

# IDAHO HUMANITIES

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council | Summer 2021

feature

## IN SEARCH OF IDAHO'S MYSTERIOUS, INCREDIBLE, TRAGIC, VANISHING CURTIS FAMILY

By Bill Manny

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bill Manny unearthed an intriguing story about Idaho's history and his zeal for the background story is infectious. Bill is a board member of the Idaho Humanities Council. He's a producer for Idaho Public Television and a former editor at the Idaho Statesman.

He delivered the first governor's first message to the first Idaho State Legislature.

He was son and brother to two legendary Idaho territorial secretaries.

The men he served and befriended are men for whom Idaho mountains and towns and university buildings are named: Heyburn, Borah, Dubois, Shoup, Sweet.



Bill Manny with the preamble to the Idaho constitution, penned by John Jay Curtis. The document was disassembled to be repaired and rebound at the preservation lab at the University of Utah in 2019, a process Manny and Idaho Public Television chronicled for their 2020 documentary.



After serving as territorial secretary until statehood in 1890, E.J. Curtis, left, served as adjutant general of the state militia. He's pictured with Gov. Norman Willey, center, in the early 1890s. (Idaho State Historical Society)

And he is the man who set pen to paper to record the Idaho constitution in August 1889.

He is John Jay Curtis. But he is a mystery.

My search to know John Curtis began when we at Idaho Public Television documented the Idaho State Historical Society's restoration of the 1889 constitution, which underwent a four-month repair and rebinding at the University of Utah.

Even after our 2020 documentary identified Curtis as the constitution's scribe – with the help of an Ada County Sheriff's Office handwriting analyst – the question nagged at me. Who was John Curtis? Why is he such a shadow? His name never appears in the 2,000

pages of verbatim transcript of the constitutional convention.

My search led me into the history of the entire Curtis clan. If pugnacious Territorial Delegate Fred T. Dubois is the father of Idaho statehood, then the Curtises were the guiding family of the Idaho Territory. And it's no coincidence that the Dubois and Curtis families ended up connected by friendship and mentorship, by political and professional alliance and, ultimately, by marriage.

For these two triumphant Idaho families in 1889, the future could not have looked more promising.

If John Jay Curtis deserves to be better known in Idaho, that is doubly so for his father. Edward Jay Curtis was territorial secretary for most of 1869 to 1890. He spent more time acting as Idaho governor than any of the mostly incompetent or indifferent governors that U.S. presidents sent to the territory. (Four of the 16 governors never even set foot in Idaho.) Editors, historians, even political rivals lauded "Gov. Curtis" as competent, steady, level-headed and public-minded, as responsible as any single person for qualifying tiny territorial Idaho – in the eyes of a skeptical Congress – for statehood. When Idaho became a state in 1890, many wanted Curtis as the first

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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

## from the Chair MARGARET JOHNSON

My father Robert was born in August 1921, one hundred years ago. He was born into a world with only recent access to automobiles; the Model T became widely available just over a decade before he was born. He and two siblings lived through the depression, but another two did not. He put himself through college by working in a slaughterhouse and became the first in his family with a college education. He went on to work as a mechanical engineer, working on the space program. Even as he saw science and technology provide access to a world nearly inconceivable when he was born, he always found the world of science and the world of humanities necessary partners in understanding and operating in the world. He was a voracious reader, and though math and science were his professional interests, his reading was mostly in the humanities. He focused on history, particularly the work of Barbara Tuchman and David McCullough. For him, science was always grounded in how it would impact people, communities, and culture.

Due to the success of scientific research into COVID-19 vaccines, the world is open again, providing new ways to bring the humanities to life. In mid-June the staff and board of the IHC met in person for the first time since February 2020. Over three days in McCall, we discussed plans for in-person events for 2021. We will hold our annual Teacher Institute in Caldwell in July, and we are planning our Distinguished Humanities Lectures and Dinners in Boise and Coeur d'Alene for the fall. Each of these events gives us opportunities to connect with each other and to reflect on the vitality of the humanities in engaging our minds and our emotional well-being.



## from the Director DAVID PETTYJOHN



At the end of May, I participated in my first hybrid program at the Community Library in Ketchum. The audience and speaker joined us remotely and I had the pleasure of moderating the discussion on stage socially-distanced from Jenny Emery Davidson, the library's director. It was exciting to travel across this beautiful state and visit face-to-face after nearly 15 months. Shortly after that, the staff and board of IHC traveled to McCall for our first in-person board meeting since February 2020. You can learn more about that meeting in our message from the Chair.

As with any transition, I experienced a sense of anxiety and unease. The past year has been spent on countless virtual Zoom meetings and other two-dimensional conversations. While participating in discussions and meetings, one thing became abundantly clear—this return to “normalcy” will take some adjustment.

As IHC returns to in-person programming, we are aware that comfort levels will vary. To ensure that everyone has access to solid humanities programming, we will continue to offer our virtual *Connected Conversations* web series as well as Dear Pen Friend, Recipe Roundup, and Humanities in the Home. We will also be mindful of public health during our in-person events and follow all local health guidelines.

I look forward to traveling the Gem State once again and sincerely hope to see you either in-person or virtually in the months ahead.

## IHC ANNOUNCES AWARD RECIPIENTS OF 2020



### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

The Idaho Humanities Council is pleased to announce that Dr. Hope Benedict, Salmon, and Dr. Mary Reed, Moscow, will receive the 2020 Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities Award. IHC's highest honor is awarded annually to recognize a high achievement that fosters greater understanding or appreciation of the humanities. Each recipient will be honored in a ceremony in their respective hometowns over the summer.



As a lifelong advocate of public humanities programming, Dr. Hope Benedict, has demonstrated her dedication to community engagement and her passion for Lemhi County's history. Hope has served as the President of the Lemhi County Historical Society for over two decades. Her organizational leadership rejuvenated the Lemhi County Historical Society and she oversaw the purchase of the Salmon Public Library's former building to expand educational opportunities in 2020. Due to her efforts, community engagement through historical tours, exhibits and public programs in Salmon have increased dramatically.



Dr. Mary Reed is a tireless supporter of local history, committed to Idaho museums, and passionate about public humanities. Mary served 23 years as the Executive Director of the Latah County Historical Society (LCHS). Under her leadership, LCHS became one of the leading local historical societies in the West. She established a modern fundraising program, created a collections policy, and she led efforts to establish Latah Legacy, the society's quarterly newsletter. Reed was also instrumental in the resurrection of the Idaho Association of Museums and served as the organization's president.

"We are deeply honored to present Hope and Mary with the Idaho Humanities Council's award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities," said IHC Executive Director David Pettyjohn. "Their efforts demonstrate the power of the humanities in helping us understand our past and realize our shared humanity. We look forward to celebrating their achievements this summer."

