

IHC awards \$86,767 to 38 grants at fall meeting

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded \$86,767 in grants to organizations and individuals at its recent board meeting in Boise. Thirty-eight awards include 18 grants for public humanities programs, four Research Fellowships, 15 Teacher Incentive Grants, and one Planning Grant. 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 Ada Community Library, Boise, received \$2,000 to help support the community-wide reading project in February and March 2014. The library will partner with The Cabin to bring Susan Orlean to Boise to discuss her book *The Orchid Thief*. Several speakers and activities are planned to engage the public in discussion of the book and its related topics. Mary DeWalt is the project director.



Susan Orlean will speak in Boise in March.

Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, received \$2,000, to support the 27th Annual Native American Awareness Week March 17-24, 2014. The event includes speakers, storytelling, a pow-wow, and other activities designed to educate the community about Native American cultures. Native American elders and tribal leaders focus on preserving the culture, history and traditional knowledge of individual tribes. Bob Sobotta is the project director.

The Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, was awarded \$1,950 to help construct a feature exhibit focusing on the story of rural electrification and how it changed life in Kootenai County in 1939. The exhibit will explore that history through photographs, artifacts, and oral histories,



and will be on display from April through October 2014. The project director is Dorothy Dahlgren.

The Cabin, Boise, received \$3,000 to help support writers at the annual “Readings and Conversations” series held November 2013 through April 2014. Writers include Junot Diaz, author of *Drown: The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; Susan Orlean, author of *The Orchid Thief*; and Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild* and *Tiny Things Beautiful*. Larry Tierney is the project director.



Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received \$3,000 to help support *Shakespeareance*, the traveling program that visits many high schools throughout Idaho. Actors will perform *Romeo and Juliet* with full set and costumes to students in grades 7-12, followed by question/answer sessions and workshops. The tour connects Shakespeare’s work and the performance to literature and history. The project director is Christine Zimowsky.

Idaho Writers Guild, Boise, was awarded \$2,000 to help support the third annual Writers & Readers Rendezvous in May 2014. The event features readings by writers and presentations on the writing profession. The 2014 Rendezvous will include

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IDAHO Humanities

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Winter 2014

The Edge of Wilderness Reflections on the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act

By Lisa M. Brady Boise State University

Editor’s Note: The year 2014 marks a half-century since passage of the Wilderness Act and the beginning of much landmark legislation envisioned as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s “Great Society.” With Idaho home to the largest designated wilderness in the lower 48 states, we thought it appropriate to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act by offering a reading/discussion program in 2014 that explores the history and meaning of wilderness and the 1964 legislation (see related story, page 3). The program will be hosted for the first time in Hailey at the College of Southern Idaho Blaine County Center, over five Wednesday evenings, January 29-February 26. We asked Boise State University environmental history professor and IHC Chair Lisa Brady to reflect on the Wilderness Act.

This past summer, during one of the hottest periods of the long heat wave, I escaped Boise for a weekend to the mountains outside McCall. A friend has a cabin there and she suggested that we leave our phones, computers, and cares behind and spend a few days in the woods. I love the outdoors, whether it’s the managed and semi-manicured Kathryn Albertson Park (where I saw a doe and two fawns the last time I visited that urban oasis) or the wilder, more rugged Sawtooths. So, when my friend came knocking with the opportunity to immerse myself in the lovely Payette National Forest, I quickly opened the door and walked out of the city and into the wild.

One of our hikes took us through stands of towering Ponderosa Pines, whispering and swaying with a gentle breeze. The pine-pitch scent was intoxicating. After about ten minutes, the forest thinned and we stepped into one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever seen. It was a broad meadow, lushly green with thick patches of yellow, white, and purple flowers. A small, clear stream meandered through, sheltered by a few copses of trees and bridged by a fallen log here and there. My friend and I sat on one of these natural benches, gazing into the gold-flecked water and listening to the calls of birds and the lonely scree of an eagle soaring through the blue skies.

To those who have never experienced the Idaho wilderness, such language may sound hyperbolic. But for those of us who have been blessed with the chance to visit many such places in our beautiful state, my description likely seems understated. My friend and I spent several hours in the meadow, ambling across its verdant expanse, picking our way through the marshy verges of the stream, and trying (though not always succeeding) to avoid stepping in the numerous piles of manure. Yes--cattle manure. The meadow was not *actually* in the wilderness, but it was on its edge.

The meadow is remote, high up in the mountains. But despite its location and abundance of wildlife (cattle excepted), the meadow cannot technically be called wilderness. That designation is reserved for areas “where the earth and its community are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain,” and where roads, motorized vehicles, and other trappings of modern life are not allowed. This definition of wilderness is remarkably new and hotly debated. It gained legal status on September 3, 1964, when President Lyndon B.



Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, setting aside over nine million acres of the public domain and protecting it from mining, logging, and agricultural use. In the fifty years since, America’s wild lands have increased to over 100 million acres--a stunning victory in the eyes of some, a terrible waste of resources in the view of others.

Disagreements over wilderness, and over how it should be defined and managed, have a long and storied past in America. Historian Roderick Nash analyzed the complicated relationship Americans have had with wild nature in his now-classic book, *Wilderness and the American Mind* (1967). There he traced the evolution of wilderness from a fearful, dangerous place in need of conquest to an Edenic, threatened remnant of pristine nature requiring protection. Nash’s history begins in Europe, with what he called the Old World roots of the wilderness concept, imported to the North American continent by Puritan settlers who viewed nature as antithetical to civilization and human progress. Later generations characterized nature as a storehouse of resources ripe for harvest, abundant without end. Both of these perceptions led to over-exploitation of forests, soils, and wildlife populations. By the early nineteenth century, Nash suggested, Americans began to question the efficacy and morality of such approaches to the non-human world. He pointed to iconic figures such as Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), John Muir (1838-1914), and Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) to illustrate new ideas of wilderness based on the notion that, even more important than the raw materials it embodies, nature acts as a spiritual and physical antidote to industrialized, over-civilized life.

These two competing views of wilderness—antithesis and antidote--are at the root of the Wilderness Act. The Act states: “In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of

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From the Director

The idea of wilderness

By Rick Ardinger

The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. An early accomplishment of President Lyndon Johnson’s vision of The Great Society—the war on poverty, Medicare, civil rights, voting rights, and so much more—the Wilderness Act passed by an astounding bipartisan vote of 73 to 12 in the Senate and 371 to 1 in the House and was signed by Johnson into law on September 3, 1964. Since Idaho is home to the largest wilderness in the lower 48 states, and with talk of new protections in the news of late, the Idaho Humanities Council board thought it worthwhile to explore the meaning of wilderness in public forums, starting with a series of public reading/discussion programs throughout 2014 and 2015, called “Wilderness Considered.”

In addition to readings by Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Wallace Stegner, and others, the reading series also will touch on how wilderness has become a divisive political issue in recent years. Recent talk of President Obama possibly conferring National Monument status to the Boulder-White Clouds is an issue that undoubtedly will drink up a lot of ink between now and the next Presidential election. Idaho conservationist Ernie Day’s iconic photo of Castle Peak (see page 3)



may become even more familiar to Idahoans, as factions line up in favor and opposed to the restrictions such designation would impose on the place if monument status appeared imminent. Only Congress can formally preserve Wilderness with a capital ‘W,’ but for many, preserving large tracts of land and restricting access and road-building amounts to the same thing.

In his now-famous “Wilderness Letter,” written in 1960, novelist Wallace Stegner spoke of the need for Wilderness preservation not merely for recreational opportunity--not necessarily for the hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping—“but the wilderness idea, which is a resource in itself.” He wrote about wilderness as a “spiritual resource.”

