The Idaho Humanities Council (IHC) awarded $138,437 in grants to organizations and individuals in 2015. Fifty-seven awards include 38 grants for public humanities programs, 4 research fellowships, 14 Teacher Incentive Grants, and 1 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 Lewis-Clark Center for Arts and History, Lewiston, received $2,000 to support an eight-session lecture series exploring issues related to the importance of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act and the creation of the NEA and NEH 50 years ago. The public series is being held through May 2016. Debra Fitzgerald is the project director.
- Prairie River Library District, Lapwai, was awarded $3,500 to support the 15th annual “Everybody Read” program in northern Idaho, featuring Idaho writer Kristin Lovell. Deen’s book All the Light We Cannot See appeared in book discussions and lectures in several communities. The project director was Jennifer Ashby.
- The Snake River Heritage Center, Weiser, received $5,000 to improve interpretive exhibit signage to improve public understanding of Native American grants in 2015. The project director was Debra Fitzgerald.
- The Nez Perce County Historical Society, Lewiston, received $4,950 to create a video documentary about the significance of early Chinese miners, pioneers, and Chinese-American citizens in Lewiston and surrounding areas. Grade-appropriate teaching materials will accompany the film, slated to be released in 2016. Leah Boots is the project director.
- The University of Idaho Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Moscow, was awarded $4,000 to support its “Her Life, Her Right” project, which explores the history of women’s suffrage in Idaho.
- Sandon Hill, Boise, received $4,000 to improve interpretative signage at the site of the canyon home of writer/artist Mary Hallock Foote, near Lucky Peak Dam, across from Discovery Park in Boise. The interpretive exhibit materials will be completed in 2017. Janet Worthington is the project director.
- The Human Rights Education Institute, Coeur d’Alene, received $4,000 to help host a panel of scholars at its annual Welsh Festival, featuring sessions on the importance of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act and the legislation that authorized humanities funding.
- The Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, Malad City, received $1,950 to support an eight-session lecture series exploring issues related to the importance of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act and the legislation that authorized humanities funding.
- The Malad City Human Rights Education Institute received $3,500 to help host a two-day workshop for K-12 teachers, exploring Native American history and culture.
- The Foundation for Idaho History, Boise, received $4,950 to improve interpretive signage at the site of the canyon home of writer/artist Mary Hallock Foote, near Lucky Peak Dam, across from Discovery Park in Boise. The interpretive exhibit materials will be completed in 2017. Janet Worthington is the project director.
- The University of Idaho’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Moscow, was awarded $4,000 to support a program offering three traveling exhibitions, a film, and book series, workshops and presentations designed to educate the public about human rights and diversity issues of the 20th century. The project director is Lisa Manning.

**Academic Programs:**

- Trail of the Sheep Foundation, Challis in the 1990s.
- Idaho Humanities Council Winter 2016

## The Bear

**By Judith Freeman**

I don’t know exactly when it was that bears became so deeply interesting to me but I know the fascination began early, when I was still a child growing up in northern Idaho, in a family of eight kids. My parents used to take us on camping trips to Yellowstone Park—the sort of vacation a big family like ours could afford. We’d load up the car with a cooler of picnic food and our camping gear and drive up through Idaho, entering the park through the West Gate. This was in the 1950s, when the park was quite different than it is now.

For one thing people still fed the bears in the park, oblivious to the obvious dangers and the stupidity of doing so, and the park rangers weren’t so straitlaced about such things in those days. We’d feed the bears from our car. When we’d see one on the road the first thing we’d do was roll down the windows and let the kids dangle whatever picnic food we had. We’d feed them, right out of the car, while living on the edge of wilderness near Challis in the 1990s.

Animals are good to think with.

—Claude Levi-Strauss
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—was the Act passed by an astounding bipartisan vote of 73 to 12 in the Senate and 371 to 1 in the House and was signed 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 formed our character and that has certainly shaped our history as a people,” he wrote. He said our idea of Wilderness is 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.

