

IHC awards \$143,456 in grants

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$143,456 in grants to organizations and individuals in the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. Sixty-eight awards include 49 grants for public humanities programs, 13 Teacher Incentive Grants, four Research Fellowships, and two Planning Grants. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education. The following projects were funded:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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

Death Rattle Writers Festival, Nampa, was awarded **\$1,200** to help support the Fourth Annual Death Rattle Writer’s Festival in Nampa October 2017. The festival features poets, novelists, playwrights, storytellers, hip-hop artists and musicians from both emerging and professional communities. The project director is **Zachary Michael Reeder**.

The Department of Philosophy, Boise State University, Boise, received **\$1,200** for support of a public lecture by distinguished New York University Professor of Philosophy David Chalmers. The presentation explored the ways in which virtual reality technologies challenge our understanding of the distinction between appearance and reality. The project director was **Andrew Joseph Cortens**.

University of Idaho-Modern Languages and Cultures, Moscow, was awarded **\$1,500** to help support a presentation in November 2017 by a Spanish theater director exploring the refugee crisis. His presentation will focus on the hardships that refugees are experiencing. Also, he will lecture on his experiences with refugee camps and help moderate a discussion on the topic of the crisis within a global context. The project director is **Marta Boris Tarre**.

Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, Malad City, received **\$1,500** to help support two presentations for the 13th Annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival, to be held June 30-July 1, 2017, in Malad, Idaho. One will examine the unique style and form of traditional Welsh poetry and the second will explore the history of music and poetry in Wales. The project director is **Gloria Jean Thomas**.

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

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

Caldwell Public Library, Caldwell, received **\$2,000** to help create a local history archive at the Caldwell Public Library. They will sort through a large collection of historical materials and make them accessible in digital and hard-copy format to patrons. The project director is **Marina Rose**.

The Foote Park Project, Boise, received **\$2,000** to add an interactive audio kiosk at an Interpretive Center at the existing site of the original Foote home on the Boise River. The center highlights contributions of 19th century engineer Arthur De Wint Foote and his wife, writer/illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, significant figures in Idaho’s history. The kiosk will present selected quotations from Mary’s life and works. The project director is **Janet Worthington**.



Mary Hallock Foote

The Redside Foundation, Inc., Boise, was awarded **\$2,000** to document, archive, and present first-hand accounts of some of Idaho’s first outdoor guides and outfitters. The narratives will be captured in video, audio, and print media. They will be presented at a public event on November 14, 2017. The project director is **Emerald LaFortune**.

Community Library Network, Hayden, was awarded **\$2,000** to bring sci-fi writer Fonda Lee, award-winning author of *Zeroboxer* and *Exo* to Rathdrum and Post Falls. Lee presented her take on the world of sports in the distant future. The project director is **Twylla Rehder**.

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

City of McCall, Idaho, McCall, received **\$2,000** to preserve, protect, and make publicly accessible the archive of historic documents, clippings, photos, and newspapers at the McCall Public Library. When complete, they will host a public presentation on accessing the collection. The project director is **Carol Coyle**.

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

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



S.M. Hulse



Elizabeth Smart

Idaho State University, Pocatello, was awarded **\$2,000** to help support the “Surviving Voices” event, a four-day program examining how alternative perspectives can help develop important strategies for combatting violence against women in its many forms. There will be a special presentation by victims advocate Elizabeth Smart, documentary films, and theatre performances. The project director is **Elizabeth Brunner**.

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IDAHO Humanities

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Summer 2017

Why the Public Humanities Matter: A Three-Decade Perspective

By Susan H. Swetnam



ISU Professor Emerita Susan Swetnam (holding plaque), honored for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities, is surrounded by IHC board members and colleagues who helped roast and toast her for receiving IHC’s award on March 29.

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

What an honor and delight it is to receive the Idaho Humanities Council’s award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities—a capstone to so many years of involvement with the organization. Celebrating this award has brought up so many memories of so many incredible people and projects, and as I reminisce for a few minutes about them (and perhaps remind you of your own past experiences with the Council’s work), I also want to use that narrative to emphasize how crucial it is that such programming continue. Without the public humanities activities that IHC, the other state councils, and NEH champion, I’ll insist, we would all be infinitely poorer. First a touch of ancient history. In a way it seems at once like yesterday and another lifetime when I first became involved in public humanities programming back in 1981. I was a brand-new assistant professor of English at Idaho State University then, and a colleague in the department, Jennifer Lee, had invited Tom Rybus, then IHC’s Assistant Director, to spread the gospel of the public humanities and try to drum up some southeastern Idaho scholar participation. Among the people he drummed up that day was me, and I soon applied

for my first grant as project director, for the “Southeast Idaho Family and Place Histories Collection” project. That was meant to be a modest collection grant to support research I was doing on family chronicle novels—I wanted to see if local vernacular narratives in that genre took the same shape as literary ones—but like so many other things I’ve taken on it soon grew out of control (in a good way) and assumed a life of its own. By the time the smoke cleared, there was a new 7000-page archive that hadn’t been available for scholars before; I’d given dozens of slide-show talks on the importance of preserving and sharing such resources all across eastern Idaho; I’d published several articles, and my first book would soon follow based on the collection. That project also featured a vocational epiphany about public humanities in general, and I can’t resist revealing it very briefly before I address more substantively the importance of what agencies like IHC do and why we should fight for their continuance—because it’s an origin myth of sorts for me. On the day in question I’d just given one of those slide-show talks in Arco and had turned for home in the late afternoon. Unfortunately a big January blizzard had blown in during the event. As I set out across the desert on Idaho Highway 20, horizontal snow squalls were gusting across the car’s bow (similar to the ones that gusted on a night just a month ago this spring of 2017 as I drove home from a LTAI in Preston). Even though it was daylight, seeing the edges of the road was difficult, and since it was Saturday there weren’t many other cars and I had nobody to follow. I was feeling good, though—the session had been a lively one—and I was thinking about the people back in my doctoral program in Michigan



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From the Director

Time for new leadership at the IHC

By Rick Ardinger

Over the years, I’ve been rehearsing in my head the day I would begin these words, and the time is here to finally write them. At the beginning of this year, I informed the Idaho Humanities Council Executive Committee that it is time to think about Executive Director succession for the IHC, as I prepare to transition away from the Council after 26 years. It’s been a beautiful ride. And it’s time for new leadership for the IHC.

I have no immediate calendar deadline to turn in my keys. I’m flexible to work for the smoothest transition for this great organization that has so enriched my life and helps so many teachers, scholars, libraries, museums, colleges, and other organizations throughout the state. I’ll still be on board this fall for IHC’s annual Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Coeur d’Alene and Boise, maybe even into early 2018, if need be.

It’s been my privilege to work with an ever-changing, renewing board of directors who care deeply about the importance of the humanities in Idaho. Their love of literature and history and belief in the mission of the IHC has been truly motivating to me. And every fall, when board members who have completed their terms of service



must say farewell to the rest of us, often with tears in their eyes, I can’t think of a better group of selfless volunteers with whom to be involved. Against tough odds, we work to convince skeptical political leaders and even our closest friends that active reading of literature and history, a love of art and music, and a belief in civil discourse are necessary for preserving democracy.

My staff—three dedicated, hardworking individuals with whom it seems I spend more waking hours each week than I spend with my own wife—has made our work look so easy. Always flexible, adaptable, open to new possibilities, their passion, intelligence, professionalism, and positive attitudes have fueled my love for the work and sustained me in challenging times.

I’ve made a lifetime of friends whose faces are my good memories.

I’ll always be involved in the humanities, just in a different way in the years ahead, supplemented by Medicare and Social Security. My wife Rosemary and I will renew our commitment to our Limberlost Press and rededicate ourselves to the Old World art of letterpress printing in our shop on a canyon above More’s Creek in the mountains northeast of Boise.

The Idaho Humanities Council is a strong, respected, mission-driven organization vitally important to the intellectual health of the state. The IHC deserves our continued support. I intend to remain a very strong advocate. ❖

Idaho Humanities Director to step down after 26 years

Idaho Humanities Council Executive Director Rick Ardinger will step away from the IHC after 26 years to make way for a new director of the Boise-based, statewide nonprofit devoted to promoting greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. Ardinger announced his decision to his Board of Directors earlier this year, promising to do all he can do to ensure a smooth transition for the Council in the months ahead.

Ardinger 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. During his time, the Council launched a successful \$1 million fundraising campaign to establish an Endowment for Humanities Education with the Idaho Community Foundation, providing a sustainable source

of support for the IHC’s annual, weeklong, residential summer institutes and workshops in the humanities for K-12 teachers. In 1997, the Council held its first annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner in Boise, an event which over the years has brought to Boise a long list of nationally prominent novelists, journalists, historians—many Pulitzer Prize-winners—to speak before hundreds of IHC supporters every fall. Today, in addition to the annual event in Boise, the IHC also hosts annual Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, and Coeur d’Alene.

The IHC sponsors statewide reading and conversations programs, supports the work of the City Clubs of Idaho Falls and Boise, brings annual tours of Smithsonian traveling exhibitions to the state, hosts an ongoing Humanities Speakers Bureau, funds the statewide annual ‘Let’s talk About It’ program in partnership with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, underwrites Idaho Public Television programming,

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IHC welcomes four new Board Members



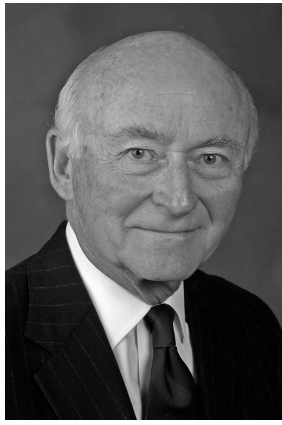
Andrea Partington



Gary Wenske



Rocky Owens



Tim Hopkins

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

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

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

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

Educational Administration from the University of Idaho and has taught in the Coeur d’Alene School District since 1980.

Garry Wenske (Boise) is an adjunct professor and Executive Director of the Frank Church Institute at Boise State University. He also serves as the President of the Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, and on the board of directors of the Idaho Council for International Visitors. He is a graduate of George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Relations and the Foreign Service Institute and holds a law degree from the University of Idaho.

The four new members replaced retiring members Margo Aragon (Lewiston), Lisa Brady (Boise), Wendy Jaquet (Ketchum), Mike Kennedy (Coeur d’Alene), and Ed Marohn (Idaho Falls).

The IHC board meets three times a year to review council-conducted humanities projects and programs and award grants to organizations throughout Idaho to promote greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of literature, history, cultural anthropology, law, and other humanities disciplines. ❖

IDAHO Humanities COUNCIL

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The Idaho Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from other foundations, private corporations, and individuals. IHC’s mission is to increase the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities in Idaho. It accomplishes this through educational projects for the general public and various target audiences. The Council plans and conducts projects on its own and in concert with other organizations such as universities, colleges, libraries, civic clubs, professional associations, historical societies and museums, and other cultural, educational, and community entities. IHC also provides grant support for humanities projects throughout Idaho.