“I want to speak for the wilderness idea as something that has helped form our character and that has certainly shaped our history as a people,” he wrote. He saw Wilderness as necessary for American democracy, and made a case for Wilderness as a mysterious, expansive world, something bigger than ourselves, a necessary ingredient to our idea of the American Dream. Stegner questions whether great American literature could have been written without the idea of Wilderness as a palpable presence in the minds of writers like Mark Twain, Sherwood Anderson, and others.

Does the geographical presence of the largest designated Wilderness in the lower 48 states influence and help shape the character of Idahoans, of all Americans?

This year we’ll explore that idea and the legislation approved by Congress with such overwhelming support 50 years ago. ❖

Four new members join IHC board



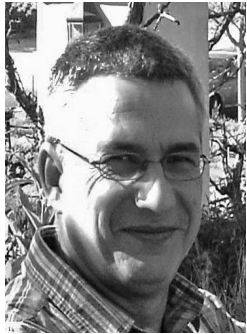
Margaret Johnson



Amy Canfield



Susan Gibson



John Ysura

The Board of Directors of the IHC elected two and Governor Butch Otter appointed two new members to IHC’s 19-member board. The new members will serve three-year terms.

Margaret Johnson (Pocatello) is Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Affairs at Idaho State University. She holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from San Jose State University and the University of Oregon respectively, and is a former Chair of the English Department at ISU, where she has taught literature, writing and film studies for the past 15 years.

Amy Canfield (Lewiston) is an associate professor of history at Lewis-Clark State College, where she has taught classes in women’s history, U.S. history, Native American history, and public history since 2006. She holds a B.A. from Idaho State University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Washington State University.

Susan Gibson (Boise), a new gubernatorial appointee, is a retired Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center administrator, where she served for over a decade as Vice

President of Mission and Human Resources. She holds M.A. degrees in theology from the University of Notre Dame and business administration from Centenary College (Shreveport, Louisiana). She is currently completing a doctoral program in leadership studies at Gonzaga University.

John Ysura (Boise), a new gubernatorial appointee, is director of BSU’s Basque Studies Consortium. A native of Boise and a 1985 graduate of BSU, he holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Riverside. He has been involved in the Basque-American community his whole life, with his research interests focused on bridging the worlds of academia and popular culture. He edits the online Basque Studies journal *Boga*.

The IHC board is comprised of Academic, Public, and At-Large members representing all regions of the state. Four members are appointed by the governor. Terms are three years, renewable once. Members rotate off the board each fall as terms expire and new members are brought on board to replace them. ❖

News and Opportunities

IHC elects new chair

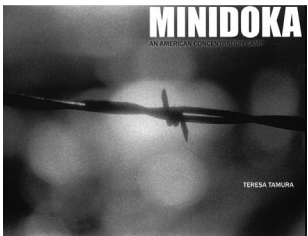
The Idaho Humanities Council board of directors elected Lisa Brady, professor of history at Boise State University, to serve as IHC’s chair from the fall of 2013 to the fall of 2015. Brady is an environmental historian and author of *War upon the Land: Military Strategy and the Transformation of Southern Landscapes during the American Civil War* (University of Georgia Press, 2012). She is the author of numerous articles and essays, and currently serves as editor of the scholarly journal *Environmental History*. She is a member of IHC’s Speakers Bureau, and has participated as a scholar in IHC summer institutes for teachers, for the Idaho tour of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Between Fences*, in IHC’s 2013 reading/discussion series *Making Sense of the American Civil War*, was instrumental in the crafting of IHC’s 2014 reading/discussion series *Wilderness*



Considered, and wrote the feature article in this issue of *Idaho Humanities*. Brady joined the IHC board in 2009.

Two new books on Minidoka

Caxton Press announces publication of *Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp*, by photographer and journalist Teresa Tamura. The beautifully made book, profusely illustrated with Tamura’s photography, documents the story of the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Jerome County, Idaho, which in 1942 imprisoned 10,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans “relocated” from their homes on the West Coast to the western interior. Tamura’s documentation includes artifacts made in the camp as well as essays based on interviews with its survivors, uprooted from their homes in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. The essays,



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IDAHO Humanities COUNCIL

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

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

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

WILDERNESS
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wilderness.” The Act’s language clearly aligns with the idea that wild nature provides both tangible and intangible benefits far beyond any material gains that might be had from harvesting its resources, even as it made special exceptions for certain uses contrary to its basic premise. Grazing, where it had already been established in National Forest areas, could continue in wilderness areas managed by the US Forest Service under the oversight of the Secretary of Agriculture. New and existing mining operations were allowed in wilderness areas through December 31, 1983, as long as they did not alter the “wilderness character” of the area. Motorboats and aircraft could be used in areas where they already were prior to September 3, 1964, and anywhere in the system if they were necessary to assess and combat threats from insects, fire, or diseases, “subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.”¹ Where the intent of the Act presumes wilderness is an antidote, its exceptions reveal a continued tradition of seeing wild nature as an obstacle to civilization’s progress.

That it took nearly ten years for wilderness protection to move from bill to Act reveals the deep-seated ambivalence Americans have toward nature. The bill, authored by Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser, first came before Congress in 1956, but its origins go back another twenty years. Robert Marshall, a forester with the US Forest Service and founder of the Wilderness Society, began in the early 1930s a correspondence with Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes recommending that roads be prevented from carving up the undeveloped lands under Ickes’s management. According to journalist Michael Frome, these messages “appear to be the first steps that ultimately led to the Wilderness Act.”² Twenty years later, after the nation recovered from the Great Depression and the Second World War, Howard Zahniser took up Marshall’s call. He wrote several articles and opinion pieces on the need for wilderness protection beginning in 1951, but it was a speech he delivered in early 1955 calling for legal protection of wild areas that inspired the bill that became the Wilderness Act.

Democratic Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Republican Rep. John Saylor of Pennsylvania first introduced the bill in 1956, calling for the protection of wild areas already within the jurisdiction of several federal agencies, including areas within the national parks and monuments, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and on Indian reservations. In 1964, Idaho Sen. Frank Church was the floor sponsor of the bill that would finally become the Wilderness Act.

Congress conducted eighteen hearings on the bill between mid 1957 and May 1964. Much of the opposition to its passage came from natural resources industries, not because they did not support the idea of wilderness, but because they considered the amount of lands proposed for designation as too extensive and in the wrong places. Initially the Forest and Park Services also opposed the bill because they believed they would lose autonomy in managing their lands in the ways they deemed best for their mandates.³ Eisenhower’s administration did not favor the bill, thus it took the election of John F. Kennedy, who made its passage part of his 1960 presidential campaign, to grease the legislative gears. Nevertheless, it took another four years for the bill’s language to be agreed upon by both houses. Zahniser’s original text, which incorporated Marshall’s definition of wilderness, underwent important changes, including the extension for mining and a requirement that new wilderness areas be instituted through congressional authority rather than executive proclamation, but the basic premise remained.

In a remarkable show of bipartisanship, Congress passed the bill with a vote of 73-12 in the Senate and 373-1 in the House. Johnson signed the bill into law while sitting in the White House Rose Garden—not exactly a wilderness, but nevertheless symbolic of the nation’s affinity for and dedication to the preservation of nature.

Fifty years later, debate over the Act continues. Most opposition, again largely from industry, stems from concerns that the United States is needlessly limiting the development of resources that could enhance the nation’s economy and security. As in the Act’s infancy, those who disagree with the management and designation of wilderness areas aren’t uniformly against the idea of wilderness, but instead dislike the extent, location, and restrictions of it. However, some disapproval stems from unexpected places.