Lewiston’s Margo Aragon begins 2016 as Idaho Humanities Council Chair

Margo Aragon, of Lewiston, is the new 2016-2017 chair of the Idaho Humanities Council, the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Having served on an IHC board member for the past five years, she was elected by the board to a two-year term as chair, succeeding Boise State University History Professor Lisa Brady.

Aragon is a writer and video documentary producer. She frequently writes about tribal culture and community, and over many years formed familial bonds with many members of the Nez Perce tribe. In 1995, she collaborated with the late Horace Axtell (1924-2015), a Nez Perce elder and spiritual leader, on his memoir A Little Bit of Wisdom: Conversations with a Nez Perce Confluence (1997; University of Oklahoma Press, 2000). For years, she travelled widely with Axtell to discuss A Little Bit of Wisdom and Native American issues generally. She holds a B.A. in English from Lewis-Clark State College and an M.F.A in creative writing from Bennington College in Vermont. Her current writing interests explore aviation and space travel. Her recent projects include a screenplay about Wiley Post, the first aviator to circle the earth alone; and a biography of Gray Fredericksen, an Academy-Award winning producer whose work includes The Godfather trilogy, Apocalypse Now and other iconic films.

Aragon and her husband, astronaut John B. Harrington, the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, developed a consulting company, Harrington Aerospace Limited, and travel frequently to promote Native American education.

The Idaho Humanities Council is the statewide, nonprofit organization devoted to promoting greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. “The IHC is a great organization that offers vital support to teachers, museums, libraries, and many organizations throughout the state,” she says. “I look forward to serving as IHC’s chair over the next couple of years.”

Congratulations to Idaho NEH Grant Recipients

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced three grants recently awarded to Idaho institutions. NEH grants are highly competitive and require a rigorous peer-review and selection process to ensure that the projects represent the highest level of humanities research and public engagement. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Deborah Coote (Hologic Technical Society (Idaho Falls)) received a $500,000 Challenge Grant for the expansion of the Museum of Idaho. Congratulations to Museum of Idaho Director David Penasco. University of Idaho (Moscow) received $111,974 for a digitization project entitled “Preserving the Recent for the Future: Generating the Latah County Common Heritage Collection through Community Digitization.” Congratulations to project director Devin Becker.

Idaho State University (Pocatello) received $6,000 to support a Special Collections and Archives Preservation Assessment at the Eli M. Ower Library. Congratulations to project director Ellen Ryan.

Apply now for NEH “Forever Wild” Summer Teacher Institute

Join colleagues from all over the country for “Forever Wild,” a weeklong National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks in American History institute at one of the Great Camps of the Adirondacks in upstate New York, July 10-16 or July 17-23, to explore the Gilded Age’s American wilderness. Attendees will lodge at Camp Huntington, a National Historic Landmark. The Great Camps preserve the original buildings and now serve as “history labs” for K-12 teachers and educators. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2016.

“Forever Wild” seeks a diverse group of full- and part-time educators from a variety of humanities disciplines, including teachers and librarians in public, charter, independent, and religiously affiliated schools, as well as home-schooling parents. While the content focus might be more appropriate to middle and high school student, all K-12 educators are invited to apply. Visit www.confluencefoundation.org/foreverwild for workshop information and for a link to the NEH application cover sheet.

Teachers selected to participate will receive a $1200 stipend to defray expenses of travel, lodging, and books. All expenses for workshop-related travel and activities are covered by the NEH.

From the Director

The idea of wilderness

By Rick Arlinger

The Idaho Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from other foundations, 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 grants support for humanities projects throughout Idaho.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Idaho Humanities Council is to deepen understanding of humanities by connecting people with ideas.
IHC summer institute to explore Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society

Idaho teachers of all grades and disciplines are invited to apply to attend the Idaho Humanities Council’s 2016 weeklong summer institute exploring Lyndon Johnson and The Great Society, July 17-22, on the campus of Boise State University.