Opinions expressed in *Idaho Humanities* do not necessarily reflect views of the Idaho Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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

GRANTS
(Continued from Page 1)

Foundation for Idaho History, Boise, was awarded **\$2,000** to help support the Idaho’s Heritage Conference September 20-22, 2017 in Boise. The conference will engage statewide partners in preservation, history, museums, and archaeology in a cross-discipline conference fostering collaboration, inspiration, and networking. The project director is **Dax Chizum**.

Trailing of the Sheep Cultural Heritage Center, Hailey, received **\$2,000** to support a presentation by filmmaker Stanzin Dorjai at the 2017 Trailing of the Sheep Festival. His documentary film centers on a shepherdess of sheep and endangered Pashmina goats in the Himalayas titled “Shepherdess of the Glaciers.” His colleague Konchok Stobgais, a founder of the Cashmere Center in Pangong of India’s High Himalayas, will lead a workshop on working with cashmere. The project director is **Laura Musbach Drake**.

University of Idaho-Department of Theatre Arts, Moscow, received **\$2,000** to help support a screening of the critically acclaimed film “Certain Women.” Native American actress Lily Gladstone, a featured actor in the film, will present an introduction to the film and to women and Native women in film, and lead a post-screening discussion. The project director is **Ann Hoste**.

Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts & History, Lewiston, received **\$2,000** to support preparation of an illustrated textbook for first- and second-year Nez Perce to be used for classes at LCSC, University of Idaho, and Lapwai High School. The illustrations will help enhance the textbook with drawings showing traditional Nez Perce culture. The project director is **Charlette Kremer**.

College of Southern Idaho/Social Science and Humanities Symposium, Twin Falls, received **\$3,000** to help support a two-day symposium examining issues related to the refugee crisis in America. The conference will include legal scholars, historians, social scientists, and refugees. The project director is **Shilo Smith**.

The Community Library, Ketchum, was awarded **\$3,500** to help support the annual Ernest Hemingway Festival. The focus for this year’s festival, scheduled for September 7-9, is Hemingway’s novel *The Sun Also Rises*, featuring distinguished author Paula McLain, author of *The Paris Wife*, as the keynote speaker. The project director is **Bethany Hull**.

University of Idaho, Journalism, Moscow, was awarded **\$3,500** to help fund a multimedia project examining the experiences and lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people in the state of Idaho. The documentary film will include oral history videos collected from members of Idaho’s LGBTQ community throughout the state and will examine and preserve the topic’s history and the social, cultural, political and legal issues in Idaho. The project director is **Denise Bennett**.

Lemhi County Historical Society and Museum, Salmon, was awarded **\$4,000** for a multifaceted series of programs examining the River of No Return. June programs will include an extensive exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts, several public presentations, book readings and field trips to historic places on the along river. The project director is **Karen Gallogly**.



Boise WaterShed Exhibits, Inc., Boise, received **\$4,000** to support a photographic exhibit at the Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center. The exhibit will illustrate Boise’s unique historical evolution and its current renown of having both the oldest geothermal system in the country, and the largest direct-use system in the United States. The project director is **Nellie Baker**.

Ada Community Library, Boise, received **\$3,500** for the 2017 “Read Me Treasure Valley” program. The community-wide reading program focused on the 1983 novel *The River Why* by Montana author David James Duncan. It included book discussions, lecture programs, and other complementary events, culminating in a presentation by the author. The project director was **Mary DeWalt**.

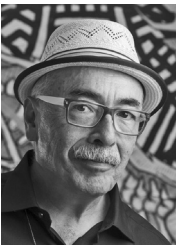
The Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise, was awarded **\$3,000** to support the creation of two exhibits. One exhibit explored the 1937 bombing of Guernica in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of that event during the Spanish Civil War. The second was an exhibit of photographs by Idaho photographer Jan Boles about spring lambing time. The project director is **Annie Gavica**.

The Burley Public Library, Burley, received **\$2,000** for local programs and display signs to complement the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit *Water/Ways*. They produced an exhibit of historical photos exploring how water from the Snake River was harnessed for agriculture in southern Idaho, and hosted a one-day “Day of Water” conference with speakers and panelists exploring water issues in their community. **Linda Barney** was the project director.

The Center for Civic Education, Boise, was awarded **\$4,900** to help support its annual teacher workshop focusing on the origins of the U.S. Constitution. About 50 teachers statewide attended the workshop focused on James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Marshall. They examined the Revolutionary War, its results, how it led to the establishment and implementation of the Constitution, and how these events helped shape American culture. The project director was **Troy Hamilton**.

The Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program, Lapwai, was awarded **\$4,506** to develop and test an interactive, place-based school curriculum plan that connects Nez Perce land, language and culture. The curriculum provides teacher guides and workshops with student visits to important cultural sites. **Mario Battaglia** is the project director.

The Cabin, Boise, received **\$3,000** for the 14th season (2016-2017) of its Readings and Conversation Series. This popular series brings nationally prominent authors to Boise to speak, read their works and respond to



Juan Felipe Herrera

questions. Presenting authors in the series included Gloria Steinem, Colum McCann, Juan Felipe Herrera, Aimee and Karen Bender, and Lauren Groff. The project director was **Kurt Zwolfer**.

The Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received **\$3,500** for its statewide tour *Shakespeareance*, an educational outreach program presenting a condensed Shakespeare play and workshops to rural and urban secondary schools. The play for this season was *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Over 20,000 students and teachers are reached each year. **Christine Zimowsky** was the project director.

The City Club of Boise was awarded **\$4,000** to help support its annual program of monthly forums exploring issues of public concern. The City Club is a nonpartisan forum where everything from bills before the legislature, to civility in the courts, to refugee issues, to education, health care, and the arts are discussed by panelists, jurists, journalists, scholars, and others in a moderated exchange of ideas. **John Hess** is the project director.

The ISU English Department, Pocatello, was awarded **\$1,999** to cover honorarium and travel for writer Shawn Vestal, author of *Daredevils* and *Godforsaken Idaho*, to make a presentation on the importance of the humanities in connecting individuals to larger communities, particularly in geographically removed locations such as southern Idaho. He read from his fiction and held a fiction writing class for high school students. The project director was **Bethany Hurst**.

Idaho State University History Department, Pocatello, received **\$1,776** for three of four public programs off campus called “Humanities Café.” “Diversity” was the theme for the 2016-2017 series which will present the visual, aural, and literary representations of difference among ISU and Pocatello’s population, and how those differences influence humanities scholarship and act as inspiration for human expression. **Kathleen Kole de Peralta** was the project director.

The Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise, received **\$7,500** toward fabrication and installation of the “Origins” exhibit in the newly planned museum expansion currently under construction. The “Origins” exhibit’s central theme is the origin stories of the five federally recognized tribes of Idaho (Kootenai Tribe, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes), the origins of Idaho’s unique landscape, and how Idaho’s peculiar shape came to be formed. The project director is **Dax Chizum**.

Lewis-Clark State College Martin Luther King (MLK) Committee, Lewiston, was awarded **\$1,470** to help support an evening event in conjunction with activities planned in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Idaho Human Rights Day. Among several activities was a performance by Living Voices titled “Our Revolution,” examining the involvement of African Americans in the American Revolution. **Christopher Riggs** was the project director.

LCSC Native American Club, Lewiston, received **\$2,000** to help support its annual Native American Awareness Week (NAAW) Festival. Designed to promote Native American culture in a public forum, the week included a pow wow, storytelling, speakers, and the Friendship Banquet. One headliner for the program was Ed Edmo, a Sho-Ban storyteller, presenting legend and creation stories. **Bob Sobotta** was the project director.

The Magic Valley Arts Council, Twin Falls, received **\$1,800** to sponsor a documentary film series, using documentaries that are part of PBS’ *Independent Lens* series. The films, followed by moderated discussion, tackled complex issues, creatively engaged audiences, and expanded cultural awareness and civic participation. The project director was **Carolyn White**.

The Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, was awarded **\$3,500** to support a new exhibit that featured Sister Alfreda Elsensohn and the original 1930 attic museum she developed at the St. Gertrude Monastery. The envisioned exhibit focused on Sister Alfreda’s role in preserving and interpreting local history and included a replication of her original museum to help illustrate the way museums and their exhibits have evolved over time. **Mary Schmidt** is the project director.

The Museum of Idaho (MOI), Idaho Falls, received **\$3,500** for partial support to bring a major national traveling exhibit about ancient Rome to Idaho Falls in 2017. The exhibit focused on four aspects of Roman civilization: engineering, architecture and public works, military, and lifestyle, illustrating how historical events, innovations, and ideas shape life today. **Kimberly Lee** is the project director.

The Rexburg Arts Council, Rexburg, received **\$2,000** for a program to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Teton Flood. The project includes recording oral histories and stories of residents in Eastern Idaho during this time, and then using them in museum displays. The project director is **Tisha Flora**.

The Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association (SIHA), Stanley, was awarded **\$1,000** for Phase 2 of an oral history preservation project. This phase will catalog, transcribe, place recordings on its website, and make duplicate copies for the Stanley Community Library, making the collection more accessible to current residents and visitors. **Terry Clark** was the project director.

The Robert E. Smylie Archives (RESA) at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, received **\$1,500** to inventory and create an internet finding aid to a recently acquired collection of family papers from the extended family of Albert K. Steunenberg. Albert was the brother and business partner of murdered Idaho Governor Frank Steunenberg. **Jan Boles** was the project director.

The Idaho Mythweaver, Sandpoint, was awarded **\$1,100** to support a Native American Film Series at the East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint. The series included five documentaries made by Native Americans and/or about Native Americans followed by audience discussions. **Jane Fritz** was the project director.

The Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum, Twin Falls, received **\$1,875** to support a county map restoration project. The Society scanned and photographed county maps dated prior to 1920, to ensure their future use. Many of the maps show original land ownership, canal systems, schools, districts, and original town sites. The project director was **Laurie Warren**.

The Wallace District Mining Museum, Wallace, received **\$1,000** to transfer oral/video interviews with folks involved in the Coeur d’Alene District mining industry from VHS to DVD, catalog them with brief summaries, and have them available for viewing at the museum. Their website will feature a brief clip of these interviews, and they will interview individuals who have had diverse experiences in the valley. **Tammy Copelan** is the project director.

The Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, Boise, was awarded **\$1,500** to help support a one-day workshop for up to 35 Idaho teachers titled “From Historical Narrative to Human Spirit: The Diary of Anne Frank.” The workshop focused on the holocaust as portrayed in art, history and literature. In addition to exploring curricular materials and resources for teaching Anne Frank’s diary, they brought Zlata Filipovic, author of *Zlata’s Diary* (the Anne Frank of Sarajevo), to Boise to discuss her diary. **Dan Prinzing** was the project director.

