled with that "great fact" and how to inscribe individual and national narratives on it. During the New Deal era of the 1930s, this kind of literary place-making was done quite deliberately through the Federal Writers' Project (FWP). The FWP initiated a massive effort to celebrate the national landscape and map it with a harmonious cultural narrative, so that a country strained by economic strife would be fortified and unified through a rhetorical exercise.

But Idaho disrupted the national plan.

In response to the Great Depression, when as many as 25 percent of Americans could not find jobs, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration initiated the New Deal, a collection of federal domestic programs. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), the largest of the New Deal agencies, not only advanced physical infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges, across the country; it also launched cultural projects in the arts, theater, music, and literature, providing jobs for approximately 40,000 unemployed artists. The FWP focused on creating work for writers, historians, teachers, librarians, and other white-collar workers, in every state of the nation.

In addition to the pragmatic and economic function of providing jobs, the FWP outlined projects that could fortify America's sense of identity. This is perhaps most notable in the American Guide Series, the primary endeavor of the FWP. The goal was to create the first indigenous series of guidebooks for the nation in its entirety, state by state. The national scope of the project would provide jobs for writers across the country. The writers in each state, under the management of a state director, would follow a template established by the central FWP office, filling in the blanks, so to speak, with the historic, natural, and cultural sites for their respective states. It was a seemingly straightforward writing task in an informational vein, a task that could be accomplished, presumably, with consistency by writers of varied talent across a broad geographical area.

One intended outcome of the guidebooks would be that Americans would get in their cars, drive

around the country, and stimulate the economy through invigorated tourism. Other outcomes might be less explicit but at least as significant. The guidebooks could encourage civic pride, rallying people around the nation's cultural riches at a time when despondency was all too evident. The guidebooks could reinforce America as *America*, organizing the landscape around a collection of ideals and values as certain kinds of sites, landscapes, and historical moments were selected, and others remained un-noted and invisible. As a federal project, the guidebooks claimed an authenticity and a comprehensiveness that could be particularly compelling at a time of economic and social displacement. The point of a guidebook, after all, is to help one navigate new territory, and the point of view assumes a kind of entitlement: *You can go here. Look at this.*

The American Guide Series, then, would encourage Americans to *see America* and to celebrate a particular vision of it as a common bond. In 1941, President Roosevelt himself declared:

All [of the guidebooks] were compiled and written on the spot by men and women who knew the particular locale in all its richness, with the result that the books clearly and graphically portray not only the ideals and traditions shared by all Americans but also the diverse local patterns of thought and behavior that distinguish our free and democratic way of life. . . . At this time of crisis, when every student needs to know what America is and what it stands for, educators everywhere should be aware of the invaluable contribution that has been made by the American Guide Series. (Bold 233)

Similarly, the historian Bernard DeVoto wrote in *Harper's Magazine*, "The guidebooks are an educational force and even a patriotic force, an honorable addition to our awareness of ourselves and of our country" (Bold 211). Both statements indicate that the American Guide Series not only provided practical instructions on how to travel the country, from east to west; it also provided ideological instructions on how to conceive of the country.

The Idaho guidebook, however, went a different direction.

Idaho was a young state in the 1930s, still hazy in the shadow of the frontier, and the guide to Idaho was put under the direction of a bold writer with real

(See WRITERS, Page 4)

The awesome power of the humanities

By David Pettyjohn

I am a firm believer in the awesome power of the humanities to change one's life. The study of history, literature, and the other disciplines can change one's perspective, introduce new cultures and ideas, and allow someone to see the world through another person's eyes. I have witnessed this first hand in libraries, museums, and communities. Recently, the humanities have changed my life in a more physical way— they brought me to Idaho from Oklahoma.

On January 10, I became the new executive director of the Idaho Humanities Council. I am honored to assume the reigns and thankful for Rick Ardinger's invaluable assistance and advice during the transition. His years of tireless dedication and stewardship have resulted in a council known nationwide for its excellence in humanities programming. I am also grateful for the warm



welcome and support I have received from the Board and staff. I walk into a council with a strong reputation and solid foundation and I am thankful for this amazing opportunity to lead it in its next chapter.

In the weeks and months ahead I will be traveling the state to meet the individuals and organizations that make our work possible— libraries that host speakers, museums that host a MoMS exhibit, teachers that participate in a Teacher's Institute, and the audience members who participate in funded programs. I have a lot to learn about my new home state and I am eager to begin that journey.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." I am honored to have that chance by working for an organization that demonstrates the power of the humanities and improves the lives of Idahoans every day. ❖

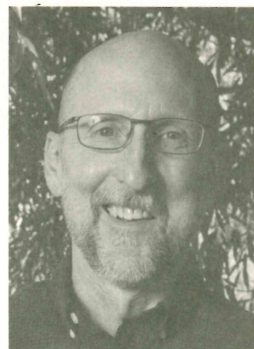
Three new members join Idaho Humanities Council board



Tamara Ansotegui



Carolyn González



Bill Manny

The Board of Directors of the Idaho Humanities Council elected three new members from southwest Idaho to its 19-member board last fall. The new members will serve three-year terms and attend their first meeting in February 2018.

Tamara Ansotegui (Boise) teaches social studies to middle and high school students at Basin School District in Idaho City. She holds degrees from Rutgers (ABD, geography), Cornell University (MLA, landscape architecture), and Boise State University (B.A., English). She taught graduate and undergraduate students in landscape architecture and environmental planning at Utah State University for four years, and a variety of courses in cultural geography, landscape architecture, and urban design theory at Rutgers, Cornell, and the University of Idaho, including a course in architectural history as a Fulbright Fellow to the Czech Republic. She is currently a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for the City of Boise.

Carolyn González (Caldwell) is an Assistant Professor of Modern Foreign Languages at the College of Idaho, where she has taught since 2015. She holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a B.A. from Roanoke College. Her academic work explores the fields of women's studies, Hispanic languages

and literatures, and Latin American and Caribbean studies. As a fairly new resident of Idaho, she would like to explore opportunities to foster more conversations and public programs about Idaho's growing multicultural heritage.

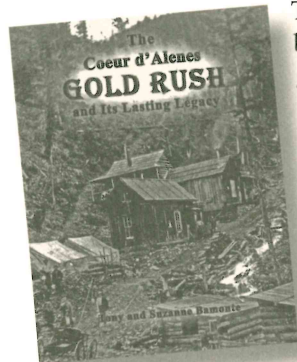
Bill Manny (Boise) is Community Engagement Editor for the *Idaho Statesman*. He's been a reporter, editor, or opinion writer since graduating with a degree in journalism from the University of Oregon in 1981. He has been with the *Idaho Statesman* since 2000. He is a board member and former President of the City Club of Boise, where he oversaw the City Club's yearlong Civility Initiative in 2016, which culminated in a "civility summit" that brought together journalists, government officials, and many other civic and community activists to explore ways to address issues of public concern through civil discourse. He is involved in helping plan a Civic Literacy Conference with Idaho Public Television, Boise State University, and other partners in the spring of 2018.

The IHC board is comprised of academic, public, and at-large members representing all regions of the state (N, SW, and SE). Four members are appointed by the governor. Terms are three years, renewable once. Several members rotate off the board each fall as terms expire and new members are elected. ❖

News & Opportunities

New book on Coeur d'Alene mining history

Tornado Creek Publications announces publication of *The Coeur d'Alenes Gold Rush and Its Lasting Legacy* by Tony and Suzanne Bamonte. The book explores the 1883-1884 gold rush that drew thousands of fortune seekers to a remote area of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest of northern Idaho. The rush marked the beginning of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, known locally as the Silver Valley, and the mineral wealth became the economic backbone of the Inland Northwest. It chronicles the hastily-built mining towns, the challenges miners faced, and the subsequent hard-rock mining of gold, silver, and other minerals. It explores the early days of the U. S. Forest Service, the work of the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps, and a logging

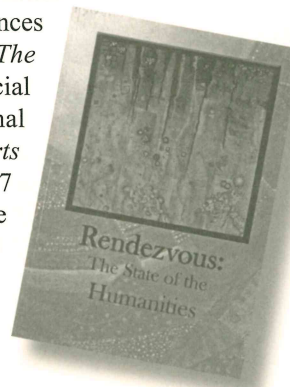


industry in pursuit of the largest remaining stands of coveted white pine. The large-format, 500-page hardcover volume features more than 500 photos and sells for \$44.99 (plus \$4 shipping), available for purchase online at www.tornadocreekPublications.com

industry in pursuit of the largest remaining stands of coveted white pine. The large-format, 500-page hardcover volume features more than 500 photos and sells for \$44.99 (plus \$4 shipping), available for purchase online at www.tornadocreekPublications.com

ISU Journal explores the humanities

Idaho State University announces publication of *Rendezvous: The State of the Humanities*, a special issue of the scholarly journal *Rendezvous: A Journal of Arts and Letters* (Spring-Fall 2017 edition). The 200-page volume features contributions by 33 academics on the evolving state of the humanities in higher education in the U.S. The book



(See NEWS, Page 10)

IDAHO Humanities COUNCIL

Spring 2018

Idaho Humanities is published two to three times a year by the Idaho Humanities Council

217 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 345-5346
Toll Free: (888) 345-5346
Fax: (208) 345-5347
www.idahohumanities.org

Board of Directors

Chair

Jenny Emery Davidson, Hailey

Vice Chair

Murray Feldman, Boise

Tamara Ansotegui, Boise
Amy Canfield, Lewiston
Trent Clark, Soda Springs
Susan Gibson, Boise
Carolyn González, Caldwell
Tim Hopkins, Idaho Falls
Jan Johnson, Lewiston
Margaret Johnson, Pocatello
Bill Manny, Boise
Jo Ann Nelson, Coeur d'Alene
Rocky Owens, Coeur d'Alene
Andrea Partington, Coeur d'Alene
Scott Slovic, Moscow
Russ Tremayne, Twin Falls
Fred Walters, Cambridge
Garry Wenske, Boise
John Ysursa, Boise

Staff

David Pettyjohn

Executive Director

david@idahohumanities.org

Jennifer Holley

Program Officer

jennifer@idahohumanities.org

Debra Schlechte

Administrative Assistant

debra@idahohumanities.org

Cindy Wang

Grants & Fiscal Officer

cindy@idahohumanities.org

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

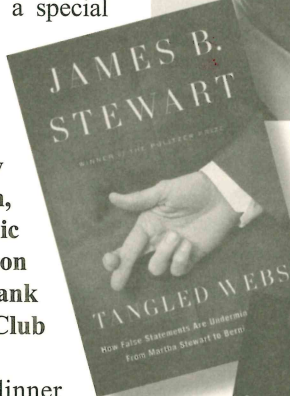
The mission of the Idaho Humanities Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.