Successful applicants will receive lodging and meals, texts, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Community college teachers also are eligible to apply. The deadline for online applications is April 1.

The institute is made possible by the IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education and a grant from the Whittenberger Foundation.

Between November 1963 when Lyndon Johnson suddenly took the oath of office and November 1966 when his Democratic Party was routed in mid-term elections, Johnson drove passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the War on Poverty program, Medicare and Medicaid, immigration reform, aggressive opportunities for public education and college education incentives, federal investments in public transportation, and a raft of consumer and environmental protection acts that collectively were referred to as “The Great Society.”

In three years, Johnson and Congress enacted legislation for New Deal-type programs that benefitted the poor and advanced opportunity for middle class Americans. Although today many of Johnson’s programs are often denigrated by some as examples of government over-reach, the Great Society was transformative politically and culturally for America.

Today, members of Congress still argue over the efficacy of Johnson’s agenda and the legacy of big government programs.

This institute will explore many Great Society programs, their origins in political thought, and Johnson’s persuasive negotiations. It also will explore how members of Congress, liberal and conservative, were receptive to making epic legislative changes in a remarkably short period of time. The election of 1964 and the Civil Rights Movement transformed conditions on Capitol Hill so that bipartisanship brought forth legislation for the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, investments in public housing, massive public works projects, great leaps forward in space exploration, aid to children, the elderly, students, and immigrants, and much more.

With the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War upon us, this institute also will explore how Cold War strategies and fears of communism compelled leaders to commit to a war in Southeast Asia right at the moment of commitment to a massive agenda of new domestic programs.

Presenters so far include Sheyda Jahanhani, Assistant Professor of History, University of Kansas, and Mark Atwood Lawrence, Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin. Jahanhani teaches 20th century U.S. history and U.S. foreign policy related to the US as Emperor of The Poverty of the World: Discovering the Poor at Home and Abroad, 1915-1973 (Oxford University Press, 2015). Lawrence is the editor of several books including The Vietnam War: A Concise International History (Oxford University Press, 2008), and co-editor of Beyond the Cold War: Lyndon Johnson and the New Global Challenges of the 1960s (Oxford University Press, 2014).

In addition to attending daily lectures and panel discussions, teachers will attend special evening presentations, view documentary films, and share ways of teaching Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society in the classroom.

The online application deadline is April 1, 2016. For more information, visit idahohumanities.org, call the IHC office, 208-345-5346, or contact Cindy Wang at cindy@idahohumanities.org.

Washington State University Press announces publication of Wild Place: A History of Priest Lake, Idaho, by Kris Runberg Smith, with Rom Reitz. The book is a large-format, comprehensive, and illustrated chronicle of Priest Lake, the beautiful northern Idaho vacation spot. Once a favored location of Native Americans, tough winters discouraged permanent settlement by homesteaders, prospectors, and speculators for many years until the creation of the Priest River Forest Reserve in 1897 by President Grover Cleveland, and industrial and recreational use increased. In the early part of the 20th century, logging camps began harvesting from the area, and soon timber and summer cottages began to proliferate. After WW II, population growth accelerated with the introduction of electricity to the area, and Priest Lake became more and more vacationland for many. Wild Place (240 pages) explores that history, the colorful characters who inhabited the area, and the many little-known stories. Kris Runberg Smith is a professor of history at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, with family ties to the Priest Lake area. Tom Weitz is the president of the Priest Lake Museum Association. Wild Place is available for $24.95 through bookstores or direct from WSU Press at 800-354-7360, or wsupress.wsu.edu.

Do you know the way to Clover City?