The Council has presented its award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities" annually since 1986. Previous recipients of the award include independent historian Keith Petersen, Twin Falls anthropologist James Woods, Idaho Governor Robert E. Smylie, College of Idaho Professor Louie Attebery, State Historian Merle Wells, Constitution scholar David Adler, Idaho historian Arthur Hart, Moscow writer Mary Clearman Blew, ISU English Professor Brian Attebery, Idaho poet William Studebaker, Nez Perce elder Horace Axtell, former Lewis-Clark State College English Professor Keith Browning, ISU History Professor Ron Hatzenbuehler, Basque Museum and Cultural Center Director Patty Miller, Boise Independent School District Administrator and history teacher Russ Heller, LCSC anthropologist Alan Marshall, Idaho Public Television's Peter Morrill, College of Idaho archivist and photographer Jan Boles, Idaho State Historical Society Publications Editor Judy Austin, ISU English Professor Susan Swetnam, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones, ISHS Executive Director Janet Gallimore, Basque Scholar David Lachiondo and others.



governor, a nomination he declined as he entered his mid 60s.

E.J. Curtis also was a key figure in early Boise. In the 1860s he built the first stone structure, the “Little Stone Jug” on Main between Sixth and Seventh. Also known as “the Curtis block,” it served as territorial offices and the unofficial capitol until a true territorial capitol was built in 1886. The Stone Jug housed the territory’s first library, founded by Curtis. Across the street was the newspaper and a row of saloons and brothels. Wagonloads of immigrants came down Main to get



Idaho became a territory in 1863, and for most of the territorial period the “Little Stone Jug” built by E.J. Curtis served as territorial offices, law library and de facto capitol (left foreground). It was replaced in 1899 by the Telephone Building, which remains at Main Street between Sixth and Capitol in Boise today. (Idaho State Historical Society)

supplies and news. The Curtis family home was just a block away at Fifth and Main, powerful guests often at its table. The five Curtis children grew up at the very center of territorial Idaho.

E.J. Curtis presided over public ceremonies (he declared Peter Sonna’s new Main Street opera house “magnificent beyond description” at its opening in 1889), negotiated with “hostile” Indians and welcomed visiting dignitaries. Curtis introduced William T. Sherman from the balcony of the Overland House to a crowd gathered in 1870 to hear from the Civil War general on the “Indian

question.” (Wise and fair though he usually was, Curtis shared his white contemporary’s disdain for the territory’s native inhabitants).

Curtis was born in 1827 in Massachusetts, educated at Princeton and apprenticed in the Boston law offices of Rufus Choate. Gold lured him to California in 1849, but lawyering made him a success. Curtis served in the California and Oregon legislatures, and in Sacramento met and married Susan Frost, a teacher and school administrator from Connecticut. She must have been as competent and steady as Edward: She ran their California newspapers when her husband was away on mining and legal business. One such trip might have been in 1864, when Curtis stumped in Nevada for President Lincoln with Mark Twain and mining lawyer William Clagett. (Clagett would leave his stamp on Idaho as the powerful president of the constitutional convention in 1889).

The eldest Curtis child, Edward L., was the family star, smart and tall and handsome. His affluent father sent him to boarding school in Vancouver, Wash., the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and law schools in New York and Michigan. As would his three talented brothers, E.L. Curtis worked in the territorial offices as a boy. He served as Boise city attorney, clerk to the territorial legislatures, and register of the land office. In 1883-1884, he was appointed territorial secretary himself and – at age 24 – is likely the youngest person ever to serve as an acting governor in the U.S. When this rising star of Boise died of tuberculosis in 1890 at age 31, the

city mourned with the family. The Statesman obituary is poignant even by the emotive standards of the day: “The more tender and enduring the ties that bind heart to heart, the more intense the grief that mortals are called upon to bear.” The family erected a prominent marker to E.L. Curtis in what is now Pioneer Cemetery. Ultimately, mother, father and brothers were buried around his monument – the center of the family in death as in life.

Daughter Anna Curtis married Dr. Jesse K. Dubois, brother and steadfast companion of Fred Dubois, the crusading U.S. marshal and future U.S. senator. Like so many women in the 1800s, Anna Curtis is documented only in relation to the men in her life. But it is Anna who cemented the connection between these two Idaho political families.

Of the two other Curtis sons, Harry and Will, Harry was the more prominent. He advertised his engineering business and reported to the newspapers on his assays at mines around Idaho. He climbed mountains with federal survey crews, organized rescue parties for missing children and acted at the opera house. He was chaplain for the volunteer fire department. When Harry was unable to play, the Statesman once observed, the Boise baseball team’s chances declined considerably.

In 1907 and 1908, Harry and Will went from notable to notorious. They had become “drug fiends,” addicted to morphine and cocaine and locked up more than once in hopes of weaning them of drugs. The Statesman stories from this time are startlingly invasive, with accounts from observers in the jail and crude speculation on their health and recovery. Their talents and “brilliant family” were no protection against this shame.

Harry's death in 1909 was especially pitiable. With brother Will vainly nursing him, he died in a tent across the river from town, where the brothers lived while tending John Lemp's hogs.

With Harry's death, the collapse of this prominent and promising family was complete.

Gov. Curtis had died in 1895, his widow Susan soon in court fighting to keep her home from foreclosure. She sold the quarter-block at Main and Fifth to her son-in-law, Dr. Dubois, who started construction on Dubois Flats. But Dr. Dubois was soon in debt, and lost the handsome stone apartments after a long legal fight. The California owner who bought the unfinished building at auction opened it in 1906 as Belgravia Terraces. It is sturdily elegant at Fifth and Main to this day.

Susan Curtis died in 1904. Sen. Fred Dubois lost his Senate seat in 1907. Dr. Jesse Dubois died in 1908, and Anna Curtis Dubois in 1910. Will Curtis lived until 1930, but I've found no information on his life after the "drug fiend" days.

What of John Jay Curtis, the mystery man who launched me on this sad and circuitous search?

He had served as secretary to Territorial Govs. Edward A. Stevenson and George Shoup, Supreme Court Justice John T. Morgan, future Sen. W.B. Heyburn, Secretary of State A.J. Pinkham and Gov. William McConnell. His two most important patrons were Fred Dubois and Willis Sweet. To Dubois, Gov. Curtis had been a mentor, adviser and ally as Dubois rose to power, stage-managed the constitutional convention and won his U.S. Senate seat. John Curtis held Dubois in "brotherly affection" and the pair took nightly walks out Warm Springs Boulevard and hunted,

hiked and fished at Henry's Lake, the Sawtooths and the Tetons.

John Curtis was just as close to Sweet, Idaho's first congressman. They resided together at 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Washington, D.C., near the famous Ebbett Grill. Their apartment was a gathering place for Northwest congressmen and politicians and late-night bull sessions.

His pedigree, experience, connections, insider knowledge and the trust of Idaho's most powerful leaders should have meant unlimited prospects for John Curtis.

But he left Idaho behind. He became a stenographer in 1899 for the War Department in Washington, D.C., where he lived the rest of his life. He married in 1897 and soon became estranged from his wife. A drawn-out divorce, with ricocheting accusations of cruelty and infidelity, wasn't final until 1909.

Fortunately for writers and researchers, John Curtis made one last contribution to Idaho history.

In 1933, Curtis began a series of revealing remembrances that appeared in the Idaho Statesman through 1935. Those 22 articles helped me fill in many blanks. But John Curtis remained opaque. He revealed little about himself, beyond his obvious appreciation for fine dress, oratory, manners and discretion.