Pulitzer Prize-winning NY Times journalist James B. Stewart to speak in Idaho Falls, Thursday, April 12

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist James B. Stewart, of the *New York Times*, will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council's 11th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on **Thursday, April 12, 2018, 7 p.m.**, at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. His topic will be "Truth Matters: How Fake News and False Statements Undermine America."

Stewart's lecture is part of a statewide series of IHC Distinguished Lectures in 2018 exploring the theme "Democracy and the Informed Citizen," a special initiative supported in part by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with generous local support from the William J. and Shirley A. Maeck Family Foundation, the Post Register, Idaho Public Television, KISU Radio, Teton Toyota and Volkswagen, Bank of Idaho, INL, and the City Club of Idaho Falls.

Tickets for the dinner lecture are available online at www.idahohumanities.org or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346. General tickets will be \$45, and Benefactor tickets are \$75, offering an invitation to a pre-event reception with Stewart in a private location at 5 p.m. 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 Stewart's talk to follow. **Seating is assigned in advance.** Stewart's books will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite and he'll be available for signing afterwards.



Stewart is an investigative reporter with the style of a novelist, examining events in finance, law, and politics that shape American society. *The San Francisco Examiner* called him the journalist every journalist would like to be, and *The Daily Beast* named him one of the 15 most important writers on business and economics.

He is the author of 11 books, including, most recently, *Tangled Webs: How False Statements are Undermining America: From Martha Stewart to Bernie Madoff*, which analyzes the trends in America to commit perjury that he suggests are symptomatic of an ethical breakdown compromising the country's judicial system as well as business, government, academia, and medicine. In *Tangled Webs*, Stewart explores age-old tensions between greed and justice, self-interest and public interest, loyalty and duty, and the problem of falsehood and its consequences.

Stewart's other books include *Disney War*, about Michael Eisner's reign at the company, and *Heart of a Soldier*, which was named the "Best Book about 9/11" by *TIME* magazine. His bestselling *Den of Thieves* is an account of 1980s Wall Street insider trading scandals.

Stewart's *New York Times* column, "Common Sense," appears weekly in the Business Day section, covering corporate America, and the use and abuse of power at the highest levels of business and government. A former *Wall Street Journal* reporter and

front-page editor, Stewart received a Pulitzer Prize with his deputy editor during his time at the paper.

A Harvard-educated lawyer, Stewart also is the Bloomberg Professor of Business Journalism at the Columbia Journalism School. In 2011 the New York Financial Writers Association honored Stewart with the Elliott V. Bell Award for lifetime contributions to the field of financial journalism.

"Democracy and the Informed Citizen" is the theme for a national partnership initiative involving the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Pulitzer Prize Committee to deepen public awareness and understanding of the vital connections between the humanities, journalism, and democracy, made possible in part by major Mellon Foundation grants to the state humanities councils. The Idaho Falls event is one of four Distinguished Humanities Lectures exploring this topic throughout 2018. Other lectures will take place in Twin Falls, Boise, and Coeur d'Alene.

Since 2008, the IHC has brought top historians, journalists, and other prominent writers to Idaho Falls for the annual Distinguished Lecture. 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), Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson (2014), Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter (2015), Pulitzer Prize-winning Vietnam War historian Fredrik Logevall (2016), and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Anthony Doerr (2017). ♦

THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION

William J. and Shirley A.
Maeck Family Foundation

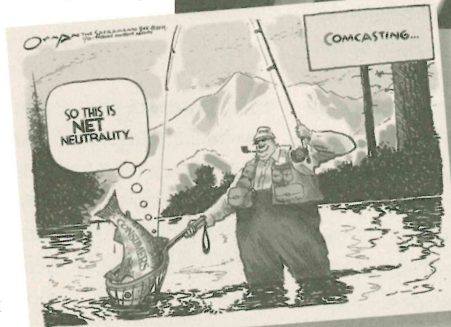
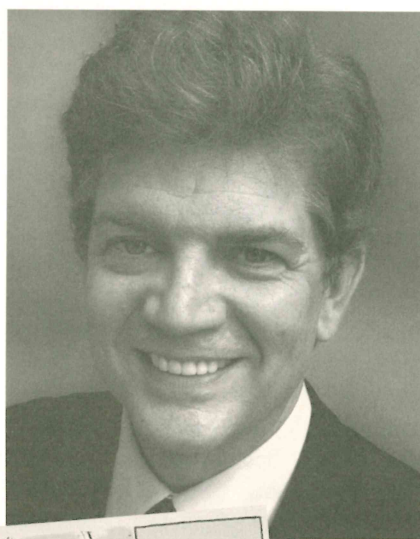


Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Jack Ohman to speak in Twin Falls, Thursday, April 19

Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Jack Ohman will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council's 4th Annual Magic Valley Distinguished Humanities Lecture on Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7 p.m., at the Canyon Crest Event Center in Twin Falls. Ohman will demonstrate over large screens how he interprets news of the day in his cartoons that appear in the editorial pages of more than 200 newspapers across the country.

Ohman's talk is part of a statewide series of IHC Distinguished Humanities Lectures in 2018 exploring the theme "Democracy and the Informed Citizen," a special initiative supported in part by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with vital local support from the College of Southern Idaho, the *Times News*, Idaho Public Television, and more.

Tickets for the dinner lecture are available online at www.idahohumanities.org or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346. General tickets will be \$45, and Benefactor tickets are \$75. Benefactor tickets offer an invitation to a pre-event reception with Ohman in a private location at 5 p.m. 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 Canyon Crest Event Center. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with



Ohman's illustrated talk to follow. **Seating is assigned in advance.** Ohman's books will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite, and he'll be available for signing afterwards.

Born in 1960 in St. Paul, Minnesota, Ohman at age 19 was the youngest editorial cartoonist ever

nationally syndicated. He worked at *The Columbus Dispatch*, *The Detroit Free Press*, and *The Oregonian* before becoming the editorial cartoonist and Associate Editor of *The Sacramento Bee* in 2013. His cartoons are syndicated by the *Washington Post* Writers Group.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2012, Ohman won the Pulitzer in 2016. In addition to the Pulitzer, he has won virtually every major award in American journalism, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award, the SDX Mark of Excellence Award, the National Headliner Award, the Overseas Press Club Award, the Scripps Howard Foundation Award, and two first place "Best of the

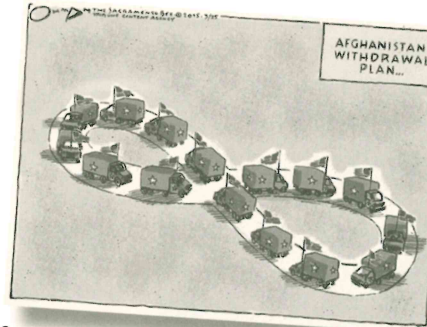
West" Awards.

Ohman earned a B.A. in history from the Honors Program at Portland State University, and is the author of eleven books, four on the subject of fly fishing, including *Fear of Fly Fishing*, *An Inconvenient Trout*, *Fly Fishing Bass-Ackwards*, and *Angler Management*. He has fished many rivers and trout streams throughout Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, and looks forward to coming back to Idaho.

"Democracy and the Informed Citizen" is the theme for a national partnership initiative involving the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Pulitzer Prize Committee to deepen public awareness and understanding of the vital connections between the humanities, journalism, and democracy, made possible in part by major Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grants to the state humanities councils.

The Twin Falls event is one of four Distinguished Humanities Lectures exploring this topic throughout 2018. Other lectures will take place in Idaho Falls, Boise, and Coeur d'Alene.

Since 2015, the IHC has brought top historians, journalists, and other prominent writers to Twin Falls for the annual Magic Valley Distinguished Lecture. Previous speakers in Twin Falls include popular novelist Jamie Ford (2015), prolific historian Douglas Brinkley (2016), and *New York Times* columnist and historian Timothy Egan (2017). ♦



THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION



frontier roots: novelist Vardis Fisher (1895-1968). The administrators of the FWP central office in Washington, D.C., hired a director for each state to implement the guidebook for that state, and the director was instructed to hire a crew of writers from the breadlines to work for the project. Fisher was not a surprising choice based on his résumé: He was the first native Idaho writer to gain recognition on the national literary scene, a contemporary of Ernest Hemingway and Thomas Wolfe. Fisher was born and raised on a remote farm in eastern Idaho. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and a doctorate in English from the University of Chicago. Before assuming the FWP post for Idaho, he had been a university professor and had published multiple books, including a half-dozen novels.

Despite the mandate from the central office to hire at least 30 unemployed writers, Fisher did the bulk of the project himself. "We had nobody in Idaho," he said years later, "unemployed writers didn't exist in Idaho" (Sowards 260). He hired a few people to help with clerical work; his secretary, Ruth E. Lyon, contributed two introductory essays on Native Americans; and the "businessmen of Pocatello" wrote the section on that town after the central office rejected Fisher's draft description of Pocatello for being too unflattering for one of the state's major cities. Otherwise, Fisher wrote the guidebook himself. Rather than being a substantial collective effort, as the FWP intended, the Idaho guidebook was a highly individualistic one.