IHC sponsors reading/discussion series on ‘Wilderness’

The Idaho Humanities Council in 2014 is offering a five-meeting, scholarly, reading/discussion series on the meaning of wilderness entitled “Wilderness Considered” in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Libraries or other organizations interested in sponsoring the series in their community are invited to contact the IHC. The council will recruit the scholars to lead the discussions, cover the costs of their honoraria and travel, supply on loan 25 copies of two texts and a selection of other readings for participants to read in advance of each meeting, and supply a promotional poster.

The series is scheduled to launch at the College of Southern Idaho Blaine County Center in Hailey over five Wednesday evenings, January 29-February 26. Discussions are underway for organizations to host the series tentatively in Boise, Lewiston and Idaho Falls sometime in 2014. Host sites must agree to enlist a minimum of 25 participants to commit to the five sessions.

Five scholars from several Idaho colleges and universities will lecture and lead discussions on works by Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Wallace Stegner, and more. Participants will be loaned two texts when they sign up, *American Wilderness: A New History*, an anthology edited by Michael Lewis, and *Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in*



Photo of Castle Peak by Ernie Day.

the Wilderness, by Pete Fromm. In addition to reading essays, stories, poems, and memoirs reflecting on the experience and meaning of wilderness, scholars will touch on historical controversies surrounding wilderness and some contemporary public policy issues regarding new wilderness designation.

Teachers especially are encouraged to participate.

The Idaho Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. For more information about the series, contact the IHC at (208) 345-5346, or contact Rick Ardinger at rick@idahohumanities.org.

Twenty years ago, thirty years after passage of the Act, historian and environmentalist William Cronon suggested that there are few places on Earth that exist in a truly wild state and that wilderness as an idea has done more to stymie environmental progress than it has to promote it. Cronon was not arguing that nature does not exist, but that by separating ourselves from it, as the Wilderness Act explicitly does, we create a false dualism that in some ways allows us to abdicate our responsibilities toward the built and natural environments that surround us more immediately. By separating ourselves from wilderness – an ostensibly pure form of nature – we obscure, in Cronon’s words, “what an ethical, sustainable, honorable human place in nature might actually look like.” Cronon noted that wilderness has been used to dispossess indigenous peoples the world over, including Native Americans in the nineteenth century and Indian peasants in the twentieth. He also argued that wilderness tends to promote the majestic over the humble, the iconic over the mundane, thus preserving landscapes deemed sublime and not those that appear less inspiring.⁴

I appreciate Cronon’s warning and I try to live my life mindful of my impact on the places where I work and live, but in the end, I think he’s wrong. Wilderness is not a distracting illusion; it is, to slightly misquote Thoreau, “the preservation of the world,” quite literally.⁵ The existence of wilderness areas helps to mitigate biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and provides space for recreation, reflection, and research. This is what the authors of the Wilderness Act recognized fifty years ago and what supporters of it continue to argue today.

I am a fan of wilderness, not only for what it provides me as a physical entity—a place where I can escape my daily obligations and reset my mental clock—but I am also a fan of its legal protection, although I acknowledge that even as it provides important benefits, setting aside millions of acres of land has social and economic consequences. I also understand that wilderness is as much a concept—a creation of the mind—as it is an identifiable place. Nevertheless, I believe, and I think history bears me out, that we need wilderness to remind us that life transcends the daily grind and that we, as individuals and as communities, are connected to something larger than ourselves. Whether we visit wild places, or have only the opportunity to enjoy pictures taken by those who have, wilderness’s existence encourages us to contemplate our amazing, beautiful planet and to consider that we are part of a whole, even when we feel quite apart from it all. Being on the edge of wilderness is, in my opinion, better than having no wilderness at all. ❖

Endnotes:

¹ US Congress, Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), “The Wilderness Act.” Available at: <http://www.wilderness.net/nwps/legisact>.

² Michael Frome, *Battle for the Wilderness*, Rev. ed. (Salt Lake City: Univ. of Utah Press, 1997), 105.

³ Frome, 139.

⁴ William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness; Or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature,” in Cronon, ed., *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1995): 65-90. Available at: http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/Trouble_with_Wilderness_Main.html (accessed 23 December 2013).

⁵ Thoreau’s original is “In Wildness is the preservation of the World.” Wilderness is often mistakenly substituted for wilderness, though in this case, it is intentional. Henry David Thoreau, “Walking.” First published in *Atlantic Monthly* (June 1862). Project Gutenberg EBook (Release Date: August 7, 2008 [EBook #1022]; Last Updated: January 26, 2013). Available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1022/1022-h/1022-h.htm> (accessed 23 December 2013).

Lisa Brady is professor of history at BSU, Chair of the IHC, and author of *War upon the Land: Military Strategy and the Transformation of Southern Landscapes during the American Civil War* (University of Georgia Press, 2012).

Suggested further reading about Wilderness and the Wilderness Act

Cronon, William. “The Trouble with Wilderness; Or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature,” 65-90. In *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995. Available at http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/Trouble_with_Wilderness_Main.html.

Frome, Michael. *Battle for the Wilderness*, Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Univ. of Utah Press, 1997.

Harvey, Mark. *Wilderness Forever: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2005.

Marsh, Kevin. *Drawing Lines in the Forest: Creating Wilderness Areas in the Pacific Northwest*. Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books, ed. William Cronon. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2007.

Nash, Roderick. *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 4th ed. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2001.

Scott, Doug. *The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting Our Natural Heritage through the Wilderness Act*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004.

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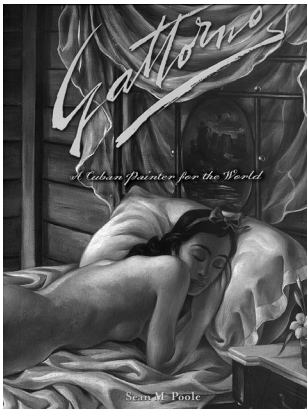
GRANTS
(Continued from Page 1)

Mark Twain biographer Ron Powers, author of the World War II history *Flags of Our Fathers*, and University of Idaho writer Daniel Orozco, winner of the 2012 Whiting Award for his book *Orientation and Other Stories*. The project director is **Doug Copsey**.

The Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls, was awarded **\$5,000** to help bring an international traveling exhibition titled *Race to the End of the Earth* to the museum, January – September 2014. The 7000-square foot exhibit features original artifacts and interactive elements, recounting the 1911-1912 expeditions of arctic explorers Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott and their 1,800 mile race to the South Pole. The museum will host additional educational opportunities during the nine-month tour. **David Pennock** is the project director.

The Idaho Center for Civic Education Program, Wendell, received **\$4,000** to present a two-day seminar February 22-23 for K-12 teachers exploring the theme “The Role of Dissent in American History, Politics, and Law.” In collaboration with the Boise State University Andrus Center for Public Policy, the seminar will explore the role of dissent from the founding of the nation, to the Civil Rights Movement, women’s rights movement, and during times of war. **Troy Hamilton** is the project director.

The Community Library, Ketchum, received **\$2,500** to bring to Florida writer Sean Poole, editor of the book *Gattorno*, a fully illustrated volume about the art and life of Cuban artist Antonio Gattorno (1904-1980) to speak at the 2014 Ernest Hemingway Symposium, which will focus in part on the theme of “Hemingway and Cuba.” The project director is **Sandra Hofferber**.



Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise, was awarded **\$3,000** to support performance of a reader’s theater version of a locally written play called *An Iliad*, inspired by Homer’s epic poem. The reader’s theater explores the art of storytelling about an ancient long and costly war. **Helene Peterson** is the project director.

North Idaho College, Coeur d’Alene, received **\$2,000** to develop an oral history project to gather stories from area residents about the area where Fort Sherman sat on the banks of the lake. They will solicit stories from Native Americans, former loggers, miners, and others, and post them on NIC’s website, offering broad access to residents, students, faculty, and visitors. The project director is **Sara Fladeland**.