He was rarely critical of the Idaho heroes he profiled, which makes his criticisms of Dubois notable. Dubois' ambition and impulsiveness alienated the cautious Curtis, who came to consider Dubois devious, even self-destructive. In 1907, Curtis publicly supported William Borah in the U.S. Senate race that ended Dubois' political career. Of this falling out, however, Curtis wrote nothing.



Edward L. Curtis, the celebrated son of the Curtis family, died at 31 and his grave is prominently marked in Boise's Pioneer Cemetery, including a quotation from Tennyson. The nearby graves of his father, mother and two of his brothers are unmarked.

John Curtis died in 1937, at age 68, the last of the Curtises. He was cremated in Washington. He had remarried, but left no heirs. In fact, of the five Curtis siblings, only Anna and Harry had children, one each. Neither of those children appear to have been parents.

The Idaho Curtis family line appears to simply vanish.

My search for Idaho's Curtises ends at Pioneer Cemetery, where the grand monument in the family plot celebrates E.L. Curtis and his perpetual youthful promise. No marker locates the nearby graves of his mother, Susan, or brothers Will or Harry. The grave of Gov. E.J. Curtis is likewise unmarked, leaving the man who shepherded the Idaho territory to statehood overlooked and uncelebrated.

*Bill Manny is interested in hearing from anyone with information, documents or photos of the Curtises or their descendants. Please email [billmanny208@gmail.com](mailto:billmanny208@gmail.com).*

## IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL AWARDS \$74,017 IN GRANTS

The IHC, the statewide nonprofit organization devoted to enhancing public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho, recently awarded **\$74,017** in grants to organizations. Thirty-two awards include twenty-one Major Grants for public humanities programs, ten Opportunity Grants, and one Teacher Incentive Grant. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Idaho Humanities Council's Endowment for Humanities Education.

### MAJOR GRANTS (\$63,557):

**Indigenous Voices: Building Understanding in Idaho Classrooms – Boise State Writing Project, Boise**, was awarded **\$4,000** for a weeklong workshop for Idaho K-12 educators. The focus of the workshop will be to enhance education of Native American history, literature, and culture in non-native communities. In collaboration with the Boise State Writing Project, indigenous educators, writers, historians, and leaders will facilitate the workshop to craft lesson plans with the teachers. The Project Director is **Gretchen Schultz**.



**Historical restoration of the Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead barn built in 1868 – Dry Creek Historical Society, Boise**, was awarded **\$1,500** to install educational signage and interpretive panels to help turn the Schick-Ostolasa barn into an educational

center on the agricultural history and architectural history of barns. The Project Director is **Frank Eld**. PHOTO: The Schick-Ostolasa Barn, Boise.

**Voices of the Wild Earth: People of the Salmon & People and Trees – Idaho Mythweaver, Inc., Sandpoint**, was awarded **\$3,000** for two half-hour documentaries/podcasts titled "People of the Salmon" and "People and Trees." The documentaries will blend new interviews for experts with historical records from the Mythweaver's own archives. The Project Director is **Jane Fritz**.

**An Extended Romance: A History of Rexburg's Romance Theater – Video Production – City of Rexburg, Rexburg**, was awarded **\$2,000** to create a twenty-minute film documenting the history of the Romance Theater, a century old building which has acted as a cultural center for the city. The film will premiere in August 2021 at the Rexburg storytelling festival. The Project Director is **Jed Platt**.

**32 Cells Fifth Anniversary Art Catalog and Research Compendium – The Idaho State Historical Society, Boise**, was awarded **\$3,000** to create a book inspired by the 32 Cells art show. The book will contain pieces from the art shows history which were all inspired by the lives of those incarcerated at the prison. To accompany these art pieces the book will also contain vetted biographical information and historical photos. The goal for this book is to also act as a resource guide for research into the lives of the prisoners. The Project Director is **Jacey Brain**.

**Basque Museum Interactive Entry Exhibit –The Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise**, was awarded **\$5,000** for a new interactive entry exhibit. The exhibit will act as a primer for Basque culture and history, to show the basics for a more meaningful understanding of the full museum. The Project Director is **Amanda Bielmann**.

**Collaborating for Conservation: A Brief History of Morley Nelson and Idaho Power (Exhibit Signage) – The Peregrine Fund, Boise**, was awarded **\$2,500** for an exhibit in collaboration with Idaho Power. The exhibit will focus on the history of Morley Nelson's involvement with Idaho Power to create an informed utility infrastructure design, which reduced bird electrocutions worldwide. The Project Director is **Tate Mason**.

**Idaho City Mining Trail –Idaho City Historical Foundation, Idaho City**, was awarded **\$4,500** for an outdoor interpretative "tour," which would highlight the story of late-19th and early-20th century placer

mining, hydraulic mining, dredging, and hard rock mining. The project is incorporating the equipment used, brochures, and interpretive signage. The Project Director is **Rosemary Ardinger**.

**"Breaking Hate" Presentation with Author Christian Picciolini – Human Rights Education Institute, Coeur d'Alene**, was awarded **\$4,500** to host a month-long series of programming around the book *Breaking Hate: Confronting the New Culture of Extremism* by Christian Picciolini. The events will include focus groups, community conversations, classroom introductions, and an author talk. The Project Director is **Jeanette Laster**.

**Following a Dream: The Foote Legacy in the Old West – Foote Park Project, Boise**, was awarded **\$2,177** for a summer teacher institute serving the Treasure Valley. The program will explore Mary Hallock Foote and Arthur DeWint Foote and their work. The Project Director is **Janet Worthington**.



**Hemingway Literary Center: Common Ground Readers – Boise State University, Boise**, was awarded **\$1,100** to bring in speakers for their summer literary discussion program held by the Hemingway Literary Center. The readings and discussions will explore the theme of Curdled Passions: Singular Communities. The Project Director is **Cheryl Hindrichs**. PHOTO: The Governesses by Anne Serre

**Leaded: Research and Development for Documentary Film – Sixty-Four Films, Pullman, WA**, was awarded **\$1,660** to facilitate the creation of a documentary focused on the lead poisoning within the Silver Valley. The film looks to reframe and enrich the conversation around lead toxicity in children to understand its lifelong and generational impacts on these adult survivors. The Project Director is **Benjamin Shors**.



**Plants and Animals of the Lemhi Valley – Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center, Salmon**, was awarded **\$5,000** to purchase panels to accompany their new exhibit. The exhibit will focus on aspects ranging from the environment to interactions between the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Agaidika Shoshone, along with the history of Agaidika Shoshone presence in the area. The Project Director is **Suzy Avey**.

**Yo Tambien, he estado aqui – Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho, Nampa**, was awarded **\$5,000** to support a mural and associated programming showcasing the Hispanic story in Idaho territory to present. The entire project will highlight the Hispanic early migrant journey and the major contributions to Idaho history, culture, and economy. The Project Director is **Corrine Tafoya Fisher**.