Fisher took his job as the Idaho director seriously, even though his colleague H.G. Merriam, the Montana director, told him to just "draw [his] salary and play the game, because nothing will be accomplished in this." Instead, Fisher got fired up and determined to have the Idaho guidebook set the standard for the rest of the states. He wanted it to be first. As Fisher described in a 1967 interview:

[It] became . . . something of a national sensation. . . . The Washington office tried to kill . . . the Idaho guide. They didn't want it published because it'd be such an embarrassment to all the big states that had so much more money in their projects and huge staffs. We had nobody in Idaho . . . [T]hey sent a man out from Washington. They called me long distance several times and said, "You must not go ahead." I had this huge advantage that J. H. Gibson from Caxton Printers in Caldwell, Idaho, said, we'll publish this book, and I was determined it was going to get published. And they called me several times and said, "We'll send a man out to stop you." And they did send an assistant director, who was . . . in those years rather a distinguished novelist, he came out to stop us from publishing that book. We . . . took him to Gibson's home and got him drunk, and I put him on the train and sent him back to Washington, and we went ahead and published the guide. (Sowards 260-261)

So, Fisher went rogue on the federal project pretty quickly, defining the project according to his own ambitions rather than by the national standards. He would do it alone, and he would do it first, getting it published in 1937. He would put Idaho on the national map by disrupting the central office's plans for it.

From the opening lines of the guidebook, Fisher makes it clear that it will trouble expectations. He quickly invokes the popular mythology of the frontier, and mocks it. "After three centuries of adventurous seeking, the American continent has been explored and settled, and the last frontier is gone," he writes, and yet, "[t]he lusty and profane extremes of it still live nebulously in the gaudy imbecilities of newsstand pulp magazines and in cheap novels" (17). He argues that western states like Idaho have been sensationalized and misrepresented in popular culture. This guidebook, he asserts, will be more authentic, not populated with the "shoddy sawdust counterfeits" that have been perpetuated in pulp fiction (17), and he strikes an elegiac tone for the frontier that has disappeared. It is a rebellious start for a volume of a federally-funded Guide Series that was supposed to celebrate progress and map a bright future from coast to coast.

The American Guide Series, after all, was intended to highlight the cultural and historical riches of the country—sites that regular folks could visit to



Idaho novelist Vardis Fisher was determined to make the guide to Idaho the first volume in the WPA American Guide Series to the states.

enjoy the thrill of patriotism: beautiful historic buildings in cities with theater and music. The Series was imagined as a social enterprise; it would bring citizens together around shared cultural treasures; it would foster a sense of national community. But instead of focusing on art and architecture and city parks, Fisher presents descriptions and photos of rugged mountain peaks and secretive caves. He writes about un-navigable rivers and foreboding lava fields. His descriptions of cities are curt. Fisher alludes to human occupation only peripherally, and in surprising ways — for example, by noting the insane asylum that was built in the Panhandle while Idaho was still a Territory, and by vilifying the feral domestic cats (presumably escaped from human homes) which were wreaking havoc on Fisher's beloved wild songbirds.

Fisher does give some attention to the indigenous groups living in Idaho, including the Shoshoni, Nez Perce, Bannock, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane tribes, and he resists romanticizing their stories or describing them in polarizing terms. "It is folly, on the one hand, to grow sentimental over the Indians," he writes. "They were not noble savages. They were not thriftless vagabonds." And, he continues, "It is folly, on the other hand, to pretend that the early missionaries, no matter how well-intentioned, were able to achieve more good than harm" (27). He complicates the terms of the battles between early white settlers and Native American tribes, and he even recounts the surrender of the Nez Perce from the imagined viewpoint of an Indian historian — a fairly radical way to conceive history at the time. These are arguably his most nuanced descriptions of human societies in the whole guidebook.

Contrary to the expectations of the FWP central office, Fisher defines Idaho's assets in distinctly

In addition to producing *Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture* (1937), with additional funding from the Federal Writers' Project, Vardis Fisher produced *The Idaho Encyclopedia* in 1938 and *Idaho Lore*, a compilation of Idaho folklore, in 1939, both published by Caxton Printers of Caldwell.

non-human terms. In fact, he states outright, "Idaho is still a very young State. Because its social development remains largely in the future, it has little to boast of in the arts, in education, and in names of men who have made history" (37). He thus dismisses the central office's directives and charts a different course. As the scholar Christine Bold states, "More copy [in the Idaho guidebook] is devoted to, and the reader's participation is more emphatically channeled toward, the state's myriad caves, lava fields, hot springs, and other natural wonders than to any other sights." Even though the editors in the FWP office "repeatedly enjoined" him to give "conventional attention to the arts and architecture," Fisher persisted in having "[u]nspoiled nature. . . play the role of culture" (Bold 673).

Instead of trying to entice tourists to the area, Fisher describes the inaccessibility of Idaho's terrain: "From automobile or train window it is a rolling mass of loneliness and waste," he writes, "with the integrity of granite and the changelessness of time." As he continues, he defines a radical aesthetic, one that would surely challenge the expectations of the guidebook's general audience:

A more impervious area it would be difficult to find, or more inviolable within its empire of aridity and stone. Most of it can never be used, save for grazing, and

must lie here forever as it is now under the journeying of trains and the desolation of its sky. But for those who know it and have stood within its strength, it is a splendid and timeless area upon which a thousand centuries will leave almost no mark of change; and they love its caves and craters and the weird terracing of its scene. This part of Idaho, looking as if the sky had poured boulders upon it or as if it harbored a vegetation of rock: this toothed steppe, furrowed and gouged and spilled in pyramids, is not for those whose homes are in tropical growth under cloudy skies. This is the last frontier, delivered to rock and desolation and set apart as a monument of its own. (77-78)

Far from striking a tone of boosterism, Fisher argues that Idaho is "impervious" and "inviolable" and "desolate." It is not for those who expect green, pastoral villages, and Idaho's equivalents of "pyramids" and monuments will be found not in cities, but in hard-to-traverse lava fields and mountains.

Fisher devotes far more attention to Idaho's "Primitive Area," ghost towns, and tall tales than he does to its cities and people. "Idaho in one aspect is an area of ghost towns or of spots where not even the ghost remains," he writes (379). Fisher seems to locate the heart of Idaho in the places where the human presence is weakest. It is in the "smell of old cones and leaf depths, aspen hillsides, mahogany reaches, and landslides of stones" (359); "the foliage [of cottonwoods] like great masses of yellow sunset" (98); and the "incalculable sorcery" of a "lazy melon moon" over the Middle Fork, the stars "tangled in tree tops" (360-361).

So Fisher set his own terms for putting Idaho on the national map through the FWP. Instead of being a group effort employing dozens of writers, his was an ambitious individual project. Instead of privileging the dominant white, masculine, eastern culture, he slightly subverted it through his attention to the history of indigenous peoples and to unpopulated places. Instead of showcasing cultural performances in the form of theater, dance, music, and exhibits, he describes the traditions of hunting and fishing. Instead of focusing on details about the cultural features of cities and towns, he devotes his deepest descriptions to wilderness and ghost towns. And when the Idaho guidebook was published first in 1937, ahead of all the other states (much to the chagrin of the FWP central office), at least one FWP administrator, concerned about how far it strayed from the plan, claimed that it should not be classified as a guidebook at all, but as "an old-fashioned kind of travel book" that wandered from subject to subject (Bold).

Ultimately, the Idaho WPA guidebook goes against the grain of the federal project. It claims its authenticity in the very characteristics that keep Idaho on the fringes of the mainstream culture of that time. That may just be what resonates most strongly about it. Eighty years after it was first published, the "driving tours" section clearly is outdated, and some of the resource information is defunct, but the book's rebellious spirit endures. Fisher boldly establishes an identity for Idaho that is not contingent on East Coast or urban terms. Despite the expectations of the FWP office and perhaps of the general audience, Fisher emphasizes nature and the pre-social landscape of Idaho, rather than signs of human development. Resisting the fundamental convention of a guidebook to bring clarity to unknown turf, Fisher actually promotes the otherness and unknowability of Idaho's rugged terrain. ❖

Works Cited

Bold, Christine. *The WPA Guides: Mapping America*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1999. Kindle e-reader.

Federal Writers, Project Writers' of the Works Progress Administration. *Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture*. The Library Edition. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1937.

Sowards, Adam M., ed. *Idaho's Place: A New History of the Gem State*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014.

Jenny Emery Davidson is Executive Director of The Community Library in Ketchum and the current Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council. She holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Utah and is co-editor, with Murray Feldman, of *Idaho Wilderness Considered* (Idaho Humanities Council, 2016), an anthology of essays that won the Idaho Library Association's award for "Idaho Book of the Year" in 2017.

GRANTS

(Continued from Page 1)

Lewis and Clark expedition, contemporary natural history, and more. The project director is **Marge A. Kuchynka**.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, was awarded **\$3,500** for its “Shakespeare” program, taking a condensed version of William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* to schools throughout the state. The performances are supplemented with study guides, Q & A sessions and workshops all in an effort to introduce Shakespeare to students around the state. The project director is **Christine Zimowsky**.

Samaria Community Foundation, Malad City, received **\$2,000** to help design and develop a driving tour of historic sites of Samaria, Idaho, settled in 1868. The entire township of Samaria is on the National Register of Historic Places, but the individual historic sites currently are not marked.

This project will support a brochure describing the sites, historic marker signs for 40 sites, and posts on which to install the signs. The project director is **Luke D. Waldron**.

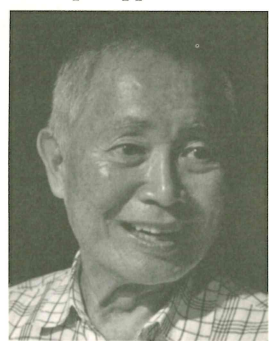
The Cabin, Boise, was awarded **\$4,000** for the 15th season (2017-2018) of its Readings and Conversation Series. This popular series brings nationally prominent authors to Boise to read their works and respond to questions. The project director is **Kurt Zwolfer**.

Boise State University, Boise, received **\$2,000** in support of a public lecture by Haitian writer Évelyne Trouillot, speaking on women and historical memory, and how literature explores the story of women in history. The lecture will be part of the Eloise Garmendia Bieter Chair in Basque Studies and the 1st annual World Languages International Conference in Boise in March 2018. The project director is **Nere Lete**.



Radio Boise, Boise, received **\$1,500** to partner with the Foote Park Project to create eight audio interpretive pieces exploring the story of Arthur and Mary Hallock Foote’s former home site. The project director is **Caroline Stivers**.

GCG PRODUCTIONS, Eagle, was awarded **\$5,000** to help support final editing of a film directed by filmmaker Karen Day Zak about the imprisonment of thousands of Japanese-Americans at the Minidoka Relocation Center, near Twin Falls, during World War II. Day will interpret the history through the viewpoints of three generations of Japanese-American families. The project director is **Karen Day Zak**.