Coeur d’Alene Public Library Foundation, Coeur d’Alene, received **\$2,000** for a storytelling project in the library. They will record interviews with residents on a variety of topics—from Native American stories about cultural origins to opinions on contemporary news of the day. They will host a featured lecture by University of Idaho anthropologist Rodney Frey and oral history workshops by Barbara Mueller. **Ruth Pratt** is the project director.

Boise State University, Boise, was awarded **\$4,088** to develop a dictionary of Chizigula, an endangered Somali language that is spoken by refugee families in the Boise area and elsewhere across the nation. Faculty and students at BSU have been working to document the endangered language. The documentation, including audio and video recordings, will be archived at BSU and in the Endangered Language Archives at the University of London. The project director is **Michal Temkin Martinez**.

Boise State University, Boise, was awarded **\$5,000** for a weeklong festival of Mexican culture, April 7-14, 2014, exploring the arts, history, and politics of Mexico and the country’s relationship with the U.S. The festival will involve Eduardo Medina-Mora, who was appointed as the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., photographer Alejandra Regalado, poet Victor Manuel Mendiola, Mexican Consulate Guillermo Ordorica Robles, Idaho Trade Representative to

Mexico Armando Orellana, Boise journalist and author Nathaniel Hoffman, and others. **Edward “Mac” Test** is the project director.

Idaho Human Rights Education Center, Boise, received **\$2,500** to host an exhibit from New York



The exhibit “Anne Frank: A History for Today” will come to Boise in April.

entitled “Anne Frank: A History for Today.” The exhibit will be on display in April of 2014 during national Holocaust Awareness Month. In preparation for the exhibit, the IHREC will offer a workshop for teachers on making use of the curriculum materials for this exhibit. The project director is **Dan Prinzing**.

The University of Idaho, American Indian Studies, Moscow, received **\$850** to help support a fall 2013 exhibit on American Indian Comic Art titled “Comic Art Indigene.” BSU Professor and Native American artist Larry McNeil, who had a piece in the exhibit, led a workshop for students. **Janis Johnson** was the project director.

Idaho Public Television, Statewide, received **\$12,000** to support airing of *American Experience Season 26* and Ken Burns’ program *The Address*. Some new programs include “War of the Worlds,” “John F. Kennedy,” “The Poisoner’s Handbook,” “The Amish: Shunned,” “1964,” “Freedom Summer,” “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” and “Penn Station.” *The Address* focuses on the sesquicentennial anniversary of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. **Cindy Lunte** is the project director.

Wallace Stairs Project, Greater Wallace Community Development Corporation, Wallace, was awarded **\$2,250** to help support interpretive signage telling the background of the network of stairs that were built in the south hills of Wallace in the early 20th century, where homes were built on the steep incline. The stairs were erected after the 1910 fire destroyed much of the town. The project director is **Jim See**.

Research Fellowships:

Alan Johnson, Idaho State University English Professor, **Pocatello**, received **\$3,500** for research in England and India related to his study of literary depictions of the Indian jungle. He hopes to enrich the understanding of Indian literature and the interplay between nature and artistic representation. He will present his findings in several public settings and plans to develop a book manuscript.

Guatam Basu Thakur, Assistant Professor of English at Boise State University, **Boise**, was awarded **\$3,500** to support research for a book examining human and nonhuman relations in British writings about India between 1857 and 1947. Through studying writings of John Kaye, George Malleson, Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, E.M. Forster, and Jim Corbett, Thakur will elaborate on the theory that human and nonhuman interactions define the myth of the colonizer.



Jennifer Ladino, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Idaho, **Moscow**, received **\$3,500**



to support her research at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California, where Japanese and Japanese Americans were imprisoned from 1942 to 1945. Ladino will develop a scholarly monograph investigating how American memorials contribute to stories about war and national identity. Ladino examines the structures and

emotions generated by them, arguing that memorial sites profoundly shape understandings of war and national identity.

Justin Stover, Lecturer in the Idaho State University History Department Pocatello, received **\$3,500** to support travel to Ireland for research examining factors that contributed to loyalties during the Irish Revolution, 1913-1923. He will explore loyalty and treason during the struggle for independence and the movement that created a national discourse in Irish society.



Teacher Incentive Grants:

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

Kelly Brannock, English teacher at American Falls Academy, **American Falls**, received **\$153** to purchase books and films for a proposed class studying how events in history affect subjects in books. Her class will be a collaboration between English and History teachers and will include *Fahrenheit 451* and *Uglies*.

Lorrie Heleker, Payette County School District elementary teacher, **Payette**, received **\$672** to develop a unit studying multicultural neighborhoods and traditions. The class will focus on Japanese, Western European, Basque, and Mexican cultures, and will include guest speakers, reading from historical fiction about children from each culture, and a field trip to the Four Rivers Cultural Center.



Nicole Pape, Anser Charter School teacher, **Garden City**, was awarded **\$854** to purchase multiple copies of *The Idaho Adventure*, a new Idaho history textbook by Nancy Tacke and Todd Shallat. The third and fourth grade teachers will share the textbooks.

Michelle Harmon, English and Journalism instructor at Borah High School, **Boise**, was awarded **\$500** to improve her journalism course by developing on-line searchable access to back issues of the school newspaper. She notes that having this online availability will be a great resource for both the school and the community.



Garden City Library Foundation, Garden City, received **\$750** to support their bilingual books program. This program provides bilingual books and other resources to the community. About 75% of their patrons are Spanish-speaking, and more than 75% of their Spanish collection was checked out last summer. **Rita Langley** is the project director.

Dick Jordan, Timberline High School, **Boise**, was awarded **\$1,000** to help support a workshop for his Advanced Placement Environmental Science course, featuring Susan Strauss, a natural history storyteller, and other local storytellers from the Treasure Valley.

Matt Looze, School District 25, **Pocatello**, received **\$1,000** to improve his Junior and Senior English classes through inclusion of computer equipment that will enable him to make the class more interactive, allowing students to read together on an overhead, and allowing him to interact with students while showing video clips, and other internet offerings.

Ronald Scott, North Junior High School science teacher, **Boise**, was awarded **\$1,000** to improve his interdisciplinary biological science course by incorporating study of history, literature, and ethics in discussions of cell structure, genetics, plant and animal physiology, and ecology. The material is accessed through various computer sites.

NEWS

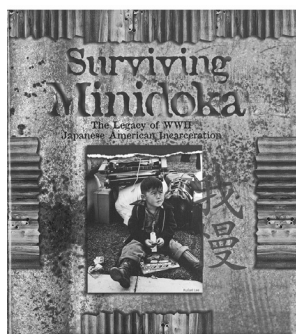
(Continued from Page 2)

interviews, and 180 black-and-white photographs fuse present and past.

Tamura began her project after President Bill Clinton designated part of the Minidoka site as the 385th unit of the National Park Service. Her work furthers the tradition of socially inspired documentary photojournalism, illuminating the cultural, sociological, and political significance of Minidoka. Ultimately, her book reminds us of what happens when fear, hysteria, and racial prejudice subvert human rights and shatter human lives.

Tamura is a third-generation Japanese American who grew up in Idaho. She received her MFA in photography from the University of Washington and taught photojournalism at the University of Montana for five years. She currently lives in Walla Walla, Washington. The book sells for \$27.95, available online at nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Minidoka.675767.aspx or by calling (800) 848-6224.