**Increasing Access to Boise Art Museum's Exhibitions – Boise Art Museum, Boise**, was awarded **\$4,570** for tactile reproductions of exhibit pieces and to record a guide available via cell phone for their upcoming exhibit, *Many Wests*. The goal of this is to increase access beyond the ADA requirements to communities with sensory issues or disabilities. The Project Director is **Melanie Fales**. PHOTO: Angel Rodríguez-Díaz, *The Protagonist of an Endless Story (detail)*, 1993, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum purchase made possible in part by the Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Pool and the Smithsonian Institution Collections Acquisition Program, 1996.19. © 1993, Angel Rodríguez-Díaz

**2021 Idaho's Heritage Conference – Traveling Speakers' Stipends – Foundation for Idaho History, Boise**, was awarded **\$2,400** to bring in six speakers from across Idaho and out-of-state to the Idaho Heritage Conference in Pocatello this fall. The conference will include five guided tours and twenty-eight breakout sessions. Topics include Archaeology and Anthropology, History, Museums, Preservation, Culture, and the Heritage of Idahoan. The Project Director is **Lyn Moore**.



**Creative Culture Beats – Boise Hive, Boise**, was awarded \$3,000 for season two of their podcast. The project will bring in Idaho musicians of diverse backgrounds to record an original song and discuss the cultural influences on the song. There will also be a focus on Black and Latino communities for this season. The Project Director is **Greg Bowman**.

**Songs to Sing and Tales to Tell – Boundary County Historical Society, Bonners Ferry**, was awarded \$2,000 to help preserve music and oral histories unique to Boundary County. These stories and songs will help continue the cultural heritage while also engaging the public on folk music. The Project Director is **Dottie Gray**.

**Elk City Mining News microfilms access and replication - 9 rolls – Elk City Area Alliance, Elk City**, was awarded \$2,250 to purchase 9 rolls of the *Elk City Mining News* published between 1903 and 1910. The rolls will be replicated and digitized. This will help increase access to the history and heritage of Elk City and the surrounding area. The Project Director is **Jamie Edmondson**.



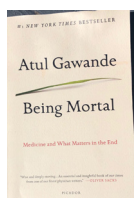
**Historic Sandpoint City Hall Displays – Music Conservatory of Sandpoint, Sandpoint**, was awarded \$1,400 to install permanent displays showcasing the stories who worked within the old city hall. The city hall also served as the fire station, police station, and other roles. These displays will be

accompanied with open houses as a kickoff. The Project Director is **Karin Wedemeyer**. PHOTO: Historic Sandpoint City Hall

**The Creators – Discover Your Northwest Lolo Pass Visitors Center, Seattle, WA**, was awarded \$3,000 to create two 15-minute video segments about Nimiipuu culture. One video will focus on the relationship between the people and Camas plant while the other will focus on the history/culture of the Nimiipuu people. The Project Director is **Colleen Mathisen**.

#### OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (\$9,460):

**Voices of the Wild Earth: Planning Grant for People of the Salmon and People and Trees – The Idaho Mythweaver, Inc., Sandpoint**, was awarded \$1,000 to help plan a radio/podcast project, which will be called “People of the Salmon.” It will explore not only the important return of wild ocean fish runs in the Columbia River system to the Wallowa mountains and valley, but also spotlight the people who first called this northeast Oregon region home but were forcibly removed—the Joseph Band of Nimi’ipuu, or Nez Perce people, the first people of the Wallows. The project Director is **Jane E. Fritz**.



**Looking Ahead, Conversations on Aging and Dying – Renee Silvas, McCall**, was awarded \$1,000 in collaboration with multiple organizations in McCall for a winter series on aging, death, and dying featuring local services, support, and facilitators. Topics will range from a discussion on the book, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, writing through loss, to writing end of life stories. One of the goals for this series is to look beyond medicine for solutions on aging and death. The project Director is **Renee Silvas**.

**Digitizing the Letters/Journals Collection – White Spring Ranch Museum, Genesee**, was awarded \$960 to digitize letters and photographs, dating from 1862. The goal is to digitize 9,600 pages online for wider access and preservation. Students from Washington State University and University of Idaho will assist with this project. The Project Director is **Diane Conroy**.

**City Club of Boise Marilyn Shuler Forum on Human Rights 2021 – City Club of Boise, Boise**, was awarded \$1,000 for the 2021 Marilyn Shuler Human Rights Forum program. This program focuses on the topic of Human Rights, and follows the lunchtime forum format from City Club,

via Zoom. The Project Director is **Morgan Keating**.

**A Free Online Reading by Surel’s Place May Writer-in-Residence Dawn Dorland – Surel’s Place Inc, Garden City**, was awarded \$500 for the Surel’s Place Writer-in-Residence for the month of May 2021, Dawn Dorland, to read excerpts from her debut novel *Econoline*, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion with the audience. The Project Director is **Jodi Eichelberger**.



“Himyuupihimyuuce, we call each other relatives.”

– **Wisteqneemit, Lapwai**, was awarded \$1,000 for programming and cultural speakers focused on the Annual Joseph Days in Joseph, OR (July 27 – August 1, 2021) and the renaming ceremony of the historic Spalding Allen Collection. This year will be

commemorating the 75th annual event which has always included the Nez Perce people. The unique difference for this year is significant in that there is also a healing process with the return of the Nez Perce descendants of those who were exiled in 1877. The Project Director is **Ann McCormack**.

PHOTO: Nez Perce moccasins in the Spalding Allen Collection

**Priest Lake Heritage Speakers Series – Priest Lake Museum Association, Coolin**, was awarded \$1,000 for a series of speakers focusing on the history Priest Lake and its context in the large picture. Speakers include Keith Petersen and Jack Nisbet. These events will take place mid-July 2021. The Project Director is **Kris Runberg Smith**.

**Wallace District Mining Museum Touch Screen Displays – Wallace District Mining Museum, Wallace**, was awarded \$1,000 for touch screen displays to be incorporated into permanent display areas. These digital displays will use photos, stories, and even music in some areas to help enhance the experience. The Project Director is **Tammy Copelan**.



**Barnard Stockbridge Museum Touch Screen Displays – Barnard Stockbridge Museum, Wallace**, was awarded \$1,000 for touch screen displays to be incorporated into permanent display areas. These digital displays will help showcase over 200,000

photos. The Project Director is **Tammy Copelan**. PHOTO: 1896 Canyon Creek Tug of War Team

**McCall History Cycling Tour – Cambium Peeled Tree Presentation – City of McCall, McCall**, was awarded \$1,000 to host two cycling tours of historically significant locations to McCall. Nakia Williamson of the Nez Perce Tribe will also discuss the history and significance of cambium tree peeling. The Project Director is **Delta James**.

#### TEACHER INCENTIVE GRANT (\$1,000)

**Books for the Bells for Books Bookmobile – Garden City Library Foundation, Garden City**, was awarded \$1,000 for new books for the Garden City Bells for Books Bookmobile. The Project Director is **Suzy Cavanagh**.



## SAVE THE DATE!

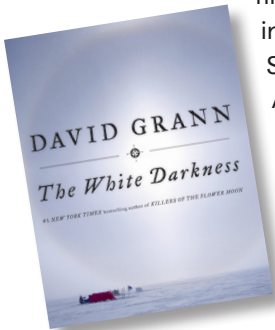
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR DAVID GRANN TO  
SPEAK IN COEUR D'ALENE IN SEPTEMBER



**D**avid Grann is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and an award-winning staff writer at *The New Yorker* magazine. He will give the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual North Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at the Coeur d'Alene Resort**. He will speak about his newest book *The White Darkness*.