Star Trek star George Tekei will narrate a new documentary on WW II Japanese Internment.

Lewis-Clark State College Native American Club, Lewiston, received **\$2,000** to help support the “Native American Awareness Week” Festival in March of 2018. The program promotes Native American culture, and includes lectures, demonstrations, and other cultural activities, including a pow-wow, storytelling, and a Friendship Banquet. The project director is **Bob Sobotta**.

University of Idaho, School of Journalism and Mass Media, Moscow, was awarded **\$2,000** to help fund a public lecture by Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. The project director is **Kenton Bird**.

Magic Valley Arts Council, Twin Falls, received **\$2,000** to offer free screenings and discussions of a number of *Independent Lens* films. The films explore the life of Jazz legend John Coltrane, the work of black novelist and civil rights activist James Baldwin,

the life of labor activist Dolores Huerta, the work of writer/farmer Wendell Berry, and the plight of homeless women veterans. The project director is **Carolyn White**.

Pend Oreille Arts Council, Sandpoint, was awarded **\$1,000** for a Living Voices program titled “Klondike, The Last Adventure,” set in the Yukon Region of the Klondike, Alaska, in 1897-1898, during the Klondike Gold Rush. They will present to the public and to students in Bonner County. The project director is **Kathleen Mulroy**.

Lemhi County Historical Society and Museum, Salmon, was awarded **\$2,000** to continue a multifaceted project featuring exhibits, educational programs, discussions and field trips about the influence of the River of No Return and its tributaries to the history of Salmon River Valley. The project director is **Karen Gallogly**.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS:

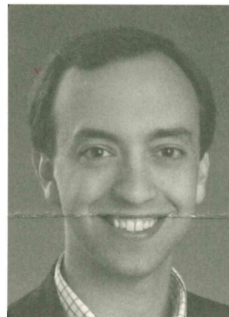
Elizabeth Brunner, Idaho State University Assistant Professor of Communications, Pocatello,



received **\$3,500** for research to complete a book exploring how many of the billion people living in China are changing how they think about nature. She notes that as a country with the largest carbon footprint, people of China are coming to realize that economic growth is adversely impacting the livable environment.

Alessandro Mereaglia, Boise State University assistant professor and archivist/librarian, Boise, was awarded **\$3,500**

to research and complete a book exploring the history of Caxton Printers of Caldwell. Established in 1907, Caxton of Caldwell still produces books and continues to be managed by the Gipson family. The book will highlight the importance of regional publishing companies throughout the 20th century.

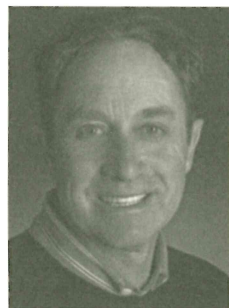


Trenton Olsen, Assistant Professor of English at BYU-Idaho, Rexburg, received **\$3,500** to complete



a book, titled “Entangled Influence: Wordsworth, Darwin, and the Struggle for Literary Survival,” a study of the intersection between poet William Wordsworth’s poetry of the natural world and Darwinian theory in Victorian literature.

David Adler, Alturas Institute Director and University of Idaho lecturer of law, Idaho Falls, was awarded **\$3,500** to complete a book about the U.S. Supreme Court case of Reed v. Reed (1971), the landmark case that began in Idaho and resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court’s first ruling upholding a Boise woman’s claim of unconstitutional gender discrimination in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Adler notes that this Idaho story, with all principals except then-Professor Ruth Bader Ginsburg being from Boise, became as significant for women as the Brown v. Board of Education case was for African-Americans.



Loran Olsen, Washington State University Emeritus Professor of Music, Port Angeles, Washington, received **\$2,000** to help support his continuing research for his decades-long project to preserve Nez Perce Music. Working closely with Nez Perce tribal members in Lapwai, Olsen’s project will result in a volume that will explore the meaning and power of Nez Perce song, and will focus on teaching

and mentoring Nez Perce musical traditions historically and culturally. The book will be a comprehensive resource for Niimiipuu (Nez Percés) and others, for families, educators and institutions, and will include a compact disc of representative song examples. The project director is **Loran Olsen**.

TEACHER INCENTIVE GRANTS:

Claudia Moberly, Historical Society of Middleton, was awarded **\$1,000** to develop a walking tour of Middleton booklet to be used by elementary students and teachers. The booklet will include narrative and photos and will be distributed to area schools, libraries, and historical societies.

Carrie Magnuson, The Treasure Valley YMCA, Boise, received **\$1,000** to support the Youth in Government program. This program serves as a supplement to public civic education and helps students explore and develop knowledge and skills to become active, engaged civic leaders. The program provides 300 high school students from around the state with a nine-month, hands-on learning experience in which they actively participate in the processes of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Idaho State Government.

Jan Green, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Pocatello, was awarded **\$1,000** for a children’s literature class for teachers. The participants meet monthly to review children’s books and discuss how to use them in their classroom. The class qualifies for continuing education credits for the teachers. The 2017-2018 course includes a service theme, such as kindness, dignity of people, honoring family, helping the poor and vulnerable, and caring for others of the world.



Patty Bolinger, William Thomas Middle School, American Falls, received **\$1,000** to

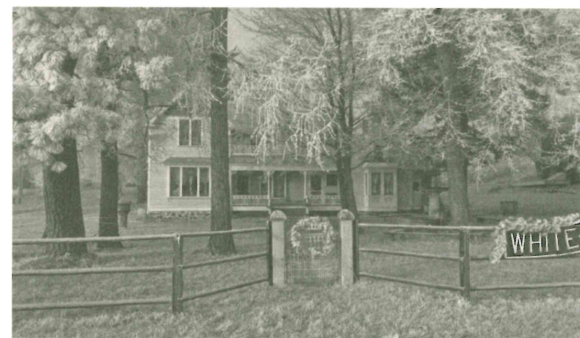
help support a field trip to Boise to complement 8th-grade American government classes. Students will visit the Idaho State Capitol Building, the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, Boise State University, and the Discovery Center. Teachers will teach about government, human rights, and the history of the Capitol prior to the trip.

Alison Moulton, Caldwell Fine Arts Series, Inc., Caldwell, was awarded **\$1,000**



to bring Newberry Award winning writer Gary Schmidt to Caldwell to visit four area schools and two libraries for discussions, assemblies, and writing workshops based upon his book, *Okay for Now*. This coming-of-age story was a National Book Award Finalist.

Diane Conroy, White Spring Ranch Museum/Archive Library, Genesee, was awarded **\$950** to



support Student Days. More than 1,800 university students research the vintage magazines, newspapers, letters and papers in Ranch Museum collection. The grant will help preserve these artifacts, so they can be used in a variety of ways. The project director is **Diane Conroy**.

PLANNING GRANT:

City Club of Twin Falls was awarded **\$1,000** to help launch the City Club of Twin Falls, and launch the first luncheon event and. The project director is **Jeff Fox**. ❖

Idaho teachers invited to attend summer institute on Idaho History

Idaho teachers of all grades and disciplines are invited to apply to attend the Idaho Humanities Council's 2018 weeklong summer institute, titled *And Here We Have Idaho: Curating the Gem State*, July 15-20, on the campus of Boise State University and at the newly expanded Idaho State Historical Museum. Successful applicants will receive lodging and meals, texts, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply. The deadline for online applications is March 15, 2018.

Texts include *Idaho's Place: A New History of the Gem State*, an anthology of the most current and original writing on Idaho history, edited by University of Idaho History Professor Adam Sowards, and an electronic compilation of other pertinent primary and secondary readings. In addition to visiting the newly renovated museum, teachers will attend special evening presentations, view films, and share ways of teaching Idaho history in the classroom.

"Understanding Idaho's place and putting it in context requires a guidebook," historian Adam Sowards says in his introduction to *Idaho's Place*. "Recognizing Idaho's unique position in national history and appreciating the role Idaho played in shaping larger narratives entails learning the diverse stories that make up our state. Tribal histories, political conflicts,



The summer 2018 institute on Idaho history will bring teachers into the all new exhibits at the expanded Idaho State Historical Museum.

environmental issues, and personal accounts make up this place so many of us call home. There is no one history of Idaho, but learning how the different histories have overlapped and created our larger story is key to understanding Idaho's place."

The interdisciplinary institute will help teachers across the state learn the different stories of Idaho. Teachers will explore how different individuals and groups shaped the state, and how Idaho both reflects larger national history as well as veers away from it in different ways to create its own distinctive story.

Teachers will work with prominent Idaho scholars

to delve into the political, social, geographic, and cultural history of Idaho. They will have the opportunity to learn from museum staff about the design of the new museum, and the research that went into creating the displays, getting an extraordinary behind-the-scenes look at the museum. The new museum will provide teachers with the opportunity to learn how the new interpretive exhibits can be used to enhance curriculum development in a diversity of subjects. Idaho history is complex, and this institute will help teachers discover new methods to approach the diversity of the history, new stories to teach to their students, and new ways to understand not only the state's history, but the larger history of the nation.

Scholar presenters so far include Keith Petersen, former State Historian for Idaho, Amy Canfield, Associate Professor of History at Lewis-Clark State College and IHC board member, and others.

Teachers traveling more than 250 miles one way may be eligible for a modest travel stipend upon request. The online application deadline is March 15, 2018. For more information visit www.idahohumanities.org, call the IHC office 208-345-5346, or contact Cindy Wang at cindy@idahohumanities.org.

Owyhee County Museum to receive \$10,000 Sister Alfreda Award

The Owyhee County Historical Society Museum in Murphy will receive the 2017 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award for outstanding museum interpretation and historical preservation at a special award ceremony on April 21.

The award carries a pooled \$10,000 prize given annually since 2008 by the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Idaho Heritage Trust to be used by a chosen museum, historical society, or interpretive organization to enhance the preservation and interpretation of local history. The Sister Alfreda award is the highest honor currently awarded to a museum in the state. Representatives from all three organizations will be in Murphy this spring for the award ceremony.