Boise State University College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs announces publication of *Surviving Minidoka: The Legacy of WW II Japanese American*



Incarceration, is a collection of essays, articles, and interviews, edited by College of Southern Idaho History Professor Russ Tremayne and BSU History Professor Todd Shallat. The hardcover edition is beautifully illustrated with historical

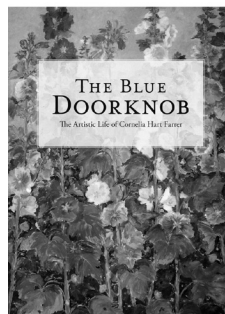
and contemporary photographs, artwork, and poems, telling the story of 1942 Executive Order 9066, which relocated Japanese and Japanese Americans from the West Coast to 10 camps in the interior west. Minidoka, the camp in Idaho, has been a pilgrimage site over the past decade of annual Civil Liberties conferences, hosted by the College of Southern Idaho, and many survivors and descendants of survivors have reunited to attend these conferences. The volume also features throughout the beautiful artwork of noted painter Roger Shimomura, as well as an interview with Shimomura.

Surviving Minidoka is available in hardcover for \$36 from the BSU Publications Office, College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725, by calling (208) 426-1368 (or online at sspadean@boisestate.edu).

New biography of Idaho artist published

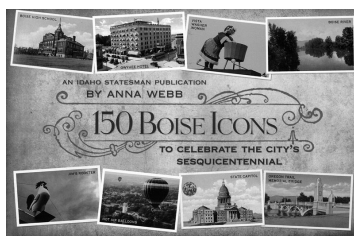
The Blue Doorknob: The Artistic Life of Cornelia Hart Farrer, by Boise writer Rita Branham Rodriguez,

is the story of the life of a prolific Boise painter (1897-1991), known not only for her colorful artwork, but for her colorful life promoting art and enhancing the cultural community of Boise. The book explores a bygone time in Boise, when Chinese still lived in the area in late-19th and early-20th century, and when artists strove through the early decades of the 20th century to bring culture to a remote area of the nation. Illustrated with photographs, drawings, and a well of color images of Farrer's paintings, the book surely will revive interest in a near-forgotten artist whose delightful eccentricities and grand presence—described as “an Idaho Coco Chanel”—inspired other artists, writers, journalists, socialites, and cultural movers and shakers. Rodriguez met Farrer in 1971 soon after moving to Boise from Virginia, and the two became instant friends. The book was 20 years in the making and now is available in a handsome edition for \$17 plus \$3 shipping from Dilkoosha Press, 808 N. 18th Street, Boise, Idaho 83702, or from Boise's Rediscovered Bookshop.



150 Boise Icons

From the state Capitol to Hyde Park to the Vista Avenue washer woman marquee, Boise has many sites that are treasures. *150 Boise Icons* is a compilation of journalist Anna



Webb's popular “Boise Icons” series, which appeared in the *Idaho Statesman* from February through July, 2013, to commemorate Boise's Territorial Sesquicentennial.

The book has 200+ pages of photos and descriptions in an easy-to-carry size so readers can explore the city's icons on their own. The books are available from the *Idaho Statesman* (208) 377-6200 and Boise bookstores for \$15.

Ezra Pound conference planned at BSU in April

Boise State University is hosting a conference on Idaho-born poet Ezra Pound (1885-1972), April 9-12, 2014. The conference will explore Pound's influence on poetics, modernism, and culture. The three-day event will offer evening and afternoon lectures, discussion sessions and a special field trip to Pound's birth place in Hailey. Hotel discounts will be available for conference participants. Speakers include Marjorie Perloff, Ron Bush, Bob Perelman, and others. For more information, contact Martin Corless-Smith at mcsmith@boisestate.edu.



ISU professor publishes new book on fantasy literature

Idaho State University English Professor Brian Attebery has published a new book, *Stories about Stories: Fantasy and the Remaking of Myth*, released by Oxford University Press on January 2. The book introduces a new way of looking at the uses of folklore in literature, describes a theoretical approach that accounts for both the genre's popularity and controversies (such as attempts to ban or burn fantasy books), and explores fantasy texts from the 18th to the 20th centuries. The book retails for \$29.95. For more about the book, go to <http://global.oup.com/academic/product/stories-about-stories-9780199316076?cc=us&lang=en&q=Attebery.%20Brian&tab=overview>.



Teachers invited to apply for IHC's weeklong summer institute exploring baseball in American culture

Idaho teachers of all grades and disciplines are invited to apply to attend the Idaho Humanities Council's 2014 weeklong summer institute titled “**Batter Up! Baseball in American Culture**,” scheduled for **July 13-18, 2014**, at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. Successful applicants will receive lodging and meals, texts, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Those traveling more than 250 miles one way may be eligible for a modest travel stipend. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply. **The deadline for online applications is April 1.**

Supported by the IHC's Endowment for Humanities Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the interdisciplinary teacher institute will explore the history of baseball and the many facets of the game that make it our National Pastime.

Baseball is woven into the fabric of American culture and history. It has been with us since before the American Civil War and has mirrored the essential qualities of what it means to be an American. It is a sport rich in nostalgia and myth: American literature, music, theater, and film have all explored baseball and its main themes, while our language is ripe with “baseball-isms.” There is hardly a place in our culture that baseball hasn't touched.

The major issues impacting all sports culture will be



explored through the lens of the sport of baseball, such as the impact on popular imagination, cultural mythology, the business of the sport, controversial laws and labor issues, gender, race and discrimination, stars and icons, cathedrals of the sport, and the future of the game.

The primary text for the series is *Baseball: A Literary Anthology*, edited by Nicholas Dawidoff, with additional selected readings.

Presenting scholars so far include Robert Santelli,

prolific author and journalist, executive director of The Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, and curator of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Hometown Teams* (which tours Idaho in 2014); David Adler, director of Boise State University's Andrus Center for Public Policy, Constitution scholar, longtime IHC institute scholar, and one-time sportswriter; Kevin Marsh, Idaho State University history professor, department chair, and Idaho *Hometown Teams* exhibition scholar; Katherine Aiken, University of Idaho Provost, professor of history and popular culture; Marc Johnson, former Idaho Humanities Council Chair, popular culture blogger, and devoted baseball enthusiast, and others.

In addition to attending daily lectures and panel discussions, participants will attend special evening keynote presentations, view documentaries and Hollywood films, explore art and music, and share ways of teaching the humanities through the lens of sports.

The online application deadline is April 1, 2014. Interested teachers must visit www.idahohumanities.org to apply online, or contact the Idaho Humanities Council with other questions at (208) 345-5346, or cindy@idahohumanities.org.

Wallace District Mining Museum receives \$10,000 honor

The Wallace District Mining Museum in Wallace is the recipient of the 2013 Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award for Outstanding Service. Given annually by the Idaho Humanities Council, Idaho State Historical Society, and Idaho Heritage Trust, the Elsensohn Award includes a pooled \$10,000 prize to be used by the winning museum to continue its educational efforts. The Wallace District Mining Museum is a leader in the state in providing digitized access to its research collections. In recent years, it also has undertaken exceptional work in redesigning its exhibits, and has provided professional assistance to other museums throughout the state through its leadership in the Idaho Association of Museums. The award was presented at a ceremony in Wallace on January 29, involving

representatives from all three organizations.

The award is named for Sister Alfreda Elsensohn, who founded the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in the 1930s. Sister Alfreda sought to collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts from Idaho County and the surrounding area to better educate the public. “A museum is a bridge which links the present with the past,” she once said. It was her vision of Idaho museums as interactive and educational institutions that the award seeks to recognize by honoring one outstanding Idaho museum each year.

“The Idaho Humanities Council encourages public awareness and understanding of history and other humanities disciplines,” noted Rick Ardinger, Executive

Director of the Idaho Humanities Council. “The Wallace District Mining Museum is an exemplary small museum that explores the rich mining history of the Silver Valley in a compelling and interesting way.”