The event is supported by major support from **Idaho Forest Group, Lewis-Clark State College, University of Idaho, North Idaho College, Idaho Public Television, and Coeur d'Alene Press.**

*The White Darkness* is a powerful true story of adventure and obsession in the Antarctic. The nineteenth-century polar explorer Ernest Shackleton is considered one of the greatest leaders in history. A century later, Henry Worsley, a retired British S.A.S. officer who worshiped Shackleton, set out to achieve what even his hero had failed to do: to walk alone across Antarctica. With photographs from Worsley and Shackleton's expeditions, Grann will examine the decisions these men made under extreme circumstances, and the lessons we all can learn about leadership and courage.



His previous book, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, documented one of the most sinister crimes and racial injustices in American history. Described by Dave Eggers in the *New York Times Book Review* as a "riveting" work that will "sear your soul," *Killers of the Flower Moon* was a finalist for the National Book Award.

Before joining *The New Yorker* in 2003, Grann was a senior editor at *The New Republic*, and, from 1995 until 1996, the executive editor of the newspaper *The Hill*. He holds master's degrees in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy as well as in creative writing from Boston University.

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**TICKETS** are available by visiting [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) or by calling **888-345-5346**. General tickets are \$65 and Benefactor tickets are \$130. Tables of 8 are available. Benefactors receive admission to a private pre-event reception with Grann (offsite) at 5 p.m and close-in seating at the dinner. The main event evening will begin with a no-host reception and book sales at 6 p.m. at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Grann's talk to follow. Grann will sign books after his talk.







## SAVE THE DATE!

PBS NEWSHOUR HOST JEFFREY BROWN  
TO SPEAK IN BOISE IN OCTOBER



**J**effrey Brown, Chief Correspondent for Arts, Culture, and Society for PBS NewsHour, will deliver the Idaho Humanities Council's 23rd Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture on **Friday, October 1st, 7 p.m., at Boise Centre West.** The title of Brown's talk is **"The Public Good": A Defense.**

The event is supported in part by **Holland & Hart, Idaho Public Television, and Boise State Public Radio.** Brown's lecture is part of the "Democracy and the Informed Citizen" initiative supported in part by a grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.**

*NewsHour* is public television's prestigious nightly news program viewed by millions. During Brown's career with *NewsHour* he has served as co-anchor, studio moderator, and field reporter on a wide range of national and international issues.

The topic of this lecture is Brown's observation that the notion of "public good" is under stress in many areas of our culture and politics. He reflects on his own experience attending public schools and university, as well as his own work in public broadcasting – and looks at what it means that institutions such as these all under threat at federal, state and local levels.

In a career spanning more than thirty years at the *NewsHour*, Brown has interviewed numerous leading American and international newsmakers, moderated studio discussions on a vast array of topics, and reported from across the United States and other regions of the globe. As arts correspondent, he has profiled many of the world's leading writers, musicians and other artists. As senior producer for national affairs for more than a decade, he helped shape the program's coverage of the economy, healthcare, social policy, culture, and other areas. In addition, he leads the *NewsHour*'s extensive coverage of arts and culture "Canvas." He also hosts the monthly book club, "Now Read This," a collaboration with *The New York Times*.

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**TICKETS** are available by visiting [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) or by calling **208-345-5346**. General tickets are \$65 and Benefactor tickets are \$130. Tables of 10 are available. Benefactors receive admission to a private pre-event reception with Brown (offsite) at 5 p.m and close-in seating at the dinner. The main event evening will begin with a no-host reception at 6 p.m. at Boise Centre West. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Brown's talk to follow.



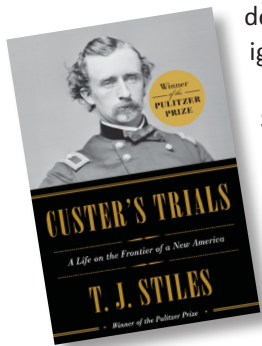


**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE PULITZER**  
**PRIZE, TJ STILES, TO SPEAK IN**  
**IDAHO FALLS IN OCTOBER**



**T**.J. Stiles, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and winner of the National Book Award will deliver the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture on **Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the Snake River Event Center in Idaho Falls.**

The event is supported in part by the **William J. and Shirley A. Maeck Family Foundation, Bank of Idaho, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Public Television, and KISU Radio.**



T.J. Stiles's latest book, *Custer's Trials*, paints a portrait of Gen. George Armstrong Custer both deeply personal and sweeping in scope, proving how much of Custer's legacy has been ignored. The book was awarded the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for History.

Stiles previously won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Biography and the 2009 National Book Award for Nonfiction for his critically acclaimed book *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*. Stiles became interested in Vanderbilt while researching and writing his historical account of another legendary figure, *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War*. James and Vanderbilt, he finds, led more significant and more dramatic lives than we have realized. With both subjects, Stiles combines compelling storytelling and personal detail with thoughtful explorations of their role in the making of modern America, and the lasting impact of their lives and legends.

Stiles served as historical adviser and on-screen expert for *Jesse James and Grand Central*, two films in the PBS documentary series *American Experience*. He has written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *Smithsonian*, *Salon*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications. A native of Benton County, Minnesota, Stiles studied history at Carleton College and Columbia University.

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**TICKETS** are available by visiting [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) or by calling **888-345-5346**. General tickets are \$50 and Benefactor tickets are \$75. Tables of 8 are available. Benefactors receive admission to a private pre-event reception with Stiles (offsite) at 5 p.m and close-in seating at the dinner. The main event evening will begin with a no-host reception and book sales at 6 p.m. at the Snake River Event Center. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Stiles's talk to follow. Stiles will sign books after his talk.

*William J. and Shirley A.  
Maeck Family Foundation*



## SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS

JULY 19-24, 2021

The Idaho Humanities Council's 2021 weeklong summer institute, titled **'Get Up, Stand Up': Resistance Through Popular Music and Poetry**, is scheduled for July 19-24, 2021 on the campus of the College of Idaho in Caldwell. Thirty-three teachers from around the state were selected to attend.

**'Get Up, Stand Up': Resistance Through Popular Music and Poetry** introduces participants to the long and rich history of American dissent in the forms of poetry and song through the study of works by Native Americans, African Americans, the Chicana and Latinx populations, Asian Americans, and women, all of whom continue to struggle for justice in American society. Participants will examine important word and music artists and their creations, as well as the historical and cultural context in which they exist. They'll learn ways to help students become engaged in the study and creation of poetry and song and to see them as integral expressions that helped create and form the multiplicity of the American experience. The institute will consider how these creative forms contribute to the ongoing effort to create a democratic nation "with liberty and justice for all."

During this extraordinary time in U.S. history, institute participants will examine protest poetry and music as scholars focus on an exploration of historical and contemporary protest expressions around the country. Teachers will join in lectures and discussions, watch films, attend workshops, and collaborate with one another and with leading scholars to immerse themselves for the week, sharing ways of teaching this subject. The week will include poetry readings, scholarly lectures offering historical content and context of poetry and song, and workshops on creating and teaching poetry.

