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.

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 Trajillo.

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 present 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 Tylwyth M. Rehard.

Mountain Home Arts Council, Mountain Home, was awarded $970 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 Cour d’Alene Summer Theater’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

Northern Pacific Depot Foundation, Wallace, was awarded $1,700 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 Shaunita Hillman.

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 1931 novel, O Pioneer!, 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 reconstruction was done quite deliberately through the Federal Writers’ Project (FWP). The FWP initiated a massive effort to celebrate the national landscape and name 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 did not follow 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 true 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

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 in a different direction.

Idaho was a young state in the 1930s, still lazy 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)
From the Director

The awesome power of the humanities

By David R. Petryjohn

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 Arding’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 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 “for 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 Anstegui
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 Anstegui (Boise) teaches social studies to middle and high school students at Basin School District in Idaho City. She holds degrees from Rutgers (AB, 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’Alene 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

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
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, 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. Meeck 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. 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 book 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 the 9/11 Museum. His bestselling One of Those Times 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.


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. 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, and 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 Flying, 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).
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 traditions; it would foster a sense of communal identity. Instead of focusing on architecture and city parks, Fisher presents descriptions and photos of rugged mountain peaks and secret caves. He writes about un-navigable rivers and forbidding 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 the dude ranch horses) 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 about the Nez Perce,” he writes. “They were not noble savages. They were not thriftless vagabonds.”

In addition to producing Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture (1937), with additional funding from the Federal Writers’ Project, Varda Fisher produced The Idaho Encyclopedia, in 1935 and Idaho Lore, a compilation of Idaho folklore, in 1939, both published by Baptist Printers of Caldwell.

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, redefining the concept of its 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 it’s not hard to see why. “After three centuries of adventures in 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 nobly amidst the gaudy immorality of newsstand pulp magazines and in cheap novels” (17). He argues that western states like Idaho have been sentimentalized 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 elegant 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

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 sides. This part of Idaho, looking as it now stands at the sky had pored boulders upon it or as if it harbored a vegetation of rock: this toothed steppe, furrowed and gouged and splintered the national, is not for the faint of heart 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 “imperfective” and “invisible” and “dare not say that.” It is not beautiful, green, pastoral villages, and Idaho’s equivalents of “pyramids” and monuments will be found not in cities, but in hard-to-traverse lava fields or in that round moon over the Middle Fork, the stars “tangled in tree tope” (360-361).

Fisher’s 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 Idaho guidebook remains a distinctive 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. Instead, the descriptions of the FPW office and perhaps of the general audience, Fisher emphasizes nature and the pre-social landscape of Idaho, rather than signs of human development. Resting the fundamental conventions of a guidebook to bring clarity to unknown turf, Fisher actually promotes the otherness and unknowability of Idaho’s rugged terrain.

Works Cited


Jenny Emery Davidson is Executive Director of The Community Library in Ketchum and the current Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council. She holds a P.A.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.
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 “Shakespearean” program, which is 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 1865. 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 historic pioneer signs, 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 Zweller.

Boise State University, Boise, received $2,000 in support of a public lecture by Haitian writer Evelyne Trouillot, speaking on women and historical memory, and how literature explores the stories of women in history. The lecture will be part of the Eloise Garmendia Bieter Chair in Basque Studies and the 18th 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 the filmmaker Karen Day Zatkim 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 Zatk.

Levis-Choke 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 research 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 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 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 Murry.

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 history of the Snake 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 in China are coming to realize that economic growth is adversely impacting the livable environment.

Alessandro Meregaglia, 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.


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.

Loren 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 Nezniump (Nez Perce) and others, for families, educators and institutions, and will include a compact disc of representative song examples. The project director is Lorin 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 Museum 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, Genese, 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 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

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

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

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

A retirement bash for Rick Ardlinger

The board and staff of the Idaho Humanities Council gave Rick Ardlinger, IHC’s long-time Executive Director, a roasting 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 Ardlinger from Sarasota, Florida, former Assistant Director Patty White of Vancouver, Washington, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, in Arlington, Virginia, and many other friends from all over Idaho, Utah, and the Pacific Northwest.

Idaho Humanities Council
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 is also 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.

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 Kasikia 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 Kritz and John Kritz, Gary Wyke, Bonnie and Frank Gallant, Caroline Morris and David Monson, Gail Bray and Christopher Justice, Jan Boles, Michael Faison and Gisela Zechmeister, Greg and Julie Hahn, James Wolfe and Dim 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.
Idaho Humanities Council anthology on wilderness wins award for
"Idaho Book of the Year"

The Idaho Library Association awarded Idaho Wildness 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 Boulders-White Clouds legislation, and more.

Edited by IHC Board Members Murray Feldman, a Boise environmental attorney, and Jenny Emery Davidson, Director of the Community, the Idaho Wildness Considered explores how and why wilderness areas matter to the very character of the state. Idaho Wilderness Considered chartss 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 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 Gerlcke reflect on their vocations to conservation advocacy, novelist Judith Freeman tells a story of living with bears in Salmon River country, journalist Rocky Lasker 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 Trabant remembers fishing with his family on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon, academic scholars Lisa Brady, John Freemuth, Rochelle Johnson, Scott Slavic, Alan Marshall, and Adam Sowards explore the history and future of wilderness, Sawtooth National Recreation Area backcountry ed Cannady supplies a well of Boulder-White Clouds photos, and more.

"Idaho Wildness Considered certainly fits the ILA award criteria," said Kathryns Poulet, 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 Wildness Considered is available for $15 (plus 6% Idaho sales tax and $.95 Media Mail shipping) by clicking the link below or by calling (208) 345-3346. It is also available at Boise’s Rediscovered Books, Pocatello’s Walrus & Carpenter, Kercheval’s Chapter One, Moscow’s BookPeople, Cœur 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/ desert 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 law in the West.

More recently, Jones has focused renewed energies on his 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 Statehouse Community Engagement Editor and IHC Board Member Bill Manny, Idaho Falls Attorney and IHC Board Member Tim Hopkins, and refugee advocate and Janus Executive Director Karen 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 Louise Atteberry, 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 Merrill, College of Idaho archivist and photographer Jan Boles, Idaho State Historical Society Publications Editor Judy Austin, ISU English Professor Susan Swean, 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 productive 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!
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. 6th 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 photographs 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 see in 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 Tekarjina-ke 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 County 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, Cœur 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.