While the IHT, the IHC, and ISHS have collaborated on many projects over the years, this is their only joint award. Previous recipients of the Sister Alfreda Award include the Bonner County Historical Museum in Sandpoint (2008), the South Bannock County Historical Center in Lava Hot Springs (2009), the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in Cottonwood (2010), the Lemhi County Historical Society in Salmon (2011), and the Basque Museum and Cultural Center in Boise (2012).

Historian Nathaniel Philbrick talked ‘Revolution’ in Boise

National Book Award-winning historian Nathaniel Philbrick gave the IHC’s 17th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture on September 26 to an audience of nearly 500 at the Boise Centre. Philbrick spoke about his latest book *Bunker Hill: A City, a Siege, a Revolution*.

Earlier in the day Philbrick was interviewed for Idaho Public Television’s *Dialogue* program and attended a Benefactors Reception at the beautiful foothills home of George and Bev Harad.

The IHC thanks its underwriters for helping make a very successful evening. Thank you to the **OfficeMax Boise Community Fund** and the **University of Idaho College of Law** for generously sponsoring the evening. In addition, IHC’s media sponsors **The Idaho Statesman**, **Boise State Public Radio** and **Idaho Public Television** were tremendous partners.

The Harads opened their lovely home to more than 100 Benefactors for a pre-dinner reception. The reception was generously supported by the **Boise Co-op** and **Jim Wisner**. An additional thank you goes to **Barnes and Noble** for facilitating book sales, with part of the proceeds going to support IHC programming.

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

Thank you to some very generous individuals

and organizations who helped share the evening with are students through their donations to the student scholarship fund:

Steven Fields, Idaho Power, Futura Corporation, Ann and Stan Bell, Chuck Guilford, Sisti and Rory O’Connor, Mee-Ae Kim and Christopher Grant, Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson, Lisa Brady and David Walker, Ronald and Desiree Hays, John Hand, Jerome Eberharter, Kathleen Sutherland and Stan Olson. ❖



1. Jenny Davidson (Hailey) and Ed Marohn (Idaho Falls) pose for a photo.
2. Friends from the College of Idaho attend the Benefactor reception.
3. Nathaniel Philbrick speaks at the Boise Centre.
4. Nathaniel Philbrick talks with Bob Allred and his family at the Benefactor reception.
5. Benefactor reception host George Harad talks to friends of the IHC.

Hundreds hear historian Douglas Brinkley in Coeur d’Alene

Prolific historian Douglas Brinkley gave the IHC’s 10th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in October. Brinkley spoke to an audience of 330 about his latest book, a biography of CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite and 20th century journalism.

Earlier in the day, Brinkley spoke to several hundred Coeur d’Alene High School students about an earlier book he wrote called *The Majic Bus: An American Odyssey*, which is about teaching history while on a six-week cross-country bus trip. After the school event he was also interviewed for Idaho Public Television’s *Dialogue*. Prior to speaking at the Resort that evening, Brinkley also greeted dozens of Benefactors at the beautiful lakefront home of Dick and Nona Kay Barclay, sponsored in part by the **Hagadone Corporation**.

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

The IHC is grateful to Benefactors for their

added generosity, including the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Tables: **Idaho Forest Group, Intermix Networks, Paine Hamblen, Coeur d’Alene Press, Idaho Public Television, Margaret Reed Foundation and Lewis-Clark State College.**

Thank you also to Gratia Griffith, Margaret Reed Foundation and George & Juli Ives for the contributions to the student scholarship program.

We thank IHC’s northern Idaho board members, **Kathy Aiken, Fran Bahr, Mike Kennedy, and Jo Ann Nelson**, and the Coeur d’Alene planning committee: **Virginia Johnson, Cindy Haagenon, Nancy Flagan, Fay Sweney, Katie Sayler, and JoAnn Nelson**, whose dedication to the humanities in their community made this evening possible. Lastly, tremendous thanks to **Karen Yother** for her instrumental assistance in helping to arrange, plan, and coordinate this event. ❖



1. Douglas Brinkley (center) poses with Benefactor reception hosts Dick and Nona Kay Barclay.
2. Douglas Brinkley signs a copy of his biography of Walter Cronkite.
3. Douglas Brinkley poses with IHC board members Jo Ann Nelson and Mike Kennedy.
4. Douglas Brinkley speaks to an audience of several hundred about the life of CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite.

Get your tickets now: Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Isabel Wilkerson to speak in Idaho Falls, April 17

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, will be the speaker at the IHC's 7th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, April 17, 2014, 7 p.m., at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls.

The event is generously supported in part by Teton Toyota and Volkswagon, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Bank of Idaho, The Post Register, Idaho Public Television, Barnes and Noble, INL, and the Bill Maeck Foundation.

Wilkerson spent 15 years interviewing more than 1,200 people to write *The Warmth of Other Suns*, her award-winning work that tells the epic story of three representative people who made the decision of their lives in what came to be known as the "Great Migration" of southern blacks to northern cities for better lives and work opportunities during the 20th century. The story tells of their struggles with racism and prejudice, and their moves from Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana to find new lives in places like Chicago, Harlem, and elsewhere.

"Their migration was a response to an economic and social structure not of their making," Wilkerson writes.



"They did what humans have done for centuries when life became untenable . . . They left."

Her book explores how the Great Migration—an exodus of six million people between 1915 and 1970—changed the face of America.

The Warmth of Other Suns became a *New York Times* and national bestseller. It won the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, the 2011 Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, the 2011 Hillman Book Prize, the 2011 Lynton History Prize from Harvard and Columbia universities, the 2011 Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, the Stephen Ambrose Oral History Prize, the Independent Literary Award for Nonfiction, the Horace Mann Bond Book Award from Harvard University, the NAACP Image Award for Best Literary Debut and was shortlisted for the 2011 Pen-Galbraith Literary Award for Nonfiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Tickets are available NOW for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under "IHC Events," or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346. General tickets are \$45. Benefactor tickets are \$75, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Wilkerson in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out. The evening will begin with a no-host reception at

6 p.m. at the Shilo Inn. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with Wilkerson's talk to follow. Wilkerson's books will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite and she'll be available for signing afterwards.

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



Local • Proven • Essential



Traveling Smithsonian exhibit on sports in American culture touring Idaho in 2014

The IHC is bringing a Smithsonian traveling exhibition on sports culture in America titled *Hometown Teams* to six Idaho communities in 2014.

The exhibit will visit the Idaho State Historical Museum (Boise), Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History (Lewiston), Northern Pacific Railroad Depot Foundation (Wallace), Hailey's Welcome Center at Werthheimer Park (Hailey), the Challis Arts Council (Challis), and the Larsen-Sant Library (Preston) between March and December 2014.

The exhibit will be on display for six weeks in each of the six Idaho communities. While on display, each community will develop around the exhibit its own local programming, ranging from school projects, to lectures, films, local displays, and other activities limited only by the imagination.

The central theme of the *Hometown Teams* exhibition explores America as a celebrator of sports, through teamwork, leadership, and team pride. Through a selection of photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia, the *Hometown Teams* exhibition looks at various aspects of sports and teams, from how and why we play these games to what makes us fans and why we root for our home teams. The story is full of surprises about familiar games, histories of our teams, and sports traditions, and how sports and teams have become such an integral part of American society.

The exhibit explores how love of sports begins in hometowns; how we play games on ball fields



and sandlots, on courts, on ice, even in the street. If we're not playing sports, we're watching them, sitting in stands to cheer on the local teams and our friends and family. *Hometown Teams* is a cultural history of the American sports landscape. It is the story of a diverse assortment of people interacting with games, activities that encourage the development of competition, fair play,

and a passion for a goal. Connecting generations and making lifelong fans out of many of us, sports help to define who we are as individuals, as teams, and as Americans.