Evening presentations will be free and open to the public at 7:00 p.m. They include: **Major Jackson**, Vanderbilt University: *Poetry is the Message, The Message is Love*, a virtual presentation Monday, July 19; The remaining presentations will be in person in the Langroise Recital Hall on the College of Idaho campus, including **Alexandra Teague**, University of Idaho: *Feminist Poetry of Resistance: Redefining Ourselves*, Tuesday, July 20; **Sienna Reuben**, University of Idaho graduate: *Guiding Resiliency Through Poetry*, Wednesday, July 21; and **Kurt Ikeda**, Minidoka National Historic Site: *Minidoka: Art During the WWII Incarceration of Japanese Americans*, Thursday, July 22.

Participants will receive institute texts and an electronic compilation of other pertinent primary and secondary readings. They will return to their classrooms armed with resources and renewed motivation to incorporate the topic into their curriculum. The institute texts are: *How to Love a Country* by Richard Blanco; *Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music that Made a Nation* by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw; *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country* by Amanda Gorman; and *Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin* by Philip Cushman and Michael Warr.

Scholar presenters leading the daily discussions include **Carolyn González**, California State University Monterey Bay; **Major Jackson**, Vanderbilt University; **Jan Johnson**, University of Idaho; **Margaret Johnson**, Idaho State University; and **Bob Santelli**, Founding Executive Director, Grammy Museum.

Visit [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) for additional information.





## IHC SEEKS ONE PUBLIC AND ONE ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBER



IHC board members, staff and friends at a humanities conference. (L-R) Murray Feldman, Amy Canfield, Jennifer Holley, Jennifer Matheson, Cindy Wang, Bill Manny, and David Pettyjohn.

The Idaho Humanities Council seeks applications to fill **one public position from Southwest Idaho and one academic position from North 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. North Idaho is defined by the Council as the region north of Riggins to the Canadian border.

The IHC's 19-member board is comprised of academic members and public members from all regions of the state. **The IHC recognizes the need to hear and amplify marginalized voices in Idaho. The council is committed to a board that includes members of historically marginalized groups and believes their voices are integral to meaningful humanities programming in Idaho. We especially welcome applicants that reflect the state's 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.

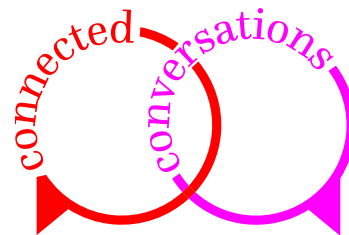
The IHC awards grant funds to organizations and individuals throughout the state to support public programs in history, literature, philosophy, cultural anthropology, law, and other humanities disciplines. The IHC also supports a number of its own council-conducted programs, such as regional Distinguished 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](http://www.idahohumanities.org), under "About Us." **The deadline for applications is September 1, 2021.** 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 David Pettyjohn at (888) 345-5346, email [david@idahohumanities.org](mailto:david@idahohumanities.org), or write to the Idaho Humanities Council, 217 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

*The IHC is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the Idaho Humanities Council to recruit, hire, train, promote, and administer all other personnel actions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or public assistance.*

## ENJOY A HUMANITIES CONVERSATION FROM YOUR HOME



Join us every other Tuesday for a virtual *Connected Conversation* to discuss various humanities topics, both the serious and the quirky. Subjects span Boise's industrial history, the history of Hawai'i, Godzilla and the imagination of anxiety, reexamining Idaho and the Federal Writer's Project, exploring Minidoka: the American concentration camp, and even the history of Wallace, Idaho, bordellos and everything.

These talks are typically held at noon MDT during the summer, and at 6pm MST during the fall and winter. Each speaker talks about their specialized topic for about 40 minutes and then takes questions from the audience. Our most recent topics looked at the Tulsa Race Massacre (formerly known as the Tulsa Race Riots), the history of women's clubs in Idaho, the Stonewall National Monument in New York City, and the Sandpoint Archaeological Project in north Idaho.

### **Are these conversations recorded if I miss a topic I was interested in?**

We do record our conversations! You can access our archive on the IHC website and YouTube. These recordings include both the presentation and the Q&A portions. You can even scan the QR code here to access the entire playlist of videos.



## Remember to send back that envelope ...

When you opened this issue of *Idaho Humanities* you saw 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 on donations from our readers, program attendees, civic leaders, community activists, and others who believe that lifelong learning in the humanities helps build an intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry.

The IHC will put your gift to good use funding innovative programming, sparking thought provoking conversations, seeking out eye-opening cultural experiences, and generating new ideas to bring people together around the state.

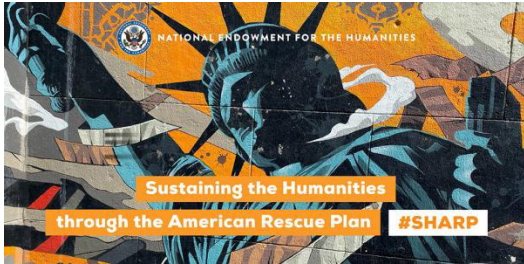
**Return your envelope or make your donation securely online at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org), and help IHC further the humanities in your community today!**



## The IHC suspends the Fall 2021 Major Grant round in lieu of SHARP Funding

*SHARP Funding will be the main funding opportunity this summer and fall.*

The IHC board recently voted to suspend the Fall 2021 Major Grant round to focus on SHARP (Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan) funds, which the IHC received from the American Rescue Plan. IHC encourages all potential Fall Major Grant applicants to apply for their programming under SHARP. Please note that all activities must conclude by November 2022. *Our Research Fellowship Program will still be accepting applications this fall.*



### Idaho Humanities Council Announces SHARP Grants

*Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP)*

IHC has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan. The primary purpose of this funding is to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus. The funding is also meant to assist Idaho's humanities-based organizations in restoring and sustaining their core functions.

### Under SHARP Funding, there will be two categories for funding use:

- General Operating Support for eligible humanities organizations (salaries, rent, utilities, other costs key to operation).
- Costs for specific programs grounded in the humanities.

The SHARP funds will be distributed to eligible organizations only. The final amount of general operating awards will be based on the organization's annual operating budget and will depend on how many applications are received. Applications for specific humanities programs may not request more than \$10,000\*. *All grant activities must be completed by November 30, 2022.*

### MAXIMUM FUNDING LEVELS (General Operating Support) \*:

Operating Budget under \$100,000	\$5,000
Operating Budget under \$500,000	\$10,000
Operating Budget under \$1,000,000	\$15,000
Operating Budget over \$1,000,000	\$20,000
Operating Budget over \$2,000,000	\$25,000

*\*Exceptions may be made in extraordinary circumstances.*



### DEADLINES

IHC will offer three SHARP grant rounds (funding permitted). All applications will be reviewed by a committee of IHC board members. The deadlines for submission are July 15, August 15, and September 15.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Be a recognized non-profit by the Internal Revenue Service, educational institution, or local, state, or tribal government. **For profit organizations are not eligible.**
- Have a mission that is grounded in the humanities and/or offer publicly accessible humanities programs serving Idahoans
- Maintain a primary business address in Idaho
- Have a current Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number

Please visit [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) or call 208-345-5346 for more information.