The Owyhee County Historical Museum began in 1960 as a single display case in the Owyhee County Court House. In 1961 the Murphy School house was deeded to the Historical Society and became the museum space. In 1963, organizers built their first building next to the



schoolhouse. Over the years the main museum building has undergone two expansions and now includes three exhibit galleries, offices, a library, archives, and a community hall. The Owyhee County Museum not only expanded its

main building but also grew to occupy approximately half an acre with the Marsing Train Depot, a 1964 Union Pacific caboose, a replica stamp mill, a saw mill, and a 1926 homestead cabin.

The museum also has an impressive publications program and is one of the few small county museums open all year round.

Idaho Humanities Council Chair Jenny Emery Davidson praised the Owyhee County Museum for its strong and innovative promotion of local history.

"The Owyhee County Museum models best practices for other museums to follow," Davidson said. We look

forward to presenting the award in the community of Murphy and commending the museum board and staff for their good work preserving the history of their large rural county."

The special award is named after Sister Alfreda Elsensohn, founder of the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude Monastery, near Cottonwood, in the 1930s. One of Idaho's outstanding historians, Sister Alfreda collected, preserved, interpreted, and displayed artifacts from Idaho County and the surrounding area to better educate the public. She saw museums as bridges linking the past and present.

Previous award winners include the Bonner County Historical Museum in Sandpoint (2008), the South Bannock County Historical Center in Lava Hot Springs (2009), the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude's (2010), the Lemhi County Historical Society (2011), the Basque Museum and Cultural Center (2012), Wallace District Mining Museum (2013), the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (2014), Latah County Historical Society (2015), and Idaho City Historical Foundation (2016).

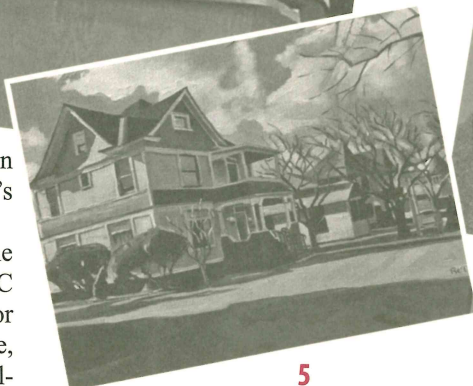
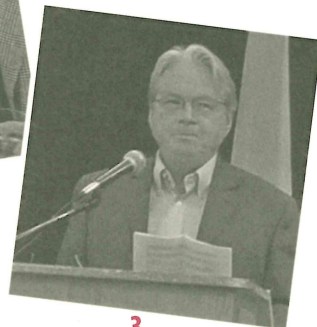
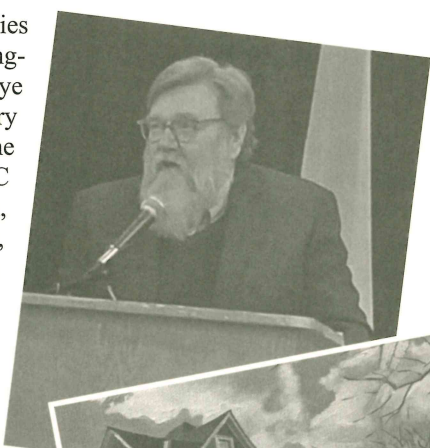
A retirement bash for Rick Ardinger

The board and staff of the Idaho Humanities Council gave Rick Ardinger, IHC's long-time Executive Director, a rousing goodbye party at the Basque Center in Boise on February 1st. About 200 friends and supporters attended the event. Some surprise guests included former IHC Chair Marc Johnson, now of Manzanita, Oregon, Rick's brother Bruce Ardinger from Sarasota, Florida, former Assistant Director Patty White of Vancouver, Washington, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, Arlington, Virginia, and many other friends from all over Idaho, Utah, and the Pacific Northwest.

Nikki Wallace, aide to Congressman Mike Simpson, read from a letter Congressman Simpson entered into the Congressional Record honoring Rick's service to the humanities.

Rick joined the IHC staff in 1991, and became executive director in 1996. During his tenure, the IHC broadened its outreach not only by awarding grants for humanities projects and programs throughout the state, but also by sponsoring a number of flagship council-conducted initiatives to bring attention to the importance of lifelong learning in the humanities. He served on the national board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils for five years.

In addition to speeches, Rick was presented a painting by Boise artist Rachel Teannalach, of the IHC office on State Street, where Rick worked for 30 years. Board members, alumni, and staff, also contributed to a gift fund to send Rick and his wife Rosemary on a vacation jet-boat cruise in Hells Canyon this summer.



1. After being roasted and toasted Rick says a few words about his time at the IHC.
2. Rick poses with two surprise guests, Federation of State Humanities Councils President Esther Mackintosh and former IHC Chair Marc Johnson.
3. Rick's long-time friend and writer Clay Morgan shares his thoughts on Rick's retirement.
4. Surprise guest Bruce Ardinger and Rick at the event.
5. Rick was given this painting of the IHC house, painted by Boise artist Rachel Teannalach, as a keepsake of his time at the Council (the house was Rick's office for 30 years).
6. Current and former IHC board members attended the event for Rick.

Historian Jon Meacham breaks attendance record in Coeur d'Alene

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Jon Meacham delivered the IHC's 14th Annual North Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture last September at the Coeur d'Alene Resort to a capacity crowd of over 730. Meacham's topic was "America Then and Now: What History Tells Us about the Future."

The event was made possible by major support from Marc and Vicki Brinkmeyer and the Idaho Forest Group. As the lead sponsor of the IHC's annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture for the past 14 years, Idaho Forest Group once again helped to bring to Coeur d'Alene one of the most popular and insightful historians of our time.

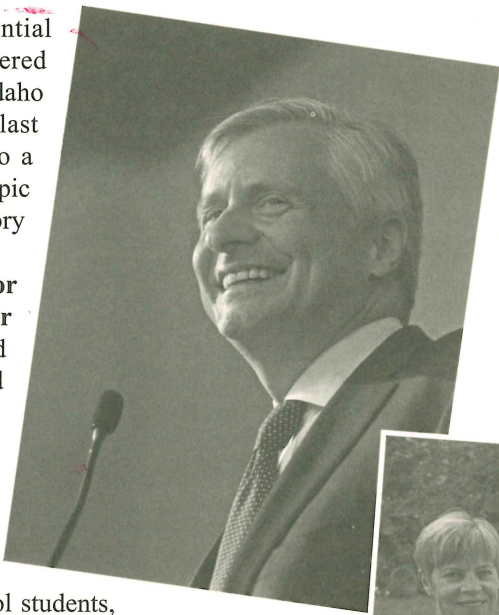
Earlier in the day before an audience of several hundred Lake City High School students, Meacham was interviewed by former IHC board member Mike Kennedy about current events and books Meacham has written. A few hundred students were able to attend.

Before the evening event at the Resort, Meacham was welcomed at the beautiful lakefront home of IHC alum Kathy Canfield-Davis and husband Denny Davis for the Benefactor reception sponsored by the Hagadone Corporation.

The IHC also is grateful for additional critical support for the event from Lewis-Clark State College, Coeur d'Alene, University of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene, Coeur d'Alene Press and Idaho Public Television.

Thanks also to the Well-Read Moose for facilitating book sales with a portion of the proceeds going to support IHC programming.

A huge thank you to the donors who contributed additional support for the student scholarship program that allowed for a record number of area high school students to attend the evening and hear Meacham lecture. Those donors included Lola Hagadone, Margaret Reed Foundation, Jeanine and James Asche, Andrea Partington, Jo Ann and K.V. Nelson, George and Juli Ives, Tim and Denise Thomson, James Reitan and Priscilla Bell, Christopher Riggs, Gretchen Hauser, and Terry and Connie Montanye. ❖



1. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Jon Meacham speaks to over 700 guests in Coeur d'Alene.
2. (L-R) Denny Davis, Kathy Canfield-Davis, Jon Meacham and Ali Carr-Chellman pose for a photo at the Benefactor reception.
3. The photographer catches (L-R) Susan Engebretsen, Sherry Wallis and Ronda Mitchell at the Benefactor reception.
4. Jon Meacham takes a moment to sign a book for a guest.



Hundreds attended lecture by New Yorker staff writer Evan Osnos in Boise

National Book Award winner and New Yorker staff writer Evan Osnos delivered the Idaho Humanities Council's 21st Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture last September at the Boise Centre to a large crowd of over 700. Osnos' topic was "America in the Age of Trump: Who Are We? Who Will We Become?"

Before the event Osnos was welcomed at the downtown offices of Holland & Hart for the Benefactor reception.

The IHC thanks the following event sponsors for helping to make a very memorable evening: Holland & Hart, Futura Corporation, Boise State University, University of Idaho College of Law, Idaho State University/Idaho State University Kasiska Division of Health Sciences, Boise State Public Radio, Idaho Statesman and Idaho Public Television.

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

Thank you to the following very generous individuals who helped share the evening with students through their donations to the student scholarship fund: Kathryn and Chris Muscat, John and Elaine French, Carol Cronin Kriz and John Kriz, Gary Wyke, Bonnie and Frank Gallant, Caroline Morris and David Monsees, Gail Bray and Christopher Justice, Jan Boles, Michael Faison and Gisela Zechmeister, Greg and Julie Hahn, James Wolf and Dinu Mistry, Robert Vestal and Jyl Hoyt, Sarah Churchill, Steven Fields, Chuck Guilford, Archie and Marilyn Clemens, Kristin and Warren Barrash, Mee-Ae Kim and Chris Grant, John Thomas, Rodney and Karen Wiens, Bessie and Tim Katsilometes, Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson, Rory and Sisti O'Connor, Marcia Franklin, Rod Miller, Betty Sims and Margaret Johnson. ❖



1. Osnos explains what is happening in North Korea after a previous visit.
2. An event patron meets Osnos and has a book signed.
3. Holland & Hart attorney Murray Feldman (L) gives Evan Osnos a copy of IHC's publication of *Idaho Wilderness Considered* at the Benefactor reception.
4. Writer Emily Ruskovich (center) enjoys guests at the Boise Centre.
5. Bill Fraser and Eve Chandler enjoy the Benefactor reception.



IHC warmly thanks Idaho Humanities Council Donors!