Hometown Teams is part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program, an exhibition program that was developed to bring exhibitions primarily to smaller communities in America that would not ordinarily have the opportunity to host such an exhibit. The IHC has brought to Idaho over the past dozen years Smithsonian exhibitions on American roots music, food and culture, the history of American labor, yesterday's visions of the future, barn architecture, on the meaning of fences and borders, and more. ♦

The Idaho tour of *Hometown Teams* is supported in part by the Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture at the Inland Northwest Community Foundation.



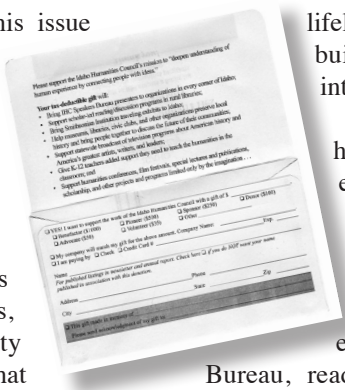
'Hometown Teams' 2014 Touring Schedule

Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise
March 1 – April 12
Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History, Lewiston
April 19 – May 31
Northern Pacific Railroad Depot Foundation, Wallace
June 7 – July 19
Hailey's Welcome Center at Werthheimer Park, Hailey
July 26 – September 6
Challis Arts Council, Challis
September 13 – October 24
Larsen-Sant Library, Preston
November 1 – December 14
For more information about the Exhibition in Idaho, contact the Idaho Humanities Council at (208) 345-5346.



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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IHC warmly thanks Idaho Humanities Council Donors!

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In memory of Janice Thornton

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Margaret Schiff

In memory of Phyllis Ward

Jennifer Holley

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In memory of Steven Puglisi

Harald Wyndham

In memory of Zola Noah and Holly

Noah

Bill Noah

In memory of Lois Miller

Rodney Miller

In memory of Diana Morris

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Louie & Barbara Attebery

Robert & Barb Studebaker

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In honor of Rick Ardinger

Katherine Aiken

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Donor Comment

“The humanities provide a context in which one can distinguish between ideas and beliefs. This process in turn provides a deeper understanding of ourselves and the culture around us. It is an essential element of a democratic society.”

Fred Walters, Cambridge

Consider establishing a planned gift for the Idaho Humanities Council

The Idaho Humanities Council has served Idaho for 40 years, offering support for teachers, scholars, libraries, museums, and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages to explore all humanities disciplines.

History, literature, philosophy, and ethics lend insight and understanding into the human experience. IHC recognizes that engagement with the humanities offers people inspiration and hope and can tell powerful stories about human behavior, the meaning of life, and the need for civic reflection.

Your planned gift can help build for the future by supporting the programs and activities of the Idaho Humanities Council. For more information contact Executive Director Rick Ardinger at (208) 345-5346 or rick@idahohumanities.org.

Idaho Humanities Council to honor IPTV’s Peter Morrill for ‘Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities’

The Idaho Humanities Council will honor former Idaho Public Television General Manager Peter Morrill with IHC’s Award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” at a wine/ dessert reception and award ceremony on Thursday, February 20, 7:30 p.m., at Boise’s Red Lion Downtowner. The award, which includes a \$1,000 honorarium, will be presented to Morrill honoring his career in public television, and IPTV’s work to bring some of the best humanities programming on television to a statewide audience.

Recently retired, Morrill spent 35-years in public broadcasting, including 31-years with Idaho Public Television. During those years, with a relatively modest operating budget, he achieved many remarkable accomplishments during his tenure, including the \$24 million transition from analog to a digital format, turning IPTV into a state-of-the-art broadcasting system with four separate channels bringing a diverse block of humanities programming statewide to Idahoans of all ages.

Even with a relatively small budget for a statewide network, Morrill promoted strong focus



on local productions, such as *Dialogue*, *Outdoor Idaho*, *Idaho Reports*, and *Idaho in Session*, in addition to special documentary productions such as *Capitol of Light* and *Trial of the Century* that explored Idaho history. As a result, a higher percentage of viewers within Idaho Public Television’s viewing area watch IPTV programming, and watch it more often, than that of any other public TV station in the country.

In 2013 alone, IPTV garnered dozens of national and local awards for excellence, including a regional Emmy and an Edward R. Murrow Award (one of only two PBS stations to be honored regionally in 2013).

A member of several state and national boards and the recipient of several other state and national honors, Morrill had a record of accomplishment working with the Idaho Legislature to secure funding for IPTV during even the leanest of fiscal times.

Anyone interested in attending the February 20 reception and award ceremony should RSVP to the Idaho Humanities Council at (208) 345-5346, or at Debra@idahohumanities.org.

The Idaho Humanities Council is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting greater public understanding of literature, history, ethics, law, and other humanities disciplines. The Council has presented its award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” annually since 1986. Previous recipients of the award have included independent historian Keith Petersen, Twin Falls anthropologist James Woods, former Governor Robert E. Smylie, College of Idaho Professor Louie Attebery, State Historian Merle Wells, BSU Andrus Center Director David Adler, Moscow writer Mary Clearman Blew, Idaho poet William Studebaker, historian Arthur Hart, Nez Perce elder Horace Axtell, former Lewis-Clark State College English Professor Keith Browning, Idaho State University History Professor Ron Hatzenbuehler, Basque Museum and Cultural Center Director Patty Miller, Boise Independent Schools District Administrator and history teacher Russ Heller, LCSC anthropologist Alan Marshall, and others. ♦

U.S. Bank Foundation helps bring ‘Let’s Talk About It’ program to rural libraries

The Idaho Humanities Council thanks U.S. Bank Foundation for its support of the 2013-2014 season of *Let’s Talk About It* (LTAI), the library reading and discussion program that brings people together with scholars in mostly rural community libraries for discussions of books exploring a variety of themes. U.S. Bank Foundation has been a loyal supporter of community reading for many years.

The U.S. Bank Foundation grant has helped support the cost of new books, as well as travel for Idaho college and university scholars to visit 16 libraries to speak about the books and help lead **75 discussions** with library patrons. The program is a partnership of the U.S. Bank Foundation, the IHC, and the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The IC for L has managed the program for nearly 30 years. Project Coordinator Dian Scott selects the participating libraries, contracts with scholars, and ships multiple copies of books to the libraries.

“U.S. Bank Foundation is happy to support such a great program that brings people together all over Idaho to discuss books and ideas,” said U.S. Bank Senior Vice President Rob Aravich, of Boise, who presented a check at the Idaho Humanities Council office.

“This is a program that educates and builds community relationships, and it touches so many towns throughout Idaho,” Aravich said.

Since the fall of 2013, the program began in libraries from Montpelier to Bonners Ferry. Libraries are hosting book discussions exploring different themes through spring of 2014. Themes include “Idaho at 150,” “Living in the Modern West,” “Our Earth,



U.S. Bank Senior Vice President Rob Aravich (center) holds a check in support of the 2013-2014 “Let’s Talk About It” program with IHC Director Rick Ardinger and LTAI Coordinator Dian Scott

Our Ethics,” “We Are What We Eat,” “American Characters,” and many other themes. Scholars from nearly all of Idaho’s institutions of higher education participate in the program as book discussion leaders in **75 library meetings**.

Participating libraries in 2013-2014 include Ada Community Library (Boise), American Falls District Library, Bear Lake County Library (Montpelier), Blackfoot Public Library, Boundary County District Library (Bonners Ferry), Coeur d’Alene Public Library, DeMary Memorial Library (Rupert), Grangeville Centennial Library, Larsen-Sant Public Library (Preston), Lewiston City Library, McCall Public Library, Mountain Home Public Library, Portneuf District Library (Chubbuck), Salmon Public Library, Twin Falls Public Library, and Weiser Public Library.