White Spring Ranch, Genesee, was awarded **\$1,010** to produce photo books and to enlarge photos for display at the museum. Student volunteers gathered letters written by pioneers and WWI, WWII, and Korean soldiers from Genesee and compiled them into the photo books. Copies of the books were placed in the local school library and the public library. **Diane Conroy** was the project director.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Independent scholar Marc Johnson, Manzanita, Oregon (formerly of Boise) received **\$3,500** to complete a book on how and why the elections of 1980 constituted a turning point in modern American political history that “fundamentally altered” American politics ever since. He will explore particularly how the emergence of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) and these elections transformed how political campaigns have been run ever since, and how the Senate has become more partisan.



University of Idaho Medieval History Professor Ellen Kittel, Moscow, received **\$3,500** to support travel to Bruges, Belgium, to complete research for a book on women’s lives in 13th and 14th century Flanders. Kittel’s study focuses particularly on the association between women’s identity and agency.

BSU English Professor Edward Test, Boise, received **\$3,500** for research and translation of a 17th century play by Juan Pérez de Montalbán, titled *Comedia Famosa De La Monja Alférez* (*The Famous Comedy of the Lieutenant Nun*, 1625), a Spanish play that has never been translated into English. The Monja Alférez is a story about a Basque native, Catalina de Erauso, born in San Sebastián in 1585. Born in Spain, the teenage girl escaped her life in a convent to board a ship for the New World, where she took the identity of a man among a crew of conquistadors.

College of Idaho English Professor Rochelle Johnson, Caldwell, was awarded **\$3,500** to complete a biography of Susan Fenimore Cooper (1813-1894), a 19th century naturalist, environmental thinker and writer, and daughter of novelist James Fenimore Cooper. This grant would enable Johnson to travel to Europe to experience and walk some of the landscapes where Cooper spent her formative years, and which inspired in Cooper an environmental ethic and an interest in the history and impact of humanity on ecosystems in Europe and America.



TEACHER INCENTIVE GRANTS

Erin Fahnstrom, Meridian Academy High School, Meridian, received **\$420** for a unit to reflect on the Holocaust and other genocides, and increase awareness of human rights violations and discrimination occurring in our own society. Students read the book, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, and visited the Anne Frank Memorial.

Kathleen Mulroy, Pend Oreille Arts Council, Sandpoint, was awarded **\$925** for the “Living Voices Native Vision” program, including three school performances and one public performance. The presentation explored the experiences of Native Americans in the 1930s and ‘40s, through the story of a Navajo girl who is taken from her home and placed in a government-run boarding school.

Patty Bolinger, William Thomas Middle School, American Falls, received **\$750** to help support a field trip to Boise to complement government classes. Students visited the Idaho State Capitol Building, the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, and Boise State University. Many of the school’s students had never been to Boise, and Bolinger indicated this type of program helps them and their families be more engaged in civic activities and make more informed decisions about post-high school goals.

Jamie Nielsen, Capital High School, Boise, received **\$500** for the purchase of Chromebooks to be used in her classroom. Students will use the Chromebooks to find authentic German websites (such as restaurant websites, traveling sites, etc.), German videos on YouTube, vocabulary games on Quizlet, creating skits and conversations with recording software, and using Skype with German exchange students.

Kirsten Pomerantz, Lake City High School, Coeur d’Alene, received **\$970** to purchase two book sets entitled, *All American Boys*, and *Persepolis* to be used in her 11th grade American Literature classroom. One unit touched on issues around slavery, and the second focused on the Harlem Renaissance and the struggles for Civil Rights.



Dee Gore, Garden City Library Foundation, Garden City, received **\$750** in support of the “Bells for Books” mobile literacy program. This mobile literacy program serves low income children and their families in the Garden City area, with a high number of non-English speaking, high-risk patrons.

(See GRANTS, Page 13)

who had derided my choice to take the job at Idaho State. “But you’re a Rackham scholar,” my advisor had said. “You’re going to be wasting yourself there.” Fellow graduate students said snide things about the boondocks and lack of intellectual stimulation—they were all applying to tier-one research institutions, anticipating careers as international research scholars and teachers of the best, most privileged students. Two years on in a career at ISU, though, I was starting to grasp that my choice had been absolutely perfect. I was in love with Idaho and my students and starting to discover that teaching and writing here might make a real and essential difference.

To relax myself in the storm that January day on Highway 20, I found the only radio station that would come through in the weather (long before satellite radio), a Twin Falls oldie venue. Call this magical thinking if you will, but the first song that played, a Van Morrison classic, seemed so perfect for the circumstances that for me the song has ever after been about Idaho, not a person:

*You can take
All the tea in China
Put it in a big brown bag for me
Sail right round all the 7 oceans
Drop it right into the middle of the deep blue sea.
She’s as sweet as Tupelo honey
She’s an angel of the first degree.
She’s as sweet as Tupelo honey,
Just like honey, baby, from the bee.*

On that day, and many others that rapidly followed, I discovered vocation here in sweet Idaho public humanities work, and that sense has only grown stronger over the past three decades on more projects than I can count. I sometimes joke, in fact, that I’ve spent my whole adult life thinking up projects that will give me an excuse to drive around Idaho and the Intermountain West. Like so many colleagues and friends who have devoted enormous amounts of time to “connecting people with ideas” through IHC, as we say in the trade, I’ve become convinced that this public humanities vocation is a vital occupation in a democracy like ours, a calling whose work can deepen and broaden perspectives, start conversations, and enrich lives.

Yet public humanities are again under terrible siege. The current administration proposes ending funding for the NEH—along with the NEA, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and other essential cultural agencies—and if that were allowed to happen the work of state councils would inevitably be curtailed, if not ended. The argument is that public humanities programming is a frill pleasant enough if one has left-over money, but easily dispensable in favor of more important things if funds are tight. The president doesn’t seem to be aware of what a tiny proportion of the federal budget NEH draws or care how pound-foolish such a move would be.

Those of us who know the truth about the importance of humanities programs to grassroots America need to do everything we can to make sure that this cut does not happen.

And that means informing others less familiar with the work of NEH and the state councils about what we really provide: not esoteric entertainment for the elite (as some seem to think), not suspect uber-liberal propaganda aimed at undermining down-home values, but activities that have always seemed to me populist in the best sense—activities that help ordinary people discover capacities and connections with others they never imagined, that make them informed consumers and movers in our democracy, that challenge and stretch them in life-changing, wonderful ways.

I think it is good for us all in this desperate time not just to remember how glorious and essential and moving this work can be but publically to share examples that show the significant contributions that public humanities programming can make to citizens’ lives. In that vein, here are a few observations from my own three decades as a public humanities scholar.

One of the simplest yet most enduring ways that the public humanities foster ongoing lifelong learning is by reminding people of how much fun it can be to think and read and discuss with others, and of how smart and thoughtful they are. Out-of-school adults flock to IHC programs, and you can almost hear the healthy pops and cracks as minds stretch in such sessions, as people realize how hungry for intellectual stimulation they are. My late husband Ford, also someone who considered public humanities work a sacred vocation, used to routinely come home very

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

The Idaho Humanities Council honored Idaho State University Professor Emeritus Susan H. Swetnam with IHC’s Award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” at a special award ceremony on March 29 in ISU’s L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center. Swetnam was honored for her career in teaching, scholarship, and personal writing, and her devotion to the public humanities for more than 30 years.

Swetnam taught in ISU’s Department of English and Philosophy from 1979 until her retirement in 2013, during that time recognized for outstanding teaching, research, and public service. Over the years she has authored numerous articles and seven books, including both personal essays and scholarship, most recently *A Season of Little Sacraments* (Liturgical Press, 2016) and *Books, Bluster, and Bounty* (Utah State University Press), which won the Idaho Library Association’s award for Idaho Book of the Year in 2012.

late from Let’s Talk About It sessions, rolling his eyes and saying with a smile, “Well, they sure talked about it!” Often he’d describe how he was “pinned over the punch and cookies” for a long periods beyond the formal discussion.

That’s been my experience, too. To give just the most recent example, it would certainly have come as a surprise to the enthusiastic folks who sat before me recently at the Ririe Public Library to hear the contention that NEH and IHC fund “elite” and “irrelevant” programs. That night we talked about Elinor Pruitt Stewart’s *Letters of A Woman Homesteader*, in an enthusiastic session that devolved to thoughtful consideration of myths of neighborliness on the frontier and of self-fashioning (though I didn’t use that term) in the writing of autobiography. This session went overtime—in part because they made me write on the board the titles of other works I’d mentioned so that they could order them for the library: Annie Pike Greenwood’s *We Sagebrush Folks*, Mary Clearman Blew’s *Balsamroot*, Mark Fiege’s *Irrigated Eden*.

That example also evokes another virtue of public humanities programming: it encourages people to understand their own “ordinary” experience as a dignified, important facet of the wider human condition, a topic worthy of serious study and consideration. This is especially true in the case of programming centered in local history/culture—topics for which there are precious few other support resources.

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

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

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

One of my favorite examples here has always been the Idaho Shakespeare Festival’s “Shakespeareance” project, which annually brings actors to public schools to perform, discuss plays, stagecraft, and history. During just my first year as an IHC board member, we funded ISF to visit remote rural schools in Picaboo, Genesee, and Murphy, among other small towns.

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

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

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

Young people are also involved directly in our projects as participants. They are trained in public humanities methodology and contribute project content. That was true in the Silver Sage Girl Scout Centennial Project I directed in 2012, where Girl Scouts learned oral history methodology, then interviewed adults who were once scouts, gathering information for a book-length history of the Silver Sage council’s work.

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

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

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

“Whoever showed up,” though, conclusively demolished that neat little fantasy. Among the participants were two local dignified elderly Japanese-American couples—people who had never before attended a LTAI. They’d called earlier in the week, the librarian confided, to profess interest in that particular book and ask if they would be welcome. Thus I was nervous as I presented that historical background, imagining that these listeners would know so much more about the topic than I did—though, being very polite people they listened respectfully and nodded.

It was when discussion time arrived that the night veered magnificently away from any prearranged script. As I invited those present to raise what they found interesting, the elder of the two men stood up, neat in a suit and tie, and came to the front of the room. “Thank you for the talk,” he said, reaching to

PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from Page 4)

shake my hand as he stood next to me. “It was very good. But I want to add something, if you’ll let me, about what it was like to be a Japanese-American here, in Fort Hall and Pocatello and Blackfoot, during that time.”

For twenty minutes, the other fifteen of us sat rapt as he recounted a side of local history—told at the achingly personal level—that none of us had ever imagined. Although these American citizens had not been relocated to an internment camp (their well-established farming operations were too important to curtail) they suffered terrible limitations of their basic human rights. Their movements beyond their property were limited (they couldn’t even go to church); they had to tolerate snooping “inspections” by officials who obviously doubted their patriotism. Some property, including a beloved shortwave radio, was confiscated. Their liquid assets were frozen and unavailable.