Contributions made between May30, 2017 and February 6, 2018

Benefactor (\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger
Jon and Thine Bloxham
Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson
Lola Hagadone
George and Bev Harad
Jennifer Holley and Doug Brown
Tim and Anne Hopkins
Margaret Johnson
W. Hugh and Carol C. Maloney
Jo Ann and K.V. Nelson
Andrea and Joseph Partington
Scott Pearson

Pioneer (\$500 to \$999)
Kathy Aiken
Anonymous
Charles and Marjorie Bolles
Amy Canfield and Joel Mills
Claude and Susan Connelly
Mark and Trinjia Dell’Aglío
Ford and Jean Elsaesser
Jeff and Evin Fox
Robert Freedman and Anne Cirillo
Susan and Paul Gibson
Tom and Sally Halbach
Sharon Hanson
Nancy Emery and Ike Johnson
Virginia Tinsley Johnson
Clay and Barbara Morgan
Dick and Susan Parrish
Park and Sharon Price
Elizabeth Pursley
Susan Schaper
Ralph and Carolyn Wolter

Sponsor (\$250 to \$499)
Jane Ahrens
Wayne and Carol Allen
Anonymous
Art and Michelle Beale
Thomas and Marilyn Beck
Fred and Phoebe Boelter
Mary Boone
Laurie and Allan Britten
Rachael Brown
Vicki Chase
Trent and Rebecca Clark
Virginia DeLong
Diane and Tom Dickinson
Tom and Linda Dixon
Margit Donhowe and Mitch Long
Ted and Darlene Dyer
Gary Elller and Teri Devine
Michael Faison and Gisela Zechmeister
Murray and Nancy Feldman
Allan and Fran Frost
Cristina Gospodnetich
Maria Hill
Scott and Cheryl Kreiling
Erika Kuhlman and Kevin Marsh
Bob and Kathy Kustra
Dave and Patti Lachiondo
Betsy and John McTear
Michael and Barbara Miller
Ray and Jane Morgan
Joe and Lynn Morris
Ralph and Judith Riba Nelson
Network for Good
Beret Norman and Seth Thomas
Anonymous
Rick and Lisa Ogle
Alan and Wendy Pesky
David Pettyjohn and Geoffrey Parks
Ron Pisaneschi and Virginia Bennett
John Rusche
Tom and Pam Rybus
Denise Thomson
Scott Tschirgi
Harry and Barbara Tumanjan
Fred and Judy Walters
Tim Weill
Julie Weston through the Wood River
Women’s Foundation Member’s Fun in the
Idaho Community Foundation
Judy Wong through the Idaho Women’s
Charitable Foundation

Donor (\$100 to \$249)
Steve and Pam Ahrens
Fred and Sandy Ambrose

Scott Arnold and Maura Goddard
Marshall and Kathleen Baker
Bruce Ballenger and Karen Kelley
Juanita Baltazor
Robert Barclay
Warren and Kristen Barrash
Camille and Jack Beebe
Sandy and Linda Beebe
Laureen and Larry Belmont
Hope Benedict and Stewart Carrington
Pamela Bernard
Jean Betebenner
James and Diane Bevis
Robert Bilow and Jeannine Mehrhoff
Bert Bowler and Susan Whaley
Hollis Brookover and Milt Gillespie
Paula Brown Sinclair
Don and Karen Burnett
Mindy Cameron and Bill Berg
Lin Tull Cannell
Bob and Elaine Carpenter
Doug and Deidre Chadderdon
Eve and Tom Chandler
Claire and Lennard Chin
Gail and Chad Chumbley
Jim and Cherie Clayton
Lulu Coates
Dillon and Audrey Cole
Susan Colvin
Linda Copple Trout
Gail Corlett-Trueba
Tom and Laurie Corrick
Mike and Beth Cothern
Shirley Crowe
Paul and Heidi Cunningham
Jay and Judy Darrington
Kathy Deinhardt Hill
Philip and Sandra Deutchman
Anthony and Shauna Doerr
Jack and Peggy Domit
Jim Henken and Margaret Doucette
Carolyn Eiriksson
Mary Emery
Dick English and Anita Whelan
Maria Essig
Karen and Charley Estes
Henriette Folkner
Bill Fraser
Rodney Frey and Kris Roby
Margaret Fuller
Sheila Gary
Charlie and Susan Gates
Forrest and Lynne Geerken
Catherine Gray
Mike and Glenda Green
Roger Grigg and Kathy Baker Grigg
Chuck Guilford and Pam Peterson
Cindy Haagenson
Richard and Sondra Hackborn
Klara Hiansberger
Kathleen Hardcastle
Arthur and Dee Hart
Ron and Linda Hatzenbuehler
Tom and Roberta Heinrich
Joan Henderson and Fred Mondin
Alice Hennessey
Chris Heyer
Cameron and Marilyn Hinman
Mark and Lynn Hofflund
Ernest and Carol Hoidal
Bob and Leslie Hoover
Dan and Gail Hunt
Wendy and Jim Jaquet
Cynthia Carr Jenkins
Mary Jennings
Georgianne and Chris Jessen
John and Betty Johnson
Kyle Johnson
Errol Jones and Susan Rainey
James and Mary Jones
Patricia Keith
Marcia Lee Kent
Lawrence and Kaye Knight
Jonathan and Pamela Lawson
Gail LeBow
Franklin and Elaine Lee
Steve Lee
Nancy Lewis
Melinda Lindsey
Gina Lujack
Kristina Lysne

Jim and Sharon Manning
Bert and Michelle Marley
John Matthew and Judy McKay
Carole and James McWilliam
Georgia Meacham
Amy and Matthew Mensik
Rodney H. Miller
Rebecca Mills and Jeff Kuhns
Don Mitchell
Nels Mitchell and Mary Kimmel
Jan Mittleider
Anonymous
Michael Moore and Linda Schrock
Aimee and Greg Moran
Charles and Janet Mosier
Neil and Eleanor Nemece
John R. and Katherine J. Nice
Robert Nitschke
Ashely and Aaron Notestine
Dayle Ohlau
Tara Penry and Brent English
Carl and Sigrid Perrin
Dan Popkey
Allen and Jolean Quimby
Chuck Randolph
Charles and Mary Reed
D. Nels and Joyce Reese
Bruce Reichert
Ed and Sheila Robertson
Tom and Carol Robertson
Sylvia and Jim Robison
Ken and Betty Rodgers
Joe and Rita Rodriguez
Susan and Ron Rope
Can and Barbara Russell
Marian and Bob Rust
Donnel Schmidt
Mary and Jim Schmidt
Barb Scott
Patricia Lyn Scott
Judge John and Sher Sellman
Elizabeth Sims
Rick and Carole Skinner
Betty and Steve Slifer
Wally and Mary Clagett Smith
Dorothy Ann Snowball
Mary Sorenson
Alison Squier and Gregg Servheer
Nick and Carole Stokes
Carl and Fran Stremmel
Kathleen Sutherland and Philippe Masser
Fay and Wayne Sweney
Kathleen Taylor
Greg and Linda Teske
Michael and Sue Tomlin
Mary Trail
Russ and Marcie Tremayne
Velma Vance
Bret and Kristi Vaterlaus
Anonymous
Cindy and Mark Wang
Fritz and Janet Ward
Keith and Rowena Ward
Susan and Deck Waters
Rosalie Watson
Connie Weaver
Garry Wenske
Anonymous
Dick and Gerry Wisdom
Margie Wise
Sheila and Robert Wood
Matt and Debbie Woodard
Jim and Cyndie Woods
Janet Worthington
Gary Wyke and Elizabeth Greene
Patricia Young
Stephanie Youngerman
Denise Zembryki and Ron Mamajek
David and Gail Zirtzlaff

Advocate (\$50 to \$99)
Jan Alden
Kathe Alters
Robert Ancker and Rebecca White
Cassie Angelos
The Asche Family
Kristi Austin and David Combs
David Barber
Lois Bates
Barbara and Martin Bauer
William Bauer and Stephanie Rose

Chris and Sue Baughn
Frederick Belzer and Theresa Kaufmann
Marty and Bob Betts
John and Alex Bieter
Hilary Biggers
Tom and Florence Blanchard
Carolyn Bowler
Bruce Bradberry and Susan Mecum
Chris and Lanie Bragg
Maura Brantley
Lisa Johnson Cafferty
Lynda Campbell Clark
Ann Carlson
Kerry and Bert Ellis
Gail Chaloupka and Tony Park
Jean Chantrill
Anne and Alan Christie
Jody Coburn
Cort Conley
Lyn Loyd Creswell
Michael and Lisa Curtin
Holly Dasher
James K. and Holly Duff
Charlie and Mary Lynn Eiseman
Carolyn Ely Coffman
Sandy and Jeanne Emerson
Shawna Exline
Ethel Farnsworth
Anonymous
Cheri Folkner
Jamie Ford
Harry and Beverly Fritchman
Kathleen Gaines
Jim and Barbara Gentry
Bonita Gilbert
David Giles
Mike Grabenstein
Cheryl Gratton
Judy Grigg Hansen
Steve and Donna Guerber
Mary Diane Gutierrez
Robert Guyon and Kathleen Kangas
Dawn Harlow
Dorothy Harper
Leticia Hatch
Nina Hawkins
Tristan Head
Jerry Hebbel
Bob and Lois Hibbs
Laura Hill
Teena Hill
Angela Hoopes
Chuck and Kathy Hosack
Amy Hutchinson
Jennifer James
Daniel and Carmelyn Johnson
Virginia Kelly
Flip and Jo Kleffner
Richard Kochansky and Jennifer James
Bonnie Krafchuk and Richard Young
Marge and Ed Kuchynka
Grace and Clark Lusk
Terry and Louise Maley
Kevin Manhart
Ron and Cay Marquart
Anonymous
Ken and Amy Mecham
Dale and Connie Merrell
Dr. and Mrs. James Milam
Linda Milam
Miranda Miller
Patty Miller
Susanne Miller
Tom and Carol Mollgaard
Gayle Moore
Courtney Morgan
Rob Morris
Pam Nagel
Kami Nelson
Charlie and Susan Nipp
Michelle OHara-Carnes
M. Christine Ott
Arlene Oyer
Anonymous
Del Parkinson
Sharen Peterson
Suzanne Polle
Doug Powell
Duane Ramseyer
Ormond Rankin
Stephanie Remsburg