Wallace resident Janet Lierman Feiter has published Clover City: Planted in Faith, a book about the little-known community of Clover City, which grew up near Twin Falls, Idaho, at the turn of the 20th century, after the 1894 Carey Act allowed private companies to provide irrigation to southern Idaho desert land, enabling homesteaders to farm the region. Many from the Midwest took advantage of homesteading opportunities, including many German immigrants from Nebraska, who journeyed to the Magic Valley to make a new life. Feiter grew up in the area known as Clover and attended Filer High School, retired from a career in newspapers and public relations prior to authoring this book, which is illustrated with many historical photos. The book sells for $12, plus $3 shipping. For more information, contact Janet Lierman Feiter at 211 Second Street, Wallace, Idaho 83873, or by calling (208) 699-7554.

BSU scholar edits anthology on Albert Camus

Boise State University French Professor Jason Herbeck announces publication of A Writer’s Topography: Space and Place in the Life and Works of Albert Camus (Brill, 2015), a collection of essays edited by Herbeck and Vincent Megret. The book envisions the works of French-Algerian Nobel Prize laureate Albert Camus (1913-1960), and his relationship with natural and human landscapes, from his earliest writing to his final reception to major legislation changes. It contains a dozen essays in English and French was inspired in part by papers delivered at an international colloquium on Camus, hosted by Boise State University in April of 2013, and funded in part by the Idaho Humanities Council. For more information about the book, contact www.brill.com.

Pocatello poet publishes a decade’s collected work

Blue Scarab Press announces publication of The Same Moon Shines on Us All, Poems 2004-2015 by Harald Woydenhamer. Woydenhamer is the author of more than two dozen books of poetry, including (See NEWS, Page 5)
Idaho was the place where my wild imagination lived, where I felt my heart was most deeply connected with the land. I had never thought of the thought of all the creatures that inhabited them, in particular the bears who roamed the woods and the high mountain valleys and raised their cubs near the clear-running rivers.

In the early 1900s, having now published a couple of books and returned back to Idaho with my artist husband, Tony, in search of a place we could rent for a while, they might live as much as I did. Through friends we met a man who lived on the Salmon River. His name was Underwood, and who was looking for someone to rent his place while he moved upriver to accept a caretaker job. His spread was called Tunnel Rock.

A bend in the river behind a huge rocky outcrop with an old cabin situated on top. A tunnel had been bored through the rock, leading to a little private beach. In the old days, the fishermen used to pay a dollar to stand atop the rock and cast a line in the hope of snagging a salmon. The house came with forty acres, barns and corrals, a workshop and sweat lodge on the river, as well as a couple of older horses, and even a pet Canada Goose named Toulouse, left behind as a gosling during migration, which he had rescued and raised in his yard. Some years later, when he was poorly attached to the idea. The place was where we would rent his ranch for the summer to see how we liked it and return to the place of our lives that way and creating what the locals took to calling the bear problem.

For a few nights we didn’t see the sow and her cub and I figured they had moved on. And then one morning as I was standing at the window, looking toward the yard, I saw something flash by with the two dogs in pursuit. It was the cub, and within moments the sow was there too. I quickly called the dogs inside and looked around for the sow. But the sow wasn’t to be seen.

We called Mark, the Fish and Game guy in town, and met him when we arrived at the tree in our yard. We couldn’t see the sow, and he informed me that, two nights earlier, the sow had been killed on the highway near Malm Gulch, hit around two in the morning and killed instantly when she ran in front of a truck. And yes, there had been a cub with her. The trucker had seen it in the headlights and he knew it was uninjured but had turned off the accident scene. He had watched the sow and the dogs inside and looked around for the sow. But the sow wasn’t to be seen.

Mark asked if he could bring a trap over and leave it in our yard, parked under the tree and baited with food, and of course we said yes.

I hung up the phone and went outside and stood near the tree. The news of the sow’s death had saddened me. She had come down from the mountains because she was starving, coming to trash in search of food, and it hadn’t gone well for her.

I looked up at the cub. He had a pale brown snout and a white patch on his chest and he smelled like something, was talking to us. I could get him on all it’s best chance of survival. He’ll never make it on his own.