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

“When we were allowed to go into town and shop,” one said, “We were supervised, and people stared and said horrible things. These were people

I thought were my neighbors and my friends.”

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

These are the sorts of examples, I believe, and the sorts of arguments that have a chance to sway the minds of those in power at the moment. But we have to take the time to make those arguments, to write the letter or make the call to members of our Congressional delegation. And we must, because the demise of tax-funded public humanities programming would mean an untellable loss to the quality of our civic life, especially in a state like Idaho that has relatively fewer sources



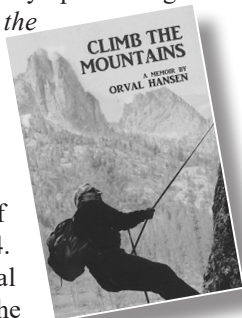
IHC Chair Jennifer Emery Davidson presents retired ISU Professor Susan Swetnam with IHC’s award, recognizing her for several decades of service in the public humanities.

of free access to cultural resources. Who better to make those arguments than those of us who love the humanities? I challenge all who read this piece—both those who enjoy attending IHC events as participants and those of us who give our lives to making those events happen—to become advocates. Public humanities programming has contributed immeasurably to Idaho’s past; it has even more to offer our future. ♦

News and Opportunities

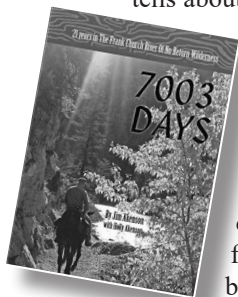
New memoir by former Idaho Congressman

Congratulations to former Idaho Congressman Orval Hansen, 90, for recently publishing his long-awaited memoir *Climb the Mountains*. Born in Firth, Idaho, in 1926, Hansen is a Navy WW II veteran, who later served in the Idaho Legislature before being elected to the U.S. House as Representative of District 2, from 1969 to 1974. He returned to Idaho several years ago after many years in the Washington, D.C., area. The title of his memoir is a metaphor for a lifelong interest in hiking and climbing mountains in Idaho and throughout the world, while raising seven children with his wife June. A great supporter of the arts and humanities throughout his life, Hansen was a member of Congress during a bygone era of bipartisan legislation. As a Republican member of Congress he rubbed shoulders with the movers and shakers of environmental conservation in Idaho. One of Hansen’s legacies was his involvement in getting through Congress the bill that established the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972. He opens his 350-page memoir with “I learned a lot about life from climbing mountains.” His life story is available in area bookstores or by writing orvalhansenpress@cablone.net.



21 years in the Idaho Wilderness

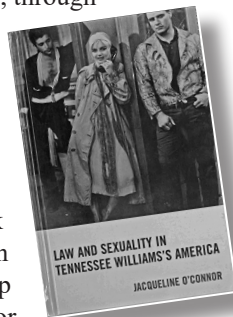
Caxton Press announces publication of *7003 Days*, a 266-page memoir by Jim and Holly Akenson that tells about their time spent as caretakers of the University of Idaho’s Taylor Ranch in Idaho’s Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness over the course of 21 years. Arriving at the ranch in 1982, the Akensons’ memoir documents a day-to-day life that few people ever experience in the backcountry, without the amenities of the modern world. Living in a log cabin, using mules for transportation and ranch work, relying on Old World methods of making do, their book captures an adventurous life with wildlife—bighorn sheep, wolves, cougar, bear, and more. They spend days on end without seeing other people but each other, making use of recipes and remedies of the past, and meeting memorable, salt-of-the-earth guides, hunters, hikers, and other characters that filled



pages of their diaries and enriched their lives. The book is available in area bookstores or directly from Caxton for \$17 plus \$4 shipping (312 Main Street, Caldwell, Idaho 83605).

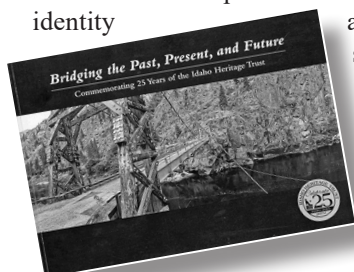
New work on playwright Tennessee Williams

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press announces publication of *Law and Sexuality in Tennessee Williams’s America*, by Boise State University English Professor Jacqueline O’Connor. The book explores the intersections between Williams’s writing and the laws under which he lived as an openly gay artist of his time. The 200-page book explores Williams’s privacy and public identity, and how his best works reflect the tensions of intimacy and transgression in terms of the existing laws of his time. Born in 1911, Williams lived until 1983, through turbulent decades of gender and racial discrimination, and this new book examines how Williams’s notions of freedom and equality challenged the rule of law throughout his life. Research for this book was supported in part by an IHC Research Fellowship grant awarded to O’Connor several years ago. The book is available through the distributors Rowman and Littlefield (www.rowman.com).



New book illustrates work of Idaho Heritage Trust

In commemoration of 25 years preserving Idaho’s historic structures, the Idaho Heritage Trust has published a beautiful book of photographs entitled *Bridging the Past, Present, and Future*. Established in 1990 as a lasting legacy of Idaho’s statehood centennial and funded in large part by a small percentage of the sale of Idaho’s license plates, the IHT has preserved structures from Bear Lake to Bonners Ferry—Masonic halls, old Forest Service lookouts, historic schools and hotels, Carnegie libraries, log cabins, Grange buildings, churches, and railroad depots—all of which reflect the identity and character of many small communities throughout the state.

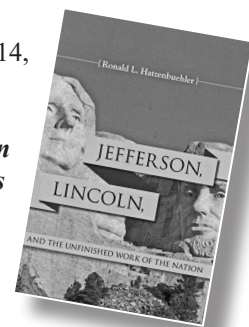


The book is available for \$25 plus shipping from the Idaho Heritage Trust, P.O.

Box 140617, Boise, Idaho 83714, or at www.idahoheritage.org.

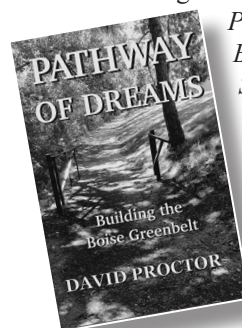
Esteemed Idaho historian publishes book on Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln

Southern Illinois University Press announces publication of *Jefferson, Lincoln, and the Unfinished Work of the Nation*, by Idaho State University Professor Emeritus Ron Hatzenbuehler. Although the nation changed substantially between the presidencies of Jefferson and Lincoln, Hatzenbuehler makes the case that the two leaders shared many common interests and opinions on many important issues that have resonance to this day, such as race and slavery, presidential power, federalism, and American exceptionalism. He explains how their common views provide valuable insight into modern-day debates. Hatzenbuehler began teaching American history at Idaho State University in the early 1970s, retiring recently to devote himself to other projects. Research for this new book was supported in part by an IHC Research Fellowship grant, and he has served as a scholar advisor for many IHC-funded projects over the years, including serving as a scholar in a number of IHC’s summer institutes for teachers. He was the recipient of the IHC’s 2012 award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities. The book is available for \$19.50 online at www.siupress.com or by calling (800-621-2736).



The story of Boise’s Greenbelt

Ridenbaugh Press announces publication of *Pathway of Dreams: Building the Boise Greenbelt*, by former Idaho Statesman reporter David Proctor. The book is a history of civic planning, political negotiation, and dreams going back to the 1960s of a walking pathway along the Boise River. It is a story of the river itself, and how the pathway inspired better regard for the river, and fueled the transformation of the city. Today, the long pathway is a jewel of the city, used in all promotion as an example of why Boise is a good place to live. Yet, the riverbanks of the Boise River were once littered with old abandoned cars and appliances and trash. The book details the stories of how decades of city



(See NEWS, Page 6)

NEWS
(Continued from Page 5)

and county government and the tenacity of diehard advocates worked to acquire easements, purchase private property, and made the deals to keep the pathway growing. It is a story of model planning for a city that writer L.J. Davis once said “stands an excellent chance of becoming the first American city to deliberately eradicate itself” (*Harper’s*, 1974). The book is available at www.ridenbaugh.com.

Religion & Politics

Routledge announces publication of *Far-Right Fantasy: A Sociology of American Religion and Politics* by Idaho State University Professor Emeritus James Aho (Pocatello). The book is a straightforward, jargon-free study of contemporary American right-wing extremism, accessible to the layman. It allows activists to speak for themselves in their own words, and it takes the religious motivations of extremists seriously. Aho avoids being preachy or judgmental, but challenges readers to examine far-right extremism from a vantage of a formal ideological critique. The book does this by examining how such foundational right-wing ideas—including a marketplace free of regulation, draconian



immigration restrictions, an end to the federal reserve and income tax, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, anti-union right-to-work laws, the privatization of schools and the U.S. Postal Service—contradict the goal of enhancing and protecting middle-class interests. Aho is considered one of the eminent academic authorities on the subjects of religious extremism, neo-Nazi movements, extreme Christian patriotism, and mainstream conservatism. For many years, Aho has been sought out by the media, including the *PBS NewsHour*, to serve as a commentator on stories of the day related to religious and ideological extremism. Hardcopy and e-book versions of this study are available from www.routledge.com.

U of I professor releases ethnographic memoir

Washington State University Press announces publication of *Carry forth the Stories: An Ethnographer’s Journey into Native Oral Tradition*, by University of Idaho Professor Rodney Frey. In this “ethnographic memoir” Frey, a seasoned anthropologist, offers personal and professional insights into the power and value of indigenous storytelling, and describes what he has learned over 40 years of working successfully with tribes and Native peoples. He frames his story as “the quest of an ethnographer to learn from his hosts and engage in

collaborative, applied, ethical-based research, writing, and classroom pedagogy.” He addresses issues of permissions and cultural property rights, tribal review, collaboration, applications of research, and “giving back” to the host community. He considers Indigenous learning styles and perspectives, and their research, writing, and teaching. His own experiences with collaborative research projects offer a model for others seeking to work with tribal communities.