Kate Riley
Bruce Robbins and Maggie Chase
Shauna and Dennis Robinson
Gary and Jo Ann Rose
Peggy Ann Rupp
Becky Sabin
Maria Salazar
Kathleen Schmidt
Katherine Shaughnessy and Tom Michael
Ken and Janet Sherman
Jerry and Ann Shively
William and Flora Skillern
David and Patty Skinner
Susan Spafford
Charles and Jan Squier
Kay and Brent Stauff
Joan Sullivan
Chris and Catherine Talkington
Teresa Tamura
Walt and Mary Thode
John Thomas
Kathlee Tift
Ed and Judy Torgerson
Alan and Sheryl Vaterlaus
Alan Virta
Linda Werner
Rod and Karen Wiens
Philip and Rebecca Winston
David and Kristine Wold

Volunteer (Up to \$49)
Gish Amano
Roy and Kathie Anderson
Jamie and Claire Armstrong
Dennis and Lynn Baird
Bruce and Suzan Belzer
Mary Lee Blackford
Bill and Elaine Blitman
Donna and Roger Boe
Richard and Aris Boyle
Marsha Bravo
Max and Darlene Burke
Robert and Eleanor Carriker
Evelyn Cates
Nancy Cole
Pamela Danielson
Mary DeWalt
Gail and Tom Dial
Bruce and Sheryl Dowlin
Terry Engebretsen and Susan Pichardo
Julie Gibbs
Anonymous
Hagerman Valley Historical Society
Steve and Geri Hagler
Jean Hanson
Craig Harline
Tom Bacon and Judith Horton
Anonymous
Jan Johnson
Bill Killen
Earl and Gwen Kimball
Elaine Kingston
Kroger
Joni Lueck
Mike and Beth Markley
Len and Darlyn Mattei
Gene McVey
Paul and JoAnne Michaels
Clark and Kathryn Muscat
Anonmous
Dennis O’Brien
Ben and Morgan Oakleaf
James and Benita Odenkirk
Barbara Olic-Hamilton
Marilyn Olson
Linda Porter
Donald Reese
Mike and Sharon Ripley
Debra and Shain Schlechte
Carolyn Sherman
Lynda and J.E. Smithman
Susan Stagliano
Judi Taylor
Carl Van Slyke
Priscilla Wegars and Terry Abraham
Carolyn White
Nadine York
Denis and Carol Yost
Edward and Cheryl Zaladonis

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Marilyn Shuler
Gary Wenske
Lawrence and Kaye Knight
In memory of Carol J. Weyhrich
Tony Park and Gail Chaloupka
In memory of Rosalie Sorrels
Gene McVey
Pamela Nagel
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger
In memory of Ronald Harlow
Dawn Harlow
In memory of Amy Margaret Christie
Anne and Alan Christie
In memory of Cheryl Shurtleft
J.E. and Linda Smithman
In memory of Horace Axtell
Bruce and Sheryl Dowlin
In memory of Angeline Angelos-Uhrich
Cassie Angelos

In memory of Governor Cecil D. Andrus
Aimee and Greg Moran
Robert Bilow and Jeannine Mehrhoff
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger
In memory of Fern Pomeroy
Kathe Alters
In memory of Betty Leigh Merrell
Sharon Hanson
In memory of Violet Skinner
David Skinner
In memory of Vickie J. Simmons
Melinda Lindsey
In memory of Carol Turpin
Lois Bates
In memory of Michael Kirkham
Lois Bates
In memory of Hero Shiosaki
Lois Bates

In memory of Commander CD Murdock
Lois Bates
In memory of Bud and Marian Packham
Lois Bates
In memory of Vince Hixon
Max and Darlene Burke
In memory of Randy Stimpson
Courtney Morgan
In memory of Dr. Richard Steele
Clay and Barbara Morgan
In memory of Lee and Addie Taylor
Kathleen Taylor
In memory of Bill Studebaker
Jim and Cyndie Woods
Rick and Rosemary Ardinger
In memory of Dr. Robert C. Sims
Hope Benedict and Stewart Carrington
Elizabeth Sims

In memory of Michael James
Richard Kochansky and Jennifer James
In memory of Peter T. Johnson
Lisa J. Cafferty
In memory of Nelle Tobias
Dick and Gerry Wisdom
In memory of Jack and Phyllis Ward
Jennifer Holley

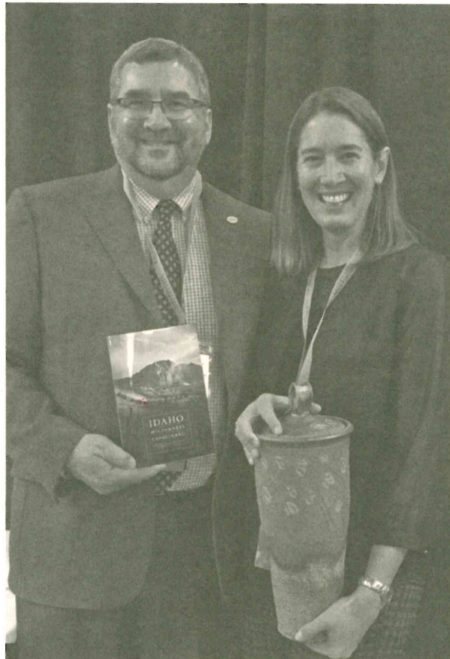
IN HONOR
In honor of Rick Ardinger
John Bieter
Teresa Tamura
Jan Mittleider
Joe and Rita Rodriguez
Jennifer Holley
Katherine Aiken
Cindy Haagenson
Park and Sharon Price
Virginia Tinsley Johnson
Alan and Anne Christie
Kathy Deinhardt Hill
In honor of Rick and Rosemary Ardinger
Clay and Barbara Morgan
In honor of Nancy Emery and Ike Johnson
Mary Trail
In honor of Jo Ann Nelson
Georgianne and Chris Jessen
In honor of Jennifer Holley
Cindy Haagenson

Idaho Humanities Council anthology on wilderness wins award for “Idaho Book of the Year”

The Idaho Library Association awarded *Idaho Wilderness Considered*, a 200-page anthology of essays, photos, and other reflections in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the establishment of new wilderness areas in Idaho in 2015 with the ILA’s award for “Idaho Book of the Year.” Published by the Idaho Humanities Council in the fall of 2016, the book features contributions by 26 Idahoans, including an interview with the late Governor Cecil Andrus on his life in conservation, an essay by U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson on Boulder-White Clouds legislation, and more.

Edited by IHC Board Members Murray Feldman, a Boise environmental attorney, and Jenny Emery Davidson, Director of the Community Library in Ketchum, *Idaho Wilderness Considered*, explores how and why wilderness areas matter to the very character of the state. *Idaho Wilderness Considered* charts the conversations, political negotiations, and personal journeys that have influenced—and been influenced by—Idaho’s wild places.

The book is the capstone of a popular Idaho Humanities Council reading and conversation series



In addition to receiving the award for “Idaho Book of the Year,” editors Murray Feldman and Jenny Emery Davidson were presented with a gift of unique pottery from southeast Idaho.

on the history and meaning of wilderness, hosted in libraries and other venues throughout the state in 2014 and 2015. The contributions to the anthology by conservation advocates, scholars, hikers, journalists, photographers, and others, explore the history, policy, law, literature, art, and science of Idaho wilderness, evoking the story of the land itself.

Idaho Conservation League Director Rick Johnson and Idaho Wilderness Society Regional Director Craig Gehrke reflect on their vocation to conservation advocacy, novelist Judith Freeman tells a story of living with bears in Salmon River country, journalist Rocky Barker reflects on wilderness and wildness, writers and hikers Bill Johnson of

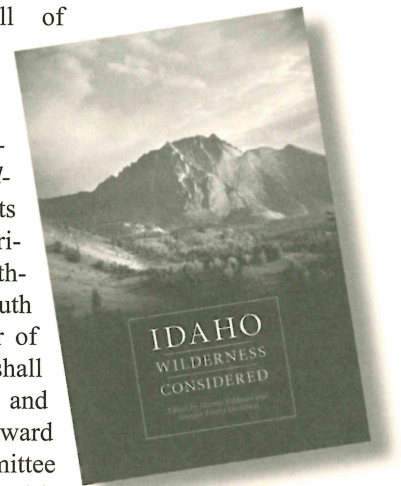
Lewiston and Mike Medberry and Nicole Lefavour of Boise reveal their love of being in the wild, journalist Mark Trahan remembers fishing with his family on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon, academic scholars Lisa Brady, John Freemuth, Rochelle Johnson, Scott Slovic, Alan Marshall, and Adam Sowards explore the history and future of wilderness, Sawtooth National Recreation Area backcountry manager Ed Cannady

supplies a well of Boulder-White Clouds photos, and more.

“*Idaho Wilderness Considered* certainly fits the ILA award criteria,” said Kathryn Poulter, Youth Services Director of Pocatello’s Marshall Public Library and Chair of the award selection committee

for books published in 2016. “The purpose of the award is to recognize and honor one book, selected from among all the books published in any one calendar year that has made an outstanding contribution to the body of printed materials about Idaho, either through the work’s setting or the locality of the author. The Award is intended to encourage excellence in writing and high standards of accuracy and readability in those books.”

Idaho Wilderness Considered is available for \$15 (plus 6% Idaho sales tax and \$4 Media Mail shipping) by clicking the link below or by calling (208) 345-5346. It also is available at Boise’s Rediscovered Books, Pocatello’s Walrus & Carpenter, Ketchum’s Chapter One, Moscow’s BookPeople, Coeur d’Alene’s Well-Read Moose, and other bookstores. ❖

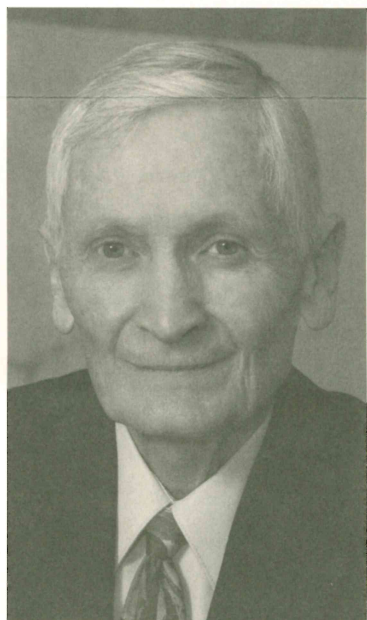


Former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones honored for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities

The Idaho Humanities Council honored former Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Jones with IHC’s Award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” at a wine/dessert reception and award ceremony on February 22 at the Hoff Building Crystal Ballroom in Boise. The IHC recognized his distinguished career as a public servant and Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, his devotion to the plight of refugees in Idaho and the U.S. for many years, and the publication of a book he authored that explores the history of a significant southern Idaho Snake River water rights controversy of the 1980s.