When the trap was set and baited, he gazed up at the cub, sitting in the crook of the tree. “That’s a pretty small cub,” he said softly. “He’s been on his own since two days and probably hasn’t eaten much. He ought to be hungry anyway. Call me if he comes down and takes the bait.”

For a while nothing happened. We went about our business inside, watching the cub through the window, hoping it would finally come down. It took him about an hour to do so: he shimmied down the tree trunk and eyed the trap wary. Pork chops had been left on the floor near the gate, and more meat hung from a hook further inside, connected to a trigger that would shut the door if disturbed. The cub’s hunger finally got the better of him, and he ran inside the cage and pulled out a chop and ate it. And then he went deeper into the cage to reach the hanging meat and in an instant the door clanged shut, and we called Mark.

For the rest of the day and into the evening the cub stayed caged in our yard as Mark tried to figure out what to do with him. As it turned out they had four orphaned cubs, including the twins whose mother was shot.

plan to come to America.

The City Club, Boise, was awarded $5,000 for their "Civil War Pop: Contemporary Native American Music of the Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is January 15, 2016. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before completing proposals. Grant guidelines and application instructions are available on IHC's website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

NEWS (Continued from Page 3)

three previous 10-year collections. The poems in this new collection range from reflections on global concerns to daily life in southeast Idaho. Poems range from elegies to the environment, and personal thoughts on family and mortality. The poem over Idaho landscapes looms large in many of the poems. Wyndham moved from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he earned his M.F.A., to Idaho State University in the early 1970s to teach at Idaho State University, but he soon left ISU and made a career outside the university. "Browse through as you would farmers' markets," he writes of the book. "You won't find a better book of the Northwest for the 2016 "Read Me Treasure Valley" program, featuring Orphan Train and will produce a book documenting the memoirs and manuscripts for a book on the

The Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received $2,000 to help support a culminating four-day field trip to conclude the school-year's study of the Idaho State Capitol Building, the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, and Boise State University.

The Climb to Idaho State University's LeClerc-Clark State College, Lewiston, was awarded $2,000 for a two-year "Idaho's history and culture. Poems range from elegies to the environment, and personal thoughts on family and mortality. The poem over Idaho landscapes looms large in many of the poems. Wyndham moved from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he earned his M.F.A., to Idaho State University in the early 1970s to teach at Idaho State University, but he soon left ISU and made a career outside the university. "Browse through as you would farmers' markets," he writes of the book. "You won't find a better book of the Northwest for

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Governor Printz.

Grant: $1,000

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The Idaho Humanities Council, representing northern Idaho. Johnson will attend her first board meeting in February. Johnson holds degrees in English from the University of Washington and Tulane University, with a special interest in Native American literature. Over the years while at the University of Idaho, Johnson has organized the Native American Film Festival in Moscow, featuring films about Native American history and culture. She is a well-published scholar and has co-edited a book entitled Indigenous Pop: Contemporary Native American Music of the Twentieth Century, forthcoming from the University of Arizona Press in 2016.

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR IHC GRANTS: The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is January 15, 2016. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before completing proposals. Grant guidelines and application instructions are available on IHC's website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

IHC elects new board member

Jan Johnson of Lewiston, clinical assistant professor of English at the University of Idaho, was elected as a new academic member to the board of the Idaho Humanities Council, representing northern Idaho. Johnson will attend her first board meeting in February. Johnson holds degrees in English from the University of Washington and Tulane University, with a special interest in Native American literature. Over the years while at the University of Idaho, Johnson has organized the Native American Film Festival in Moscow, featuring films about Native American history and culture. She is a well-published scholar and has co-edited a book entitled Indigenous Pop: Contemporary Native American Music of the Twentieth Century, forthcoming from the University of Arizona Press in 2016.

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Hundreds hear writer Diane McWhorter in Coeur d’Alene

 Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter gave the 12th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in late September. McWhorter spoke about her book Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, the Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution to an audience of over 300.