The LTAI program, which began in 1985, was developed by the Idaho Commission for Libraries

(formerly the Idaho State Library) and the Idaho Humanities Council. Over the past 30 years, programs have been held in nearly 100 Idaho communities.

Through good financial times and bad, the IHC, the Idaho Commission for Libraries, and the **U.S. Bank Foundation** have continued their partnership to bring to mostly rural communities the opportunity for a rich cultural experience involving great literature, guest humanities scholars, and in-depth conversations on diverse topics. Program participants expand their reading interests, meet new people and explore important cultural issues in the context of their own lives and the lives of others.

Thanks to the U.S. Bank Foundation’s generous support, the program continues reaching Idahoans of all ages through valuable reading and discussion.

“This LTAI program is an intellectual lifeline for many in rural communities where people are eager to meet face to face for a little thoughtful give-and-take about great literature,” said Rick Ardinger, director of the Idaho Humanities Council. “U.S. Bank Foundation’s support is critical to making the program happen. Participants are truly grateful for the program.”

For more information about Let’s Talk About It, see the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>, or contact Project Coordinator Dian Scott, Idaho Commission for Libraries at (208) 334-2150. ♦



GRANTS

(Continued from Page 9)

Jan Green, Holy Spirit Catholic School, **Pocatello**, received **\$700** for a children’s literature class for teachers. Pre-school through eighth-grade teachers meet monthly to review children’s books and how to utilize them in their classrooms. Their goal is to bridge language arts across the curriculum by also exploring health, science, social studies, and math.

Joseph Lawrence, Mullan School District, **Mullan**, received **\$1,000** to help purchase equipment for an electronic check-out system for the library, and to

introduce new equipment to incorporate historical films, YouTube clips, and PowerPoints, into classroom teaching of the humanities.

Treasure Valley Family YMCA, Boise, was awarded **\$1,000** to support a statewide Youth Government program for high school students. Over 300 students work in their high schools through the school year, participate in regional legislative sessions, and then the program culminates in a two-day State Session held in April in Boise where students conduct a hands-

on model legislature and judicial program. **Julie Zicaro** is the project director.

Salmon Arts Council, Salmon, received **\$1,000** to bring oral historian Teresa Clark to Salmon for a one-week residency working with 8th grade students on an oral history project. Clark will train the students in interview techniques as well as writing and book publishing. Students will interview members of their

(See GRANTS, Page 10)

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GRANTS (Continued from Page 9)

own families as well as volunteers from the Lemhi County Historical Society. The project director is **Caroline Stivers**.

Lillian Vallely School, Blackfoot, received **\$1,000** for a Shoshoni Language program. The school serves kindergarten through fifth graders living on the Fort Hall Reservation, and offers classes in Shoshoni dance, crafts, music and language. **Norma Jordan** is the project director.

Salmon Arts Council, Salmon, received **\$1,000** to host The American Place Theater’s performance-based literary program for local schools. They will present a one-hour stage adaptation of Harriet Jacobs’ 1861 memoir, “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.” The program includes resource guides for teachers to help them prepare in advance. The project director is **Caroline Stivers**.

Idaho Falls Arts Council, Idaho Falls, also was awarded **\$1,000** to host the American Place Theater stage production of “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” and involve an alternative school. The program will include resource guides for teachers and three smaller workshops with students after the performance. **Brandi Newton** is the project director.

Planning Grants:

The Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise, received **\$1,000** to work with public historian and consultant Barbara Perry-Bauer to prepare a check-list template to help guide those conducting research in communities in Idaho where there has been a Basque presence. **Patty Miller** is the project director. ❖

Idaho Territorial traveling exhibit available

On the morning of March 4, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a congressional act creating Idaho Territory. On July 3, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed a congressional act establishing Idaho as the 43rd state.

The 27-year territorial era between those two presidential signatures was perhaps the most significant quarter century in Idaho’s history, shaping who we are as a state today.

With support from the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society has two copies of an eight-panel exhibit about the Territorial years that is available to schools, museums, libraries, and other organizations that are interested in displaying the exhibit for a period of a month or more

The ISHS charges a fee for rental and shipping. For more information contact Gen Emerson at the ISHS at gen.emerson@ishs.idaho.gov or call 208-334-2120. ❖

**THE NEXT DEADLINE
FOR
IHC GRANTS:**

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2014**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique several weeks prior to the deadline. Grant guidelines and online application instructions, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

What Are You Reading?

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

Reader: Leif Hoffmann

Occupation: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston
Book: *Astérix chez les Pictes* (English title: *Asterix and the Picts*), by Jean-Yves Ferri; Illustrator: Didier Conrad; original creators: René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo



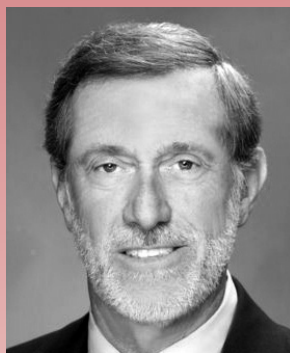
The French revere *bandes dessinées* (graphic novels) as the Neuvième Art (9th art form). The most famous character emerging from the Franco-Belgian school of comics, besides Tintin, has been Asterix. Widely translated into over 100

different languages and dialects, Asterix and his adventures have been employed across Europe to lure audiences to museums, teach recalcitrant students Latin and as inspiration and source material for doctoral dissertations.

Filled with the usual allusions and gags based on cultural differences and politics, *Asterix and the Picts* is a timely album in view of the Scottish independence referendum scheduled for September 18, 2014. Anybody interested in reliving their childhood is well served by picking up *Asterix and the Picts* or any other of the series’ classic albums: *Et nunc, reges, intelligite, er udimini, qui iudicati terram* (And now, kings, understand; you who decide the fate of earth, educate yourselves).

Reader: Fred Belzer

Occupation: Attorney, Pocatello
Book: *Selected Stories* by Alice Munro



Over the years, I’ve enjoyed Alice Munro’s stories in *The New Yorker* magazine. However, I’d never considered reading one of her collections. The stories in the *Selected Stories* are from

Munro’s first 30 years of writing and have the variety of place, period, and themes that have earned her awards including the recent Nobel Prize in literature. There is a nice sampling of her well known, small town stories set in 1930’s Canada, which focus on family relationships and conventional characters doing unconventional things. Less in this vein is a beautifully written story, “Mile City, Montana,” where the narrator remembers a childhood tragedy and weaves that memory into both pleasant and troubled memories of the early years of her marriage and young children. These are the kinds of stories you hope to have with you when you are delayed in an airport and have a chance to go off into other people’s lives and reflect on your own life.

Reader: Mindy Cameron

Occupation: Retired newspaper editor, Sagle
Book: *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri



Jhumpa Lahiri’s latest book, *The Lowland*, opens in 1960s Calcutta, a time of political upheaval, and wends its way to the placid calm of Rhode Island. Once again Lahiri accomplishes an intricate weaving

of personal relationships. It’s the story of two brothers, a revolutionary who stays in Calcutta and meets a predictable fate, and the older one, Subhash, who emigrates to seek a life in America. That life is changed when he brings Gauri, the pregnant wife of the younger brother, to Rhode Island.

He becomes a devoted father to Bela, Gauri’s daughter. But Gauri is a seeker. It is her story that captured me. It’s the story of a lonely immigrant with a steely determination to make her own way in America. She soon dresses in the style of her new home, secretly begins to study, even to the detriment of her daughter’s upbringing. How that all unfolds and what it means for Subhash and Bela is the core of this quietly powerful novel.