Jones, 75, a decorated U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, served on the staff of Senator Len B. Jordan in the early 1970s, and was elected twice as Attorney General for the State of Idaho (1983-1991). He was elected to the Idaho Supreme Court in 2004, ran unopposed in 2008, and was elected by his peers as Chief Justice in 2015.

He retired from the court in 2017 and published *A Little Dam Problem*, which chronicles an epic battle over water rights between the State of Idaho and Idaho Power Company. A court decision in 1982—the year Jones was first elected Idaho Attorney General—gave Idaho Power virtual control over the flow of the Snake River in southern Idaho, and as the newly



elected Attorney General Jones became mired in a struggle with a powerful adversary as he worked with legislators and water users to minimize the damage caused by the decision. His first-person account of the controversy that resulted in the historic Swan Falls agreement is a fascinating chapter in Idaho history and sheds light on the history of politics, government, and water law in the West.

More recently, Jones has focused renewed energies on his lifetime interest in bringing public attention to the plight of refugees in Idaho and the U.S. As an advocate for refugees, he has lectured, written editorials,

and worked to convince lawmakers and the general public that our state and nation need to step up their commitment to help those who are forced to flee their homelands.

“Jim Jones is a remarkable Idahoan who had a distinguished career as a jurist and public servant,” said IHC Chair Jenny Emery Davidson. “And he added a significant new work to the Idaho history bookshelf.”

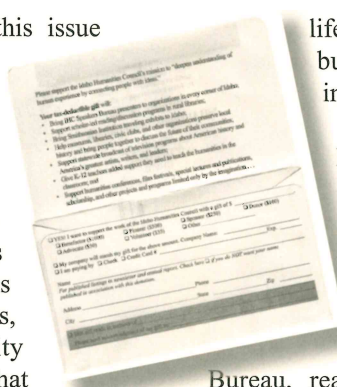
At the ceremony several individuals helped toast and roast Jones by speaking about the appropriateness

of the award honoring him, including current Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Burdick, *Idaho Statesman* Community Engagement Editor and IHC Board Member Bill Manny, Idaho Falls Attorney and IHC Board Member Tim Hopkins, and refugee advocate and Jannus Executive Director Karan Tucker, followed by Jones himself saying a few words about his life and work.

The IHC has presented its award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” annually since 1986. Previous recipients of the award include independent historian Keith Petersen, Twin Falls anthropologist James Woods, Idaho Governor Robert E. Smylie, College of Idaho Professor Louie Attebery, State Historian Merle Wells, Constitution scholar David Adler, Idaho historian Arthur Hart, Moscow writer Mary Clearman Blew, ISU English Professor Brian Atteberry, Idaho poet William Studebaker, Nez Perce elder Horace Axtell, former Lewis-Clark State College English Professor Keith Browning, ISU 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, College of Idaho archivist and photographer Jan Boles, Idaho State Historical Society Publications Editor Judy Austin, ISU English Professor Susan Swetnam, and others. ❖

Remember to send back that envelope...

To read the feature story in this issue of *Idaho Humanities* you had to remove the donation envelope—please don’t throw it away. Show your support for the work of the Idaho Humanities Council today by sending it back with your tax-deductible gift enclosed. The IHC is dependent more than ever on donations from our readers, program participants, teachers, civic leaders, community activists, and others who believe that



lifelong learning in the humanities helps build a more literate, tolerant, and intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry.

If you agree that lifelong learning in the humanities improves civil discourse and enhances informed civic involvement, then please return your envelope today. The IHC will put it to good use funding summer institutes and workshops for teachers, traveling Smithsonian exhibits, our Humanities Speakers Bureau, reading/discussion programs, lectures by

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

Return your envelope with a check, or make your donation online at www.idahohumanities.org, and help the Idaho Humanities Council deepen public understanding of human experience and connect people to ideas. ❖

**MAKE YOUR
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
GIFT TODAY!**

IDAHO *Humanities* COUNCIL

217 West State Street • Boise, Idaho 83702
Change Service Requested

Time for a change? Please let us know by checking the appropriate box below and returning with your label:

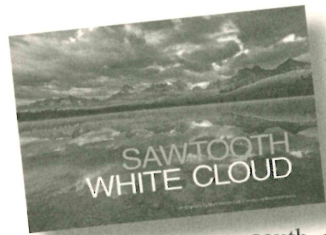
- ☐ Name misspelled ☐ Contact person changed
☐ Wrong address ☐ Received more than one
☐ Remove from mailing list

NEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

explores the state of the contemporary university, a way of thinking about knowledge, and a way of understanding how that knowledge interacts with tradition and the creative imagination. The book sells for \$19.95 (plus sales tax and postage) from: Editor, Rendezvous, Idaho State University, 921 S. 8th Avenue, Stop 8113, Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8113.

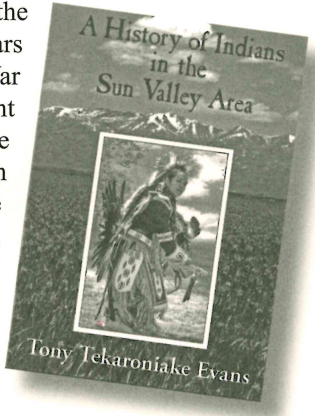
New book on Sawtooth-White Cloud



Caxton Press has produced a beautiful volume of photographs by Idaho photographer Mark Lisk that explores the vast landscape of mountain peaks in south central Idaho. The book offers a powerful array of photography of the lakes and creeks and rocky heights of a remote slice of the American wild, deep in Idaho's newly designated White Clouds Wilderness Area and the dramatic Sawtooth Wilderness. Boise writer Nicole LeFavour offers brief narratives throughout about a wilderness that most will never set foot in, yet is important to the character of the state and. The 128-page book sells for \$26 from Caxton Press, 312 Main Street, Caldwell, Idaho 83605, (800) 657-6465, or online at www.caxtonpress.com.

New book looks at Sun Valley-area Indians

The Blaine County Historical Museum announces publication of *A History of Indians in the Sun Valley Area*, by Tony Tekaroniaki Evans. The 56-page book features an Introduction by Lionel Q. Boyer, former Chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and an array of historical and contemporary photographs. Based on a series of articles Evans wrote for the *Idaho Mountain Express*, the book traces the stories of Indians in the area from early archaeological evidence of human habitation in the Elkhorn area 10,000 years ago, to the Bannock War of 1878, to the present day when the Shoshone-Bannock peoples return to the area from the Fort Hall Reservation to harvest camas bulbs on their ancestral lands near Fairfield. The book is available for \$14.00 from the Blaine Country Historical Museum, P.O. Box 124, Hailey, Idaho 83333, or call (208) 788-1801.



THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR IHC GRANTS:

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2018**. 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, 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: Sharon Manning

Occupation: Retired teacher, Pocatello

Book: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann



David Grann completed extensive research for his 2017 narrative nonfiction book *Killers of the Flower Moon*. It is set in Osage County, Oklahoma, during the 1920's. The members of the

Osage Indian nation had become the richest people per capita in the world as a result of land negotiations held in 1904. At that time the Osage people were the last tribe in Indian Territory to reach terms for the allotment of the land that was to be their reservation. Not only were they able to increase the number of acres for each member to 657 acres; but also were able to include the provision: "That the oil, gas, coal and other minerals covered by the lands...are hereby reserved to the Osage Tribe." When the quest for oil began, power and greed over this wealth of the Osage people resulted in more than 24 murders. The newly formed FBI under director J. Edgar Hoover and with Agent Tom White began to expose a terrible conspiracy in American history. An excellent read! We need to know our history!

Reader: Scott Arnold

Occupation: History teacher, Boise High School

Book: *My Life* by Royal Robbins



On a warm Sunday in 1952, the 17-year-old sneaker-clad Robbins grew frustrated. Five times he had tried and failed to negotiate the granite wall before him. Then he asked "What if you climb as if you are going to

make it, without any thought of failure? If I was going to fail, I would fail falling." Prior to his passing, Robbins published three installments of his *My Life* autobiography entitled *To Be Brave, Fail Falling*, and *The Golden Age*. The series follows him through his difficult childhood to his pioneering climbs of Yosemite's Half Dome and El Capitan. Along the way, you meet Yosemite climbing legends and you follow Robbins as he moves the ethos of climbing from conquest towards an aesthetic that merges adventure with beauty, respect for the rock, and personal self-discovery.

Robbins lived by the ethos of "fail falling"; an individual who overcame the challenge of the personal and the physical by daring to place his hand on blank rock with the conviction that in doing so he would find a way forward.

Reader: Bette Ammon

Occupation: Library Director, Coeur d'Alene Public Library

Book: *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan



The sea is the backdrop for this vivid historical novel set during World War II in New York City. Three stories intertwine taking the reader through the lives of Anna Kerrigan, Eddie

Kerrigan, and Dexter Styles. Resilient Anna – made so when her father Eddie abandons the family – is the focus. She works in the Brooklyn Naval Yard for the war effort but aspires to become a diver even though women just can't/don't put on the 200 lb. diving suit and work among men. Anna persists and her strength and nimble fingers make her one of the best at repairing damaged warships. She never stops wondering what happened to her father, and when her path crosses that of local gangster Dexter Styles, she thinks there is a connection. Learning about her father fuels Anna's initial contact but soon she and Styles are each overwhelmed by their mutual attraction. Wonderful writing, extraordinary characters, and a deep dive into fascinating history combine for a great read.