Earlier in the day, McWhorter spoke to several hundred Coeur d’Alene High School students about civil rights in America. Prior to speaking at the Resort that evening, McWhorter also greeted dozens of Benefactors at the beautiful home of Denny Davis and Kathy Canfield-Davis, sponsored in part by the Hagadone Corporation.

Enormous thanks go to Marc Brinkmeyer and the Idaho Forest Group for generously supporting the event since its inception. Thanks also to the event co-sponsor, University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene for stepping forward this year. Thanks also to our loyal media sponsors, Coeur d’Alene Press and Idaho Public Television for helping publicize the event.

The IHC is grateful to Benefactors for their added generosity, including the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Table: Idaho Forest Group, University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene, Hagadone Corporation, Intermax Networks, Jo Ann and K.V. Nelson, Lake City Law Group PLLC, Coeur d’Alene Press, Idaho Public Television and the Margaret Reed Foundation.

Thank you to Lauren and Larry Belmont, Marc and Nancy Sue Wallace, Fran Bahr, and the Margaret Reed Foundation for contributing to the student scholarship program that allowed several area high school students to attend.

We thank IHC’s northern Idaho board members, Jo Ann Nelson, Mike Kennedy and the planning committee: Andrea Parthington, Cindy Haugenron, Erin Davis, Fran Bahr, Melody Melton, Nancy Galgan, Virginia Johnson, and Kathleen Schmidt, whose dedication to the humanities in their community made the evening possible. Lastly, tremendous thanks to Karen Yother for her instrumental assistance in helping to arrange, plan and coordinate the event.

In the first of three lectures in Idaho in 2016 commemorating the Pulitzer Prize Centennial, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Fredrik Logevall, author of Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America’s Vietnam, will deliver IHC’s 4th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, March 17, 2016, 7 p.m., at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls.

The event is generously supported by a major grant from the Pulitzer Prize Board and additional generous support from Bank of Idaho, Teton Toyota and Volkswagen, Idaho Public Television, Idaho National Laboratory, Barnes and Noble, KINS Radio, the Post-Register, the William J. and Shirley A. Maec Family Foundation, and the City Club of Idaho Falls.

Logevall is a renowned historian, accomplished educator, and prolific writer on the Vietnam War and its legacy. His groundbreaking book Embers of War won both the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in History and the prestigious Parkman Prize, which deemed it an “extraordinary work of modern history.” The book draws on more than a decade of research, accessing sources and archives on three continents never before tapped. In Embers of War, Logevall takes us to witness how peace talks between France and Vietnam foundered. He brings to life the bloodiest battles of France’s final years in Indochina—and shows how, from an early point, a succession of American leaders made disastrous policy choices that put America on its own collision course with history. An epic story of wasted opportunities and tragic miscalculations, featuring an extraordinary cast of larger-than-life characters, Embers of War delves deep into the historical record to provide hard answers to the many questions surrounding the demise of one Western power in Vietnam and the arrival of another.

Logevall’s other books include America the Cold War: The Politics of Insecurity (with Campbell Craig); Choosing War; The Origins of the Vietnam War; Nixon in the World; American Foreign Relations, with Andrew Preston; Terrorism and 9/11: A Reader; and The First Vietnam War: Colonial Conflict and the Cold War Crisis (with Mark Atwood Lawrence). In addition to his prolific writing career, Logevall is the Laurence D. Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School and professor of history at Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In addition to his expertise in all aspects of the Vietnam War, his in-depth knowledge of international relations and foreign policy allows him to skillfully draw parallels between history and current events—inspiring audiences and encouraging dialogue about the lessons we can learn from the past.

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 Logevall 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 Logevall’s talk to follow. Logevall’s books will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite and he’ll be available for signing afterwards.