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

Since the mid-1970s, Frey has worked in collaboration with tribal communities including the Crow, Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, and Wasco. He is also the author of *Stories That Make the World: Oral Literature of the Indian Peoples of the Inland Northwest* and *Landscape Traveled by Coyote and Crane: The World of the Schitsu’umsh--Coeur d’Alene Indians*. The new book is available for \$29.95 from WSU Press at www.wsupress.wsu.edu. ❖

IHC anthology on Idaho wilderness is a statewide popular favorite

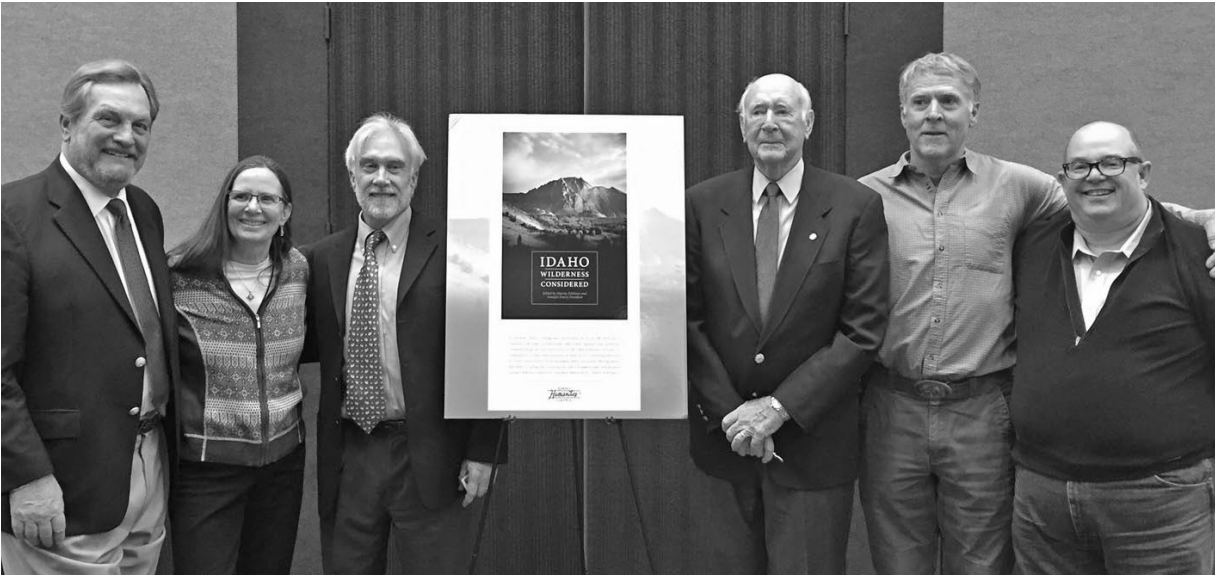
The Idaho Humanities Council’s *Idaho Wilderness Considered*, an anthology of essays, photos, and other reflections in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the establishment of new wilderness areas in Idaho in 2015, has been a popular favorite for hundreds of readers throughout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

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

Edited by Boise environmental attorney and IHC Board Member Murray Feldman and Ketchum Community Library Director and IHC Board Chair Jennifer Emery Davidson, the book is more than a field guide, more than a map and pictures of Idaho’s vast wilderness areas. It explores how and why those areas 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 anthology is the capstone of a popular Idaho Humanities Council reading and conversation series on the history and meaning of wilderness, hosted in libraries and other venues throughout the state between 2014 and 2016. The contributions to the anthology by more than two dozen advocates, scholars, hikers, journalists, photographers, and others, explore the history, policy, law, literature, art, and science of Idaho wilderness, evoking the story of the land itself—deep, textured, and ongoing.

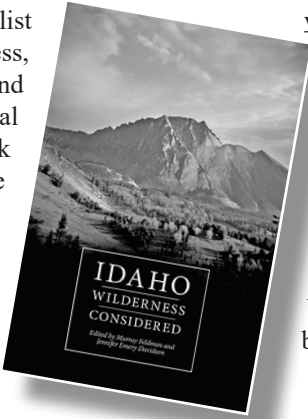
Idaho Conservation League Director Rick Johnson and Idaho Wilderness Society Regional Director Craig Gehrke reflect on their vocation to conservation advocacy, novelist Judith Freeman tells a story of



Six of 26 anthology contributors include (L to R): Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, Idaho Statesman photographer Katherine Jones, Idaho Conservation League Director Rick Johnson, former Governor Cecil D. Andrus, U.S. Forest Service backcountry photographer Ed Cannady, and Idaho Statesman environmental reporter Rocky Barker.

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.

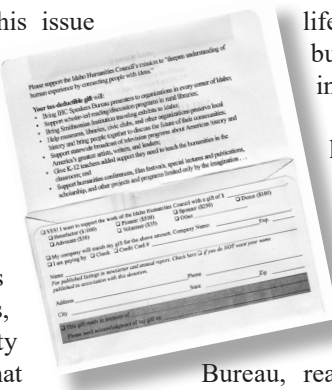
Idaho Wilderness Considered is available for \$15 (plus 6% Idaho sales tax and \$4 Media Mail shipping) through the Idaho Humanities Council website at



www.idahohumanities.org, 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, at Craters of the Moon Visitor Center, and other Idaho bookstores. ❖

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. ❖

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‘No Boxes’: An Interview with Historian Douglas Brinkley

By Russ Tremayne
College of Southern Idaho

Editor’s Note: In 2016, the Idaho Humanities Council hosted four Distinguished Humanities Lectures by four nationally renowned historians, including Pulitzer Prize-winning Vietnam War historian Fredrick Logevall (in Idaho Falls), presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin (in Coeur d’Alene), Andrew Jackson biographer Jon Meacham (in Boise), and prolific historian Douglas Brinkley (in Twin Falls).

Brinkley arrived in Twin Falls on Thursday, May 5, to deliver the 2nd Annual Magic Valley Distinguished Humanities Lecture, and an additional lecture at The Community Library in Ketchum the following evening. Author of numerous books, Brinkley focused his lectures primarily on two, *Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and His Crusade for America* (2010), and his most recent work *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America*, which appeared in the spring of 2016. The books explore the conservation legacies of the two Roosevelts. *Rightful Heritage* explores how FDR in the depths of the Great Depression, created new National Parks, new national forests, recreational areas, and how the nation employed millions of young unemployed workers as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to plant millions of trees, maintain hiking trails, build parks and camping areas, and in the process grow to love outdoor America. *Rightful Heritage* touches upon the story of how Idaho benefitted from New Deal programs, particularly the work of the CCC.

In addition to his evening public lecture in Twin Falls, Brinkley met earlier in the day with College of Southern Idaho Honors Program students on campus, where he was interviewed on stage by College of Southern Idaho History Professor and IHC Board Member Russ Tremayne. What follows is a portion of that interview in which Brinkley often spoke directly to the students in attendance.

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

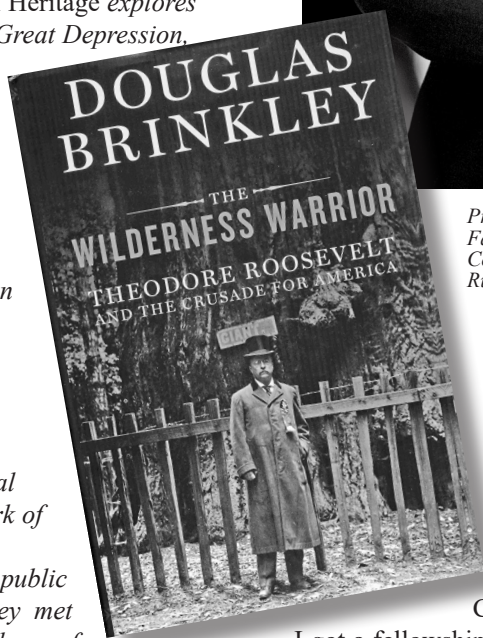
DB: Thank you. It’s great to be here. The Idaho Humanities Council has brought me here before, but also Boise State University has had me come in to speak. I’ve been to Coeur d’Alene and Moscow. Idaho is a beautiful part of the world and you’re very blessed to be living here in Twin Falls. I mean, with the landscape and the size of a community where you get to know each other, you have more going for you in Idaho than most places I travel to. I write a lot about conservation and nature, so the fact that you’ve got all of this beautiful land unfolding right outside your front door, I think, makes your lives very special. I hope you all appreciate the great place where you live.

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

DB: Well, for starters, I’m a professor of history at Rice University in Texas. I teach three classes every fall, and then I have nine months off to tour the country and mainly to write books. I grew up in Georgia and then Ohio, and I wanted to be a historian when I was young. I started writing little essays, particularly about Western figures or people like Kit Carson and Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone—little biographies I started doing as a child. My mom was a high school English teacher in my high school, so I had that influence. My father had been a social studies teacher who went into business, so by the time I went to the Ohio State University as an undergrad, I majored in history, and there was some pressure from people saying to me, “How are you going to make a living in history?” You know, “Go to law school,” they said. “Do something that you can earn a good wage.”



Prolific historian Douglas Brinkley delivered lectures in Twin Falls and Ketchum, and was interviewed on stage at the College of Southern Idaho by CSI History Professor Russ Tremayne.



But I resisted and stuck with history, and I’m exceedingly glad that I did. When I was an undergraduate, I didn’t do well in math and science, I’m afraid. But I was getting all A’s in the history field, and I wrote an article as an undergraduate about the Carpenters Union in Ohio. And then I got a fellowship to Georgetown University, where I got my master’s and doctorate.

My first book was my doctoral dissertation on Dean Acheson, who was Secretary of State under Harry Truman. Acheson was the progenitor of NATO. He was Secretary of State during the Korean War, during the creation of Israel, during the Berlin Blockade of 1948, during the Communist takeover of China in 1949, during the time the Soviets acquired atomic weapons in ’49. So I really was immersed in the Cold War period of Truman, and was off to the races when my first book got published.

Today, I do a lot of lecturing, and I’m the historian for CNN. I’m trying to write serious books, but also I try to be part of the consciousness of my time by weighing in and looking at issues that are affecting our own generation right now.

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

DB: No, I wasn’t really wired like that. I didn’t think of myself as a diplomatic historian. When I was writing my book on Dean Acheson, I was doing diplomatic history, of course, but I was thinking more of the history of the Cold War. There used to be a big thing in colleges called American Studies, where you study the history and culture of the United States. I like American Studies. I don’t just want to know, for example, that Eisenhower was President, that Nixon was Vice President, and Khrushchev was the Soviet Premier during the Cold War. I also want to know about Marlon Brando and the Beat Generation, and women’s rights, and the showdown at Little Rock, and Rosa Parks. That’s all happening in the 1950s. I

don’t want to constantly be segregating myself into a box—Duke Ellington used to say, “No boxes,” you know. When you have to look for academic jobs, they may want you to be a diplomatic historian, or an environmental historian—but for me it’s very limiting; it’s a straight-jacket. So I just try to write what interests me. In the end, I’m productive because I follow my curiosity.