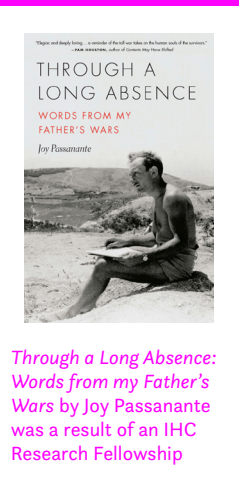


## In Memory of Tim Hopkins

A great friend of the humanities and former board member, Tim Hopkins, passed away at 85 years young in April. He was an attorney in Idaho Falls and was dedicated to jurisprudence, Idaho, the Tetons, and Bonneville County. He could command a room and be a sweet gentleman all in one fell swoop. Our board and staff remember him affectionately as generous, kind, warm, thoughtful, funny, erudite, charming, a lion of the bar, and full of class. He will be greatly missed.

## IHC CALLS FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Idaho Humanities Council will award up to four \$3,500 Research Fellowships this fall to Idaho scholars researching topics in any field of the humanities. The purpose of this grant is to stimulate scholarship in the humanities, to provide support for scholars who need time and money for research, and to share the results with academic and public audiences. The IHC will award up to four fellowships of up to \$3,500 in 2021. **The deadline is September 15 for completed proposals.**



Scholars will be defined as those who hold a minimum of a Master's degree in one of the humanities disciplines as designated by the National Endowment for the Humanities, though in rare cases people without the minimum qualifications will be considered if they have a superior research and professional publication record. Applicants need not be affiliated with an institution of higher education. Those who have received a RF in the past five years and graduate students are ineligible. Scholars in all disciplines of the humanities are eligible to apply for Research Fellowships. Projects do not have to be about Idaho. Out-of-

state scholars are eligible to apply if their research is of special significance to the state of Idaho. In a highly competitive grant round, preference may be given to Idaho scholars. Research Fellowship recipients are expected to plan at least two public presentations about the results of their research, and to consider contingency plans if COVID-19 restrictions are put in place. Public presentations (either in-person or virtual) may include lectures before academic audiences, although IHC prefers that results be shared with the public in a meaningful forum if possible.

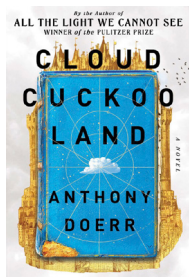
Information about Research Fellowships is available online at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org). Grant awards are made directly to scholars personally, not to the institution with which they may be affiliated.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact IHC staff in advance of the deadline to discuss their research projects. Applicants also are encouraged to submit a rough draft for staff review and comment four weeks prior to the September 15 deadline.

For more information, contact Doug Exton at 208/345-5346, toll-free at 888/345-5346, or [doug@idahohumanities.org](mailto:doug@idahohumanities.org).

## NEW HUMANITIES PUBLICATIONS

### New Novel by Idaho Pulitzer Prize-winner Anthony Doerr



Scribner has announced publication of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, a new novel from Boise author Anthony Doerr, whose critically-acclaimed 2014 novel *All the Light We Cannot See* won the Pulitzer Prize and has spent more than 200 weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.

Five protagonists dwell in the heart of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*: Anna and Omeir, on opposite sides of the city walls during the 1453 siege of Constantinople; teenage idealist Seymour and octogenarian Zeno in an attack on a public library in present-day Idaho; and Konstance, on an interstellar ship bound for an exoplanet, decades from now. Like Marie-Laure and Werner in *All the Light We Cannot See*, Anna, Omeir, Seymour, Zeno, and Konstance are dreamers and outsiders who find resourcefulness and hope in the midst of peril.

Dedicated to “the librarians then, now, and in the years to come,” *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a novel about stewardship—of the book, of the Earth, of the human heart. On sale September 28, 2021, at a bookstore near you.

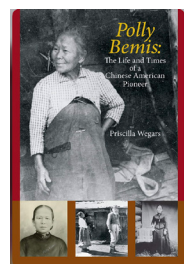
### A While Ago in Idaho by Amber Beierle and Kelly Knopp



Artist Kelly Knopp and Idaho historian Amber Beierle have combined art and history in a fun new children’s book, *A While Ago in Idaho*. Produced entirely in Idaho, the book is filled with colorful artwork illustrating some strange and lesser-known history, narrated by a lovable tour guide named “Belmont Beaver.”

After working on a few other projects together, Knopp and Beierle decided to partner up to pair history with artwork to educate and encourage the exploration of Idaho and its history. Purchase at [www.awhileagoinidaho.com](http://www.awhileagoinidaho.com) or local bookstores.

### Polly Bemis: The Life and Times of a Chinese American Pioneer by Priscilla Wegars



Caxton Press announces publication of a new biography of Idaho pioneer Polly Bemis. Mistakenly named Lalu Nathoy in novel and film, Bemis was forcibly brought from China to the Idaho Territory in 1872 when she was just eighteen. In 1894 she married a Euroamerican man, Charlie Bemis, and they moved to a mining claim on the remote

Salmon River; Charlie died in 1922 and Polly died in 1933. Since her death, Polly Bemis’s life has been greatly romanticized in a popular novel and a Hollywood film, where she is portrayed as a prostitute owned by Hong King, her Chinese owner, and won by Charlie Bemis in a poker game—none of which is true. Bemis’ life was genuinely fascinating, and Wegars says it is time to allow the stereotypical, undocumented legends to die out.

Priscilla Wegars is Affiliate Assistant Professor and Volunteer Curator, Asian American Comparative Collection (AACC), at the University of Idaho. Purchase at [www.caxtonpress.com](http://www.caxtonpress.com)

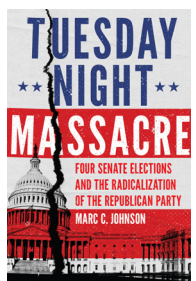
### Limberlost Review 2021 features new work by more than 50 writers and artists



Limberlost Press of Boise, Idaho, has released the 2021 edition of *The Limberlost Review: A Literary Journal of the Mountain West*, edited by Rick and Rosemary Ardinger. The 350-page literary annual features poetry, fiction, essays, artwork, and “re-readings” of favorite books by some of the best in the West and beyond. Highlights include an interview with award-winning novelist Mary Clearman Blew, a profile of prolific Idaho artist Fred

Ochi, poetry by Robert Wrigley, Bethany Schultz Hurst, and Sherman Alexie, essays by Ron Hatzenbuehler, Richard Etulain, Ed Marohn, Cheryl Hindrichs, and Grove Koger, and artwork by Boise artists Rachel Teannalach, Mike Woods, Dennis DeFoggi, and more. Read about it at [www.Limberlostpress.com](http://www.Limberlostpress.com)

### University of Oklahoma announces publication of Tuesday Night Massacre: Four Senate Elections and the Radicalization of the Republican Party by Marc C. Johnson



While political history has plenty to say about the impact of Ronald Reagan’s election to the presidency in 1980, four Senate races that same year have garnered far less attention—despite their similarly profound political effect. *Tuesday Night Massacre* looks at those races. In examining the defeat in 1980 of Idaho’s Frank Church, South Dakota’s George McGovern, Iowa’s John Culver, and Indiana’s Birch Bayh,

Marc C. Johnson tells the story of the beginnings of the divisive partisanship that has become a constant feature of American politics.