Since 2008, the IHC has brought top historians, journalists, and other prominent 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), best-selling author Alexander Fuller (2013), Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson (2014), and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Diane McWhorter (2015).
Because IHC’s fall newsletter was delayed until this issue, we did not get a chance to share photos of National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman William “Bro” Adams’ visit to Idaho Falls on August 6-7. The Chairman attended a dinner meeting and a breakfast meeting with humanities stakeholders, visited the Museum of Idaho’s latest exhibition, and gave an address to about 100 attendees at a luncheon hosted by the City Club of Idaho Falls. The Chairman spoke about his “Common Good” initiative, the 50th anniversary of the legislation that brought the NEH into existence, and the important work of the state humanities councils. IHC board member and Idaho Falls City Councilman Ed Marohn introduced the Chairman to City Club members and chauffeured him around town, introducing him to many in the community.

Although Chairman Adams was to be introduced to the City Club and the Idaho Falls community by U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson, President Obama’s decision to sign Rep. Simpson’s Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness legislation on August 7 required the Congressman to fly back on short notice for the White House signing the day Chairman Adams arrived in Idaho Falls. Instead, Congressman Simpson’s wife Kathy and aides Nikki Wallace and Ethan Huffman attended meetings with the Chairman and arts and humanities stakeholders in the region.

Over all, Chairman Adams was well received by College of Southern Idaho President Jeff Fox, Idaho Public Television General Manager Ron Pisaneschi, Idaho Humanities Council Director Rick Ardinger, Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Noah Casper, faculty from Idaho State University, Museum of Idaho staff, the director of the Idaho Falls Arts Council, City Club members, teachers, and representatives from many other organizations.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, National Book Award-winning novelist Tim O’Brien gave the IHC’s 19th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture in late October to nearly 500 dinner guests at the Boise Centre. O’Brien spoke about the art of writing about war, the writing of his book The Things They Carried, and the need for frank and honest discussion about the human costs of past and present American wars. The Vietnam War veteran and author of If I Die in a Combat Zone… Going after Cacciato, July, July, Northern Lights, and other novels received a standing ovation and later signed scores of books for those in attendance.

Earlier in the day, O’Brien recorded an interview with Idaho Public Television’s Marsha Franklin for later broadcast on IPTV’s Dialogue (link available on IHC’s website), and he attended a reception for about 100 IHC Benefactors in the posh 17th-story offices of Holland & Hart in downtown Boise.

The IHC thanks its underwriters for helping make a very successful evening. Thank you to Major Event Sponsor Holland & Hart, and Event Co-Sponsors University of Idaho College of Law and Boise State University. In addition, The Idaho Statesman, Boise State Public Radio and Idaho Public Television were tremendous media partners.

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

Thank you to the following very generous individuals and organizations who helped share the evening with students through their donations to the student scholarship fund: John Thomas, Pam Nagel, Steven Fields, Chuck Guilford, Judy Bloom, Dick and Susan Parrish, Sharon and Conrad Colby, Christopher Rigg, Rory and Sisti O’Connor, Michael and Susan Philley, Bob and Leslie Hoover, Jenny Emery Davidson and Mark Davidson, Bruce and Jan Ward, Margo Aragon, Peter and Marjorie Ready, Mee-Ae Kim and Chris Grant, Futura Corporation and Idaho Power.


NEH Chairman Bro Adams visits Idaho Falls

Novelist Tim O’Brien delivers barn-burner in Boise
IHW thanks warmly Idaho Humanities Council Donors! 

Contributions made between January 1, 2015 and January 31, 2021, are gratefully acknowledged.
Let’s Talk about It, the library reading/discussion program made possible through a partnership between the Idaho Humanities Council and the Idaho Commission for Libraries with generous funding from U.S. Bank, is currently taking place in 16 libraries throughout Idaho. While some libraries began their programs in the fall of 2015, most began their programs in the winter and spring of 2016 as an intellectual antidote to cabin fever. Each library hosts five sessions over the course of a season to discuss five books on various themes (for a total of 80 programs throughout Idaho), involving numerous Idaho scholars to summarize key points about books and the series themes and moderate discussion.