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

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

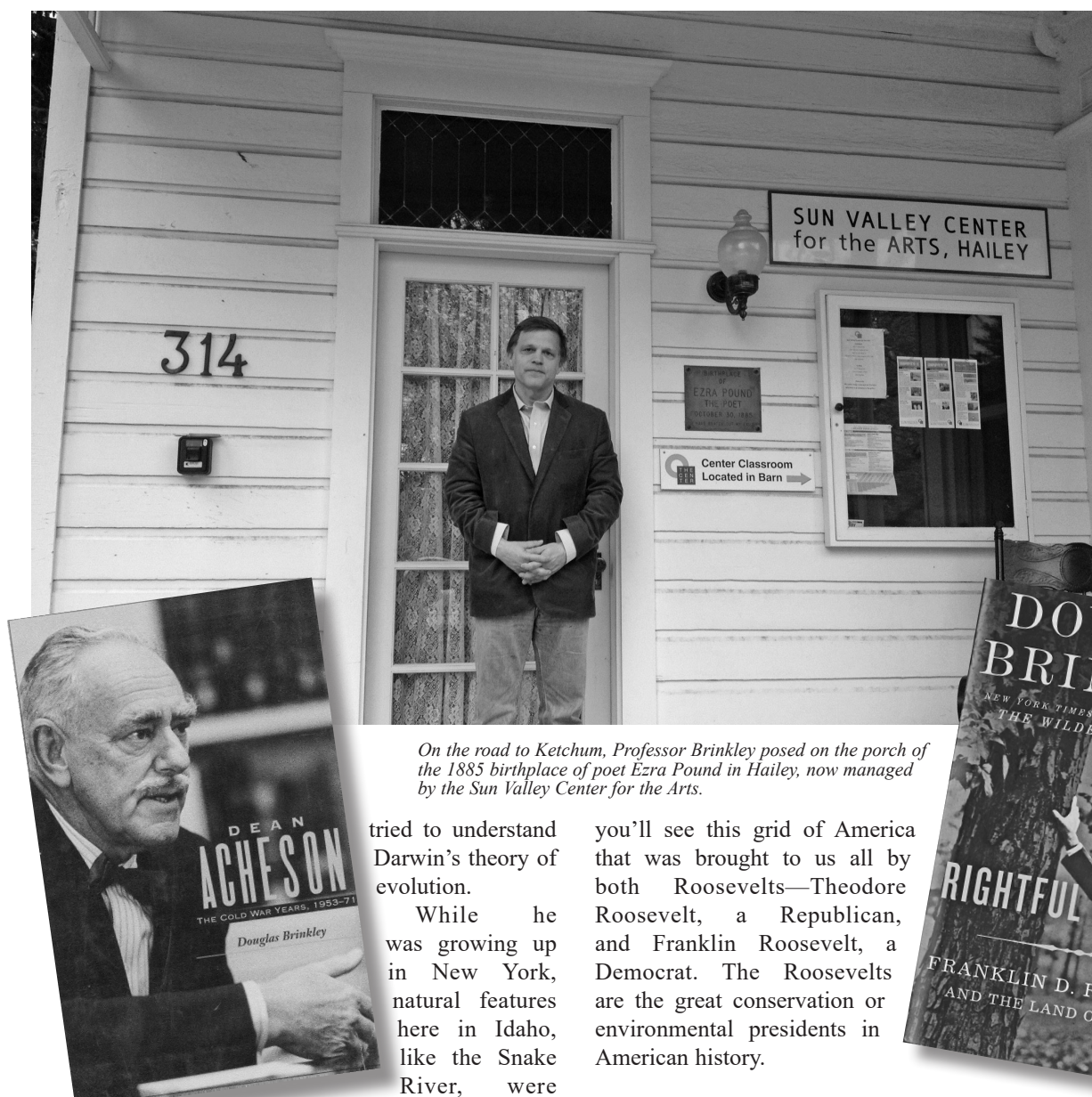
DB: Being a historian, in the end, is being a judge, you try to be very judicial. The big disease we face today, is what I call “presentism,” where people of today kind of beat up on people in the past because they’re judging the past by today’s standards. It’s very problematic to me. I mean, civilizations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

RT: You’ve written books on CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, and on Henry Ford [Wheels for the World], and many other people and eras. Your last three major works are focused on the environment, one on Teddy Roosevelt, *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and His Crusade for America* [2010]—almost a thousand-page encyclopedic treatment of the first conservation president—a book on the history of the conservation movement in Alaska, *The Quiet World*, and the latest book on Franklin Roosevelt, *Rightful Heritage*. These books are part of a series that—better than any other books that I’ve read—deeply explore the history of conservation in America. Tell us a little about these stories—Teddy Roosevelt versus Franklin Roosevelt.

DB: Theodore Roosevelt loved Idaho. He spent time hunting in northern Idaho. He planted trees here. It was an important part of America to TR. He was born in 1858 in New York City. His mother came from Georgia and his father was from New York. What does that tell you—born in 1858 with a Confederate mother and a Union father? I mean, the Civil War was going on during his childhood. Theodore Roosevelt thought that the South had blown it with slavery, and the North had blown it with hyper-industrialization, and so he saw salvation in the American West. He had a Western vector his whole life. A year after TR was born, Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*. Darwin was revolutionary.

Historians read other people’s mail for a living. People leave documents and things behind. When Theodore Roosevelt was eight years old, he wrote “Darwin’s Theory of Evolution,” in which he showed himself evolving from a dog, and his brother from a stork, and his sister from a cat, and as a child he

(See **BRINKLEY**, Page 8)



On the road to Ketchum, Professor Brinkley posed on the porch of the 1885 birthplace of poet Ezra Pound in Hailey, now managed by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

tried to understand Darwin's theory of evolution.

While he was growing up in New York, natural features here in Idaho, like the Snake River, were

starting to appear for the first time in magazine illustrations. He wanted to see the Snake River. He wanted to see Crater Lake in Oregon. He wanted to see Mesa Verde, Colorado. He loved animals, birds. He loved hunting and fishing, and he went on to go to Harvard to be what today we would call a wildlife biologist. As an undergraduate, he wrote a small book called *The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks*. Bird life in the Adirondacks, the great forest region north of New York City. He just started falling in love with what today we call natural resource management.

The big sad moment of his life came in February of 1884 when he was a state senator in Albany, New York, when a runner brought TR a message from his brother that said his wife was sick after giving birth to a daughter, and his mother was sick with fever. So TR made his way back on a train to New York City on a rainy night, and on one floor his mother dies of a fever, and on another floor his wife dies of Bright's disease. They both die on Valentine's Day. And one of the most moving documents I've ever seen is Theodore Roosevelt's diary, where he puts a giant X through that day in his diary and writes, "The light has gone out of my life forever."

He fell into a deep depression. And his sister convinced him to go west, to lose himself in the West.

He went to the Badlands of North Dakota and spent time in the wilderness, and got lost in the wild. He hunted grizzly bear. He went horseback riding for days. He wrote beautifully about the Little Missouri River, a scenic river like the Snake River here, and while there he went off to hunt buffalo.

And in his grief over his wife and mother, he becomes a crusader for conservation. Later during his presidency he saves 234 million acres of wild America—National Parks, National Forests, National Monuments. He thought that the British have Westminster Abbey, and the French have the Louvre, and India has the Taj Mahal. In America, we've got the Tetons, the Snake River, the Olympic National Forest, the Grand Canyon. These were the nation's heirlooms, gifts to pass on to each generation.

While writing *The Wilderness Warrior*, I recognized that the other great president who advanced conservation was Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR was a Democrat, but he won the presidential election four times in Idaho in 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was that popular in Idaho. My new book *Rightful Heritage* looks at conservation in the 1930s and '40s. If you open up a Rand McNally map and look at all of the parks, National Forests, Wilderness Areas, on and on,

you'll see this grid of America that was brought to us all by both Roosevelts—Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, and Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat. The Roosevelts are the great conservation or environmental presidents in American history.

RT: *In Rightful Heritage you make the case that Idaho was fifth in the nation in the amount of federal support the state received during the New Deal in the 1930s. Much New Deal money went to the western states. I wonder if you might say a few things about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the other things that the New Deal did for Idaho.*

DB: Franklin Roosevelt was elected President in 1932, and is inaugurated in '33. We have to remember that it wasn't just the 1929 stock market crash alone that brought on the Great Depression. We also had the Dust Bowl. The land of America had been skinned by land-skinners. For a long time, people had been cutting down trees and not replanting. Farmers weren't doing proper, modern, scientific soil conservation, and our grasslands were destroyed by drought. The topsoil blew away. We had widespread erosion in the Plains states. And the big lesson of all this was that we had to start finding a way to do agriculture and forestry properly.

And FDR loved Idaho. He didn't love it just because the people voted for him. He loved it because Boise was the City of Trees, and he liked to say he was by profession a forester. Whenever Franklin Roosevelt listed his occupation, he'd write "tree forester," or "tree grower."

The CCC planted three billion trees between 1933 and 1942 to maintain proper forestry management. In *Rightful Heritage* I write about some of the CCC and WPA [Works Progress Administration] projects that took place in Idaho. The National Parks Franklin Roosevelt is responsible for include the Great Smokies; the Everglades; Big Bend National Park in Texas; Joshua Tree in California; Channel Islands, California; Olympic National Park in Washington; the Tetons. You know, I could go on—Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Isle Royale in Michigan. He saved all of those places even though our country was in the midst of the Great Depression. And part of my new book is about how environmentalism or conservation promotes tourist dollars for places in the West.

Roosevelt took a city like Moab, Utah, and said, 'Look, let's make it Arches National Park, Canyonlands area, a major recreation hub and that will bring in dollars from tourists.' I write a lot about how money is made in places like the West, not just by mining or clearcutting or agriculture, but also by tourism. There's an economic imperative to all this. Every state is judged by its land management. For both Roosevelts, that was what good citizenship first and foremost was all about.

RT: *The final chapter of Rightful Heritage deals with the end of Franklin Roosevelt's career—that is, the final section is about the war. You write about how New Deal environmental policies crashed against the concerns of national security. For example, there was an argument to keep the CCC permanently, but it didn't happen. And I wonder if you might just share, quickly, the story I found about Henry's Lake, which is an Idaho story. Tell us about the chapter "The Army Will Have to Find another Place to Nest."*

DB: I keep talking about the CCC because it employed 3.4 million unemployed people during the Great Depression. They would do tree plantings, build recreation areas, build boat launches, build roads, improve infrastructure, help with the beautification of America—a huge successful program. But in 1942 it gets defunded because of World War II. After Pearl Harbor, after December 7, 1941, FDR gets a letter from a woman named Rosalie Edge in New York

City. She writes essentially to the U.S. Interior Department but the letter gets to Roosevelt. She tells him the trumpeter swan is going to go extinct because the U.S. Army was training the Tenth Mountain Division at Henry's Lake, Idaho—just a few miles west of Yellowstone. Henry's Lake is where the trumpeter swan spends winters. They don't migrate, they just congregate there in the winter. The Tenth Mountain Division camp was doing practice artillery exercises, mountaineering exercises, training soldiers for winter combat, to eventually fight Hitler in Europe.

It cost millions of dollars to build this training compound in Idaho. But Rosalie Edge says 'If you don't move the Army, the trumpeter will go extinct.' Beautiful bird, you know. So what does the president do? He looks into the matter and he writes Secretary of War Henry Stimson: 'Dear Henry, I've heard about the war between the U.S. Army and the trumpeters at Henry's Lake. I've looked into it and the verdict is in favor of the trumpeters. The U.S. Army must de-nest.' And Roosevelt booted them out of Idaho down to Camp Hill, Colorado.