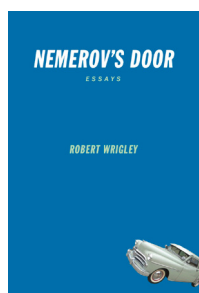
Marc C. Johnson is a former Chair of both the Idaho Humanities Council and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He served as a top aide to Idaho’s longest-serving

## NEW HUMANITIES PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

governor, Cecil D. Andrus. His writing on politics and history has been published in the *New York Times*, *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, and *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* and his commentary appears regularly on the blog Many Things Considered.

Purchase from University of Oklahoma Press in February 2021 ([www.oupublish.com](http://www.oupublish.com)) or from your favorite bookstore.

### **Tupelo Press announces publication of *Nemerov's Door*, essays by Robert Wrigley**



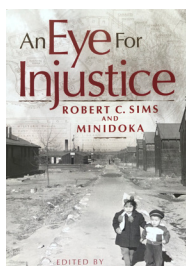
In his youth, award-winning poet Robert Wrigley had little interest in poetry; you even could call it an active *disinterest*. Then, at the age of twenty-one, after being drafted into the army during the Vietnam War, after receiving an honorable discharge on the grounds of conscientious objection, and feeling otherwise adrift, he took, on a lark, a class in poetry writing, and that class altered the trajectory of

his life. *Nemerov's Door* is the story of a distinguished and widely celebrated poet's development, via episodes from his life, and via his examinations of some of the poets whose work has helped to shape his own. The book is a testament to what matters most in this poet's life.

Essays on James Dickey, Richard Hugo, Etheridge Knight, Howard Nemerov, Sylvia Plath, and Edwin Arlington Robinson are interwoven with essays about the sources of poetry, arrowheads, wild rivers, and the lyrics of a song from *My Fair Lady*, among other things. In the essay about Richard Hugo, Wrigley engages with a single poem by his great mentor, whose influence on Wrigley and many other poets of his generation has been enormous.

Robert Wrigley is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Idaho and the author of eleven collections of poetry. Order directly from [www.Tupelopress.org](http://www.Tupelopress.org) or from your favorite independent bookstore.

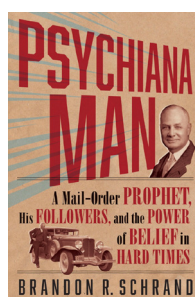
### **Washington State University Press announces publication of *An Eye for Injustice: Robert C. Sims and Minidoka* edited by Susan M. Stacy**



As wartime hysteria mounted after December 1941, the U.S. government began forcibly relocating West Coast individuals of Japanese ancestry to ten inland concentration camps. Idaho's Minidoka War Relocation Center, or the Hunt Camp, as it is often referred, opened in August 1942. The late Robert C. Sims, Boise State

University historian, was devoted to research, writing, and education related to this unjust World War II incarceration. The book explores Idaho Governor Chase Clark's role in the removal decision, life in camp, the impact of Japanese labor on Idaho's sugar beet and potato harvests, the effects of loyalty questionnaires, and more. Sims' articles, papers, and speeches expose this national tragedy as well as the resilience of those who suffered. Available at [www.wsupress.wsu.edu](http://www.wsupress.wsu.edu) or your favorite bookstore.

### **New book on 'Psychiana'**

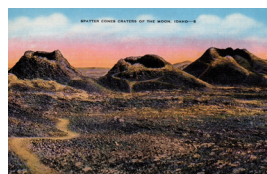


*Psychiana Man: A Mail-Order Prophet, His Followers, and the Power of Belief in Hard Times* by Brandon R. Schrand has just been released by Washington State University Press. Supported in part by an Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship, this full-length biography of Psychiana creator and national mass-marketing genius Frank Bruce Robinson, of Moscow, Idaho, traces the improbable rise and fall of a flamboyant false prophet

during the Great Depression. The voices of his unwavering followers—from a desperate dust bowl farmer to a former heavyweight boxing champion—paint an intriguing, intimate view of the power of belief in hard times. Available at [www.wsupress.wsu.edu](http://www.wsupress.wsu.edu) or from your favorite bookstore.

## OPPORTUNITY

### **Call for Submissions for *Into the Lavas* Anthology**



Walrus and Carpenter Books of Pocatello is seeking stories (fiction and nonfiction), essays about personal adventures, and poetry about the Great Rift and Craters of the Moon to be published in an anthology to appear in

commemoration of the centennial of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in 2024 (established by President Coolidge in 1924).

Edited by bookstore owner Will Peterson and Bellevue historian Tom Blanchard, the editors seek "Epiphanies, mistakes, revelations of the subliminal, and appropriate metaphors favored for the selection. Good writing and proof of having been there an essential feature."

Submissions of 2,000 words or so. New work, old work, previously published or unpublished considered. Questions and submissions by 6/30/2022 to: Tom Blanchard, 208-788-4450, [tjblanchard@svskyln.net](mailto:tjblanchard@svskyln.net).



# IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL DONORS - THANK YOU!

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### what are you reading?

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



**Reader:** Amberly Beckman

**Occupation:** Special Events Manager,  
College of Agricultural and Life  
Sciences at the University of Idaho,  
Moscow

**Book:** *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

*Six of Crows* has been in my "to be read" pile for a while now. When I heard that an adaptation was coming to Netflix, I knew it was time to dive into the Grishaverse before I ran across too many spoilers from overeager internet fandoms.

Author Leigh Bardugo creates a world in which magic is real, currency is king, and morality is relative. A team of six gets the offer of a lifetime for an impossible heist. Loyalties are tested, danger looms, and bonds are forged. The book is written from a shifting narrator perspective, keeping the reader in the dark as pivotal plot points are concealed and revealed masterfully.

This book has everything: jailbreaks, rivalries, hidden identities, romance, betrayal, LGBT representation, and the list goes on.

All in all, I wholeheartedly agree with the comparisons to *Ocean's Eleven* and while it certainly can be read as a standalone, I highly recommend completing the duology with *Crooked Kingdom*. It is a book that stuck with me and one that I will certainly revisit in the future.



**Reader:** Dean Hagerman

**Occupation:** Research Historian, Boise

**Book:** *The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing* by Mark Kurlansky

When I first opened the book I was hooked, pun intended, by Kurlansky's opening sentence, "Stepping into the Big Wood River on a winter day, I feel the current wrap around my legs like the embrace of an old friend. That an icy river can have a warm embrace is one of nature's ironies." Anyone who has fished in the streams and lakes of Idaho will connect with this narrative of fly fishing in our snow-fed waters.

*The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing* is part memoir and part history of the sport. I enjoyed hearing of his personal experiences fishing legendary waters around the world while weaving in details of how the sport of fly fishing began and how it evolved; technically, ethically, and even politically. For example, as Kurlansky describes how fly-tying patterns progressed from simple attracters to complex imitations, he brings in the history of some of the renowned women who created many of these patterns.

His observations were delightful and enlightening. As winter began to give way to spring, Kurlansky had me longing to be back in the warm embrace of an old friend on one of our local streams.