He sends a broad message that we are not going to go in, willy-nilly, and destroy public parklands, grasslands, forests and throw away all the protective layers of federal land management. He tells the War Department [paraphrasing], 'We're not going to throw away all of our protection for birds. That's part of what we're fighting for—public lands, places for public recreation.' He knew soldiers would come back from World War II, and would want to hunt and fish in Idaho. He did not want to squander that heritage.

That's just one little anecdote about Idaho.

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

DB: Well, let me be optimistic. I think what you in Idaho are inheriting is an amazingly cool public lands system. I know some people don't like the reach of the federal government in the West, but that land belongs to us all. It is *public* land. Commitments to the environment change with each administration. A new administration may want more mining or more clearcutting. But it is about democracy. We go back and forth.

I defend the park rangers and people who work for BLM and Forest Service and people who work for parks. These are fantastic people who work as biologists and foresters and deal with insect infestation and soil conservation. These are people of science; these are people that are really great public servants. They're not going into this kind of work to get rich, and I think we need to respect these people. And when you see some yahoos—like the Bundys—go into a National Wildlife Refuge, it's just nutty. They're just breaking laws.

(See **BRINKLEY**, Page 11)

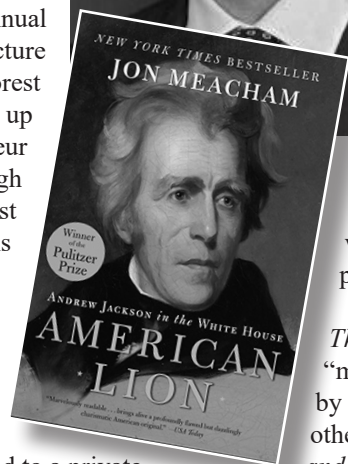
Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham to speak in Coeur d'Alene, Thursday, September 7

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Jon Meacham will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council's 14th Annual North Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on **Thursday, September 7, 2017, 7 p.m., at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.** Meacham's topic will be "America Then and Now: What History Tells Us about the Future."

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

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

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



Power reflects the qualities of both subject and biographer: judicious, balanced, deliberative, with a deep appreciation of history and the personalities who shape it."

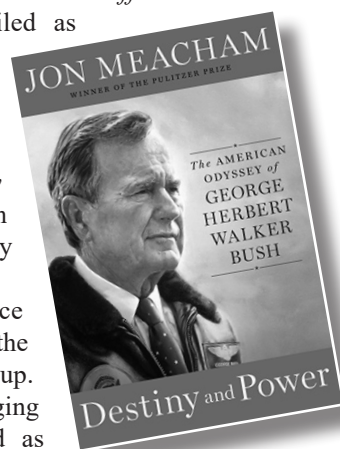
Meacham's bestseller *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* was hailed as "masterful and intimate" by *Fortune* magazine. His other books include *Franklin and Winston*, *American Gospel*, and *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009.

Meacham is Executive Vice President and Executive Editor at the Random House Publishing Group. He served as *Newsweek's* managing editor from 1998 to 2006, and as

Hagadone Corporation, Coeur d'Alene Press and Idaho Public Television.

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

His latest biography, *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*, debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. *The Times* said, *Destiny and*



editor from 2006 to 2010. *The New York Times* called him "one of the most influential editors in the news magazine business." Now a contributing editor at *Time*, he writes for its "Ideas" section.

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

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

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

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

Tickets are available online at www.idahohumanities.org or by calling the IHC at 208-345-5346. General tickets are \$60 and Benefactor tickets are \$125. Benefactors are invited to a private pre-event reception with Osnos at 5 p.m. The evening will begin with a no-host reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. at the Boise Centre. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Osnos' talk to follow. Osnos' book will be available from Rediscovered Books onsite for signing afterwards.

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

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

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

Osnos has covered pressing American concerns, from modern conservatism and gun control, to the Flint Water Crisis and the last election. Osnos forecasted the implications of a Trump presidency

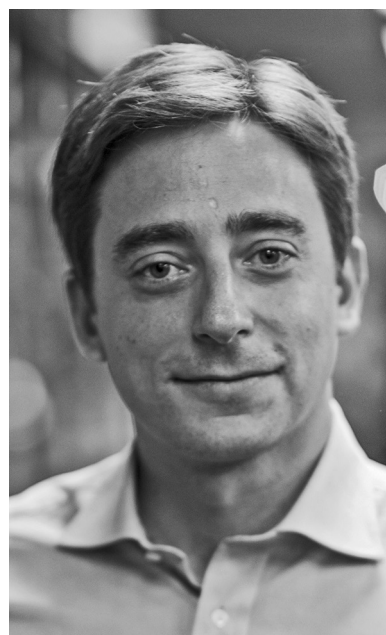
in his extensive *New Yorker* piece, "President Trump's First Term," one of the magazine's 16 most-read articles of the year. Consulting economists, scholars, and presidential historians, Osnos outlined what could be expected in the first hours to the first 100 days under a President Trump. Osnos also co-wrote the cover story, "Trump, Putin, and the New Cold War," about Russia's interference in the election.

Based on his eight years living in Beijing, *Age of Ambition* is a multi-layered look at the rise of the individual in China and the clash between aspiration and authoritarianism.

A Pulitzer Prize-finalist, *Age of Ambition* was called "a splendid and entertaining picture of 21st century China" by *The Wall Street Journal*. *The Washington Post* wrote that "Osnos has portrayed and explained ... this new China better than any other writer from the West or the East."

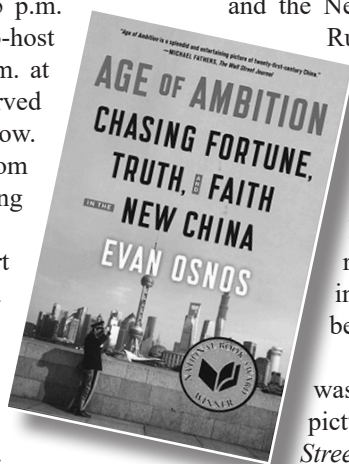
In 2003, Osnos embedded himself with the US Marines during the invasion of Iraq and spent two years as the *Chicago Tribune's* Middle East Correspondent. His piece "The Fallout," about the events and aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown, won a 2012 Overseas Press Club Award.

Prior to joining *The New Yorker*, Osnos worked as the Beijing Bureau Chief for the *Chicago Tribune*, where he contributed to a series on the global trade in unsafe imports, a series that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. He was the 2007 recipient of the Livingston Award, the nation's leading



prize for young journalists, and the Asia Society's Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia.

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



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Cassie Angelos
Denise Whittier Arkush
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Gail Baccheschi
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Bruce and Suzan Belzer
Emil Berg
John Bergin
Mary Lee Blackford
Donna and Roger Boe
Susan Bower
Carolyn Bowler
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Priscilla Wegars and Terry Abraham
Cheryl Whiteside
Jeanne Wilson

(See DONATIONS, Page 11)



“As a relative newcomer to Idaho, I was delighted to discover and now support the work of the Idaho Humanities Council. Expansive programming includes thought-provoking speakers at the Distinguished Humanities Lectures, public lectures as part of the summer institute for Idaho teachers and traveling exhibits in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution. IHC provides vital opportunities for citizens across the state to gather together to learn and engage with each other -- important components of a civil society.”

Becky Mills, Boise

IHC summer teacher institute explored the work of Wallace Stegner

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

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

Often referred to in his time as the Dean of Western Writers, Wallace Stegner (1909-1993) was a prolific novelist, memoirist, historian, journalist, biographer, teacher, and conservation activist whose

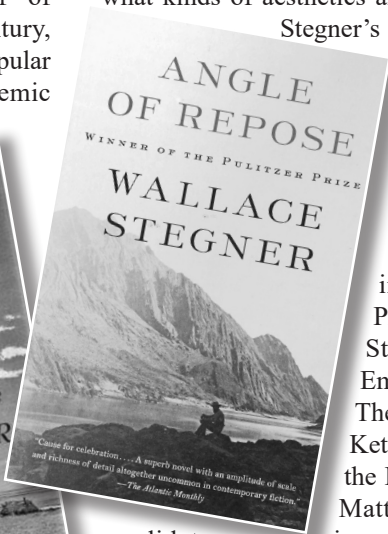
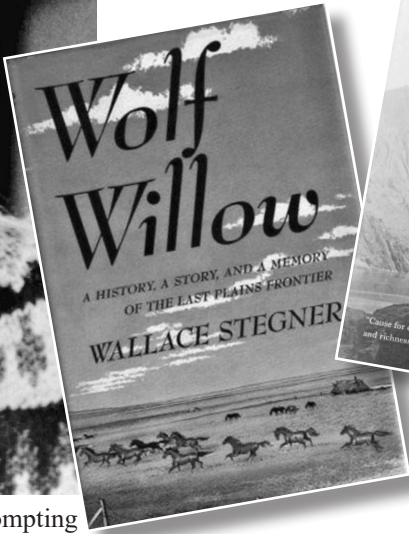
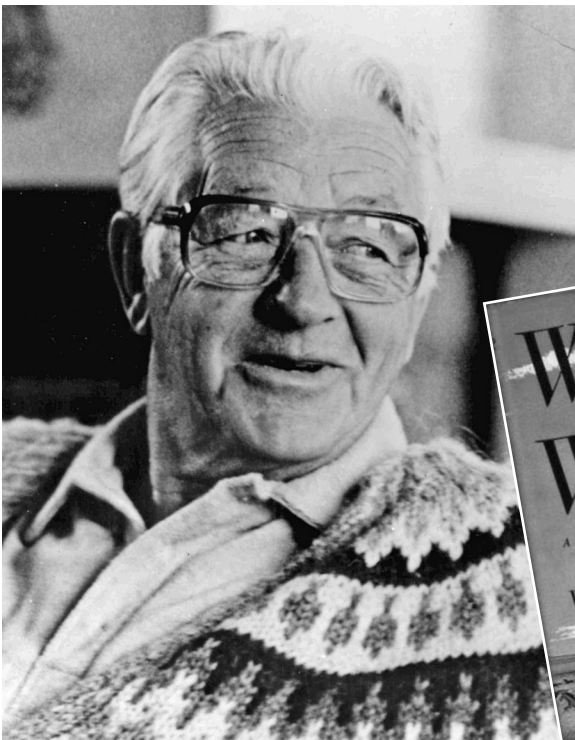
work explored the American West. He once described the American West as the “native home of hope,” even as he persistently exposed the rough edges of its contested terrain. Stegner ushered in a new era of western literature and history in the latter half of the twentieth century, disrupting both popular myths and academic

including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Institute scholars analyzed how Stegner’s work proposes new western identities and responsibilities. Participants examined the relevance of his legacy to contemporary regional literature, conservation policies, and even popular culture. Scholars considered what kinds of aesthetics and ethics are advanced by Stegner’s work, how they describe

a distinctly western consciousness, and how we think about stories of place, the environment, social justice, and politics in the West today.

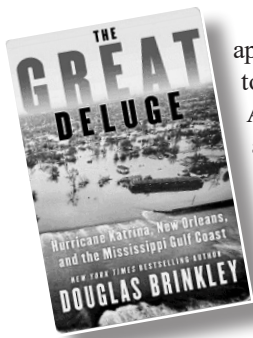
Institute presenters included Tara Penry, Professor of English, Boise State University, Jennifer Emery Davidson, Director of The Community Library in Ketchum and current Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council, Matthew Stewart, doctoral candidate in environmental history at Syracuse University, Richard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



traditions, and prompting new considerations of what it means to live well in the arid West.

Stegner founded the now-famous creative writing program at Stanford University in 1946, and was the recipient of numerous awards for his writing,

BRINKLEY (Continued from Page 8)



When Theodore Roosevelt appointed his first bird wardens to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he had four people appointed to protect birds in Florida, to make sure the egret and heron and spoonbills weren’t decimated. Two of the wardens were murdered, shot, because they were deputized to protect birds. I

think that communities in Idaho need to embrace people who work with public lands. Argue with them at times, sure, but we need to deal with them with respect. People can’t become knee-jerk reactionaries about issues that are more complicated than you might think.

Can it be better? Of course. But I take objection to people who want to do away with the Environmental Protection Agency, or say that the EPA is evil. The

EPA makes mistakes, but the EPA is making sure your drinking water’s safe, making sure we don’t dump raw sewage in your rivers, making sure an aquifer is protected, making sure you have air quality that’s good for your children so they don’t get respiratory diseases.

I don’t do a lot of public advocacy on anything

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

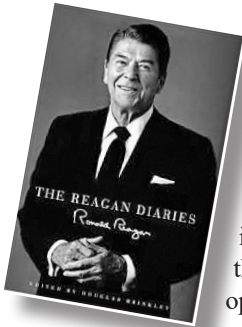
very much, but when you’re asked to visit a president or testify before Congress, as I have, to explain the

laws of the Arctic [*The Quiet World*], then you go and comment on them, and let the chips fall where they may.

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

I often get asked if I’d rather live during the Civil War, or Revolutionary War, or World War II. Are you kidding me? I mean, we have

electricity and running water, and sewage treatment. We’ve got medical miracles happening every second. This is an exciting time to be alive. Nobody has ever had it better than Americans have it right now. History reminds us that our own times are not uniquely oppressive. ❖



DONATIONS (Continued from Page 10)

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Wayne Lyon

Lois Bates

In memory of Arlene Yancey

Lois Bates

In memory of Marilyn Hanson

Lois Bates

In memory of Mary Ann Jackson

Michael and Glenda Green

In memory of Amy Margaret Christie

Alan and Ann Christie

In memory of John Grant Bagley

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In memory of Anna Pearce

Shauneen Grange

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In memory of Charlie Kennedy

Shauneen Grange

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Clay and Barbara Morgan

Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

In memory of Minnie Miller

Lois Bates

In memory of Joe Ancho

Lois Bates

In memor of Shirl Davis

Lois Bates

In memory of Albert and Ruth Ardinger

Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

Jennifer Holley

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In memory of Jon Trail

Lynda and J.E. Smithman

In memory of Teresa Martinson

Howard Martinson

In memory of Paul Olskamp and Sherry

Fagerness

Ruth Pratt and Doug Fagerness

In memory of Tom Hennessey

Marty and Barb Peterson

Stephen and Carol Trott

Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

In memory of Scott Reed

Mary Lou Reed

In memory of Stephen Schaper

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In memory of Gary Peterson

Stephen and Carol Trott

In memory of Charles Hummel

Jeanne Wilson

In memory of Dr. Robert Sims

Betty Sims

Hope Benedict and Stewart Carrington

Ron and Linda Hatzenbuehler

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Richard and Aris Boyle

In memory of Vickie J. Simmons

Melinda Lindsey

In memory of LaVar Steel

Mike and Glenda Green

In memory of Angeline Angelos-Uhrich

Cassie Angelos

In memory of Helen Copple Williamson

Patti Kundson Copple

In memory of Julie Rose Glenn

Jerry Glenn

In memory of Lee G. Taylor

Kathleen Taylor

In memory of Randy Stimpson

Courtney Morgan

In memory of William A. Trueba

Gail Corlett-Trueba

In memory of Gene Drabinski

Tom and Pam Rybus

In memory of Kurt Olsson

Katherine Aiken

In memory of Marjorie Ann Carlson

Kevin and Laura McCarthy

In memory of Harold Forbush

Jerry Glenn

In memory of Gregory Jones

Anne Marie and Harold Jones

In memory of Phyllis Ward

Jennifer Holley

In memory of Rosaie Sorrels

Rick and Rosemary Ardinger

IN HONOR

In honor of Arthur and Dee Hart

Louie and Barbara Attebery

National Book Award winner Timothy Egan welcomed in Twin Falls in April

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

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

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

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

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



Record audience attends lecture by novelist Anthony Doerr in Idaho Falls

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

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

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

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

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



1. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Anthony Doerr delivered IHC's 10th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture in Idaho Falls on April 20.
2. Idaho Falls City Councilman Ed Marohn gets a book signed by Doerr at the Benefactor Reception.
3. IHC Chair Jenny Emery Davidson (L) and IHC Director Rick Ardinger pose with Congressman Mike Simpson and his wife Kathy at the Bank of Idaho Benefactor Reception for Doerr.
4. Doerr meets with guests at the Bank of Idaho Benefactor Reception.
5. Doerr signs a book for ISU writing Professor Cathy Peppers.



Idaho City Historical Foundation receives \$10,000 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn award



Idaho City Historical Foundation President Beth Wilson (with plaque) poses with IHC board members and Idaho State Historical Society trustees at an award ceremony at Idaho City's historic Pon Yam house.

The Idaho City Historical Foundation received the 2016 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award for outstanding museum interpretation and historical preservation at a special award ceremony on April 1, 2017, at Idaho City's historic Pon Yam House.

Given annually by the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award carries a pooled \$10,000 prize to be used by a chosen

museum, historical society, or interpretive center to continue its educational efforts. The Sister Alfreda Elsensohn award is the highest honor currently awarded to a museum in the state.

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

"The Idaho City Historical Foundation is the



L to R: ISHS Director Janet Gallimore, Idaho City Historical Foundation President Beth Wilson, Idaho Heritage Trust Director Katherine Kirk, and IHC Director Rick Ardinger present the check at the ceremony in Idaho City.

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

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

U.S. Bank Foundation supports IHC Speakers Bureau

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

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

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

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

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



U.S. Bank Vice President Rob Aravich presents a check to IHC Director Rick Ardinger to support the IHC Speakers Bureau in 2017-2018

GRANTS

(Continued from Page 3)

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

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

Maria Manning-Floch, White Pine Elementary, Boise, was awarded **\$650** to attend a Storyline workshop to learn how to integrate all curriculum into the Storyline method. Students apply literary elements of plot, character, setting, and theme to write an interactive story as they learn Social Studies or Science.

Shirley Ewing, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Boise, received **\$800** to support The Rock Party, an educational hands-on museum event for children and families. Visitors work their way through the museum and numerous activity stations focused on Idaho's historic mining, fossils and geology.

Kaidi Stroud, Sage International School, Boise, received **\$955** to expose students to the multi-ethnic fabric of Boise through an exploration of local, diverse cultures in Boise's new American school populations.



Amy Schlatter, Syringa Mountain School, Hailey, was awarded **\$1,000** for a 4th grade hands-on, experiential field trip. Students visited historical towns, buildings and mines, and participated in a day of primitive survival skills workshops.

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

PLANNING GRANTS

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

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

IHC GRANT DEADLINES:

Deadlines for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals are January 15 and September 15. Applications for Research Fellowships are due September 15 only. 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.



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Idaho Humanities Council seeks two academic board members

The Idaho Humanities Council seeks applications to fill **two academic positions from southwest Idaho** on its volunteer board of directors. An academic member currently is defined by the Council as either a scholar in the humanities or an administrator of an educational or cultural institution.

Southwest Idaho is geographically defined by the Council as the region from the Oregon border to the western border Twin Falls County, and from the Nevada border to Riggins.

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

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

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

traveling exhibits, and other programs and activities. IHC receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

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

For more information about the IHC’s mission and board member responsibilities, prospective applicants are invited to call IHC Executive Director Rick Ardinger at (888) 345-5346, email rick@idahohumanities.org, or write to the Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702. ❖

DIRECTOR (Continued from Page 2)

and over the years has produced a number of publications that have explored Idaho history and literature, Idaho’s Latino heritage, food and culture, an Idaho folk music CD, and most recently an anthology of essays about the meaning of wilderness in Idaho.

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

Over the years, Ardinger also has served on the national

board of the Federation of State Humanities Council, chairing the Federation’s Legislative Committee for five years.

The IHC Board has appointed a search committee to review applications for his replacement. The board will advertise the position this summer, and hopes to hire a new director before the end of the year. ❖

Idaho Humanities Council seeks Executive Director

The Idaho Humanities Council seeks applications for its Executive Director position in Boise, Idaho. IHC is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It promotes public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. Executive Director qualifications include: humanities degree (M.A. or equivalent), commitment to lifelong learning, outstanding communications skills, knowledge of current humanities scholarship, fiscal management and fundraising skills, ability to travel statewide and nationally, and leadership experience. For the full job description and application instructions, visit www.idahohumanities.org. The deadline for applications is **August 15**.

What Are You Reading?

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

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



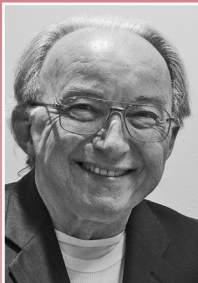
I am a huge fan of the science fiction/fantasy genre and I vote on the yearly Hugo Award (an award for best Sci-Fi/Fantasy of the year). Lately, I’ve been working my way through the five nominated novels. I just finished a book called *The Fifth Season*. I thought this novel was amazing. It is a fantasy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

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



This best-selling novel is about three young women who live in different countries with individual hopes and dreams for their futures during World War II. Each is horrendously impacted by events in 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland and then began to move into France. They are all aware that changes are coming in Europe, but they are caught unprepared for the horrors that await them. The characters are fictitious but the book is based on historical events. The author has written an intriguing novel that explores history from the perspectives of women. Each chapter weaves into the next in a way that the reader is constantly moving from the mind and experience of each woman simultaneously, crossing continents from New York to Paris, Germany and Poland. This book is a page-turner. Anyone who liked Anthony Doerr’s *All the Light We Cannot See* will enjoy this book also.

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



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