The Idaho Humanities Council thanks U.S. Bank Foundation for its generous support of the 2015-2016 season of LTAI. 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 collectors and discussion leaders. Through its 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 for a little thoughtful discussion about great literature,” said Rick Ardingger, 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://library.idaho.gov/ or contact Project Coordinator Dian Scott, Idaho Commission for Libraries at (208) 334-2150.

Remember to send back that envelope…

To read the feature story in this issue of Idaho Humanities you had to remove the donation envelope that came with it. 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 through libraries improves civil discourse and enhances informed civic involvement, then please return your envelope today. The IHC will put it to good use funding new programs. Participants are truly grateful for your support.

Photo: Courtesy of Idaho Humanities Council

SCHEDULE
Idaho Falls Public Library
457 W. Broadway, Idaho Falls
Contact: Liza Evans
May 28 – July 10, 2016

The Sun Valley Museum of History
First and Washington, Ketchum
Contact: Taylor Paslay
July 16 – August 28, 2016

Idaho Museum of Natural History
698 E. Dillon St., Pocatello
Contact: Curt Schmitz
September 3 – October 16, 2016

Nampa Public Library
215 12th Ave. South, Nampa
Contact: Beth Neunaber
October 22 – December 4, 2016

Latah County Historical Society
On view at the Third Street Gallery
206 W. Third Street
Contact: Dulce Kersting
December 10, 2016 – January 22, 2017

Burley Public Library
1300 Miller Ave
Contact: Linda Barney
January 28 – March 12, 2017

U.S. Bank supports intellectual antidote to cabin fever

Smithsonian exhibition on ‘water’ to tour six Idaho towns

The Idaho Humanities Council will bring a Smithsonian traveling exhibition titled Water/Ways to six Idaho communities beginning in May 2016 through March 2017.

The exhibit will visit the Idaho Falls Public Library, the Sun Valley Museum of History in partnership with The Community Library (Ketchum), the Idaho Museum of Natural History (Pocatello), Nampa Public Library, Third Street Gallery in partnership with the Latah County Historical Society (Moscow), and the Burley Public Library (Burley).

The Water/Ways 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 local exhibits and school displays, to lectures, films, panel discussions, and other activities limited only by the imagination.

The exhibition explores water as a critical scientific and cultural resource. An essential component of life on our planet, water powers the environment’s engine, impacting climate and helping to shape and sculpt the landscape. Water’s impact on humans is not just biological and environmental; it serves as a source of peace and contemplation. We cherish our connections to nature, particularly the sights, the sounds, and the sense of place we feel at the water’s edge.

Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the duality of water – a substance that is seemingly soft and graceful, yet also a powerful and often unstoppable force.

The availability of water affects settlement and migration patterns. Access to water and control of water resources have long been a central part of political and economic planning. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment. Water/Ways 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 fifteen years Smithsonian exhibitions on American roots music, food and culture, the history of American labor, yesterday’s visions of the future, sports history, barn architecture, the meaning of fences and borders, and more. For more information visit www.idahohumanities.org.

PHOTO: Corrupt

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If you agree that lifelong learning through libraries improves civil discourse and enhances informed civic involvement, then please return your envelope today. The IHC will put it to good use funding summer institutes and workshops for teachers, traveling Smithsonian exhibits, our Humanities Speakers Bureau, reading/discussion programs, lectures by some of the best writers, historians, and journalists writing in the world today, and many other timely programs.

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

MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TODAY!
In each issue of Idaho Humanities, several readers tell us what they’ve been reading and what they recommend.

**What Are You Reading?**

**Reader: Steven Hatcher**  
**Occupation:** Director, Folk and Traditional Arts, Idaho Commission on the Arts, Boise  
**Book:** Tales of Priest Lake by James F. Estes and North of the Narrows: Men and Women of the Upper Priest Lake Country, Idaho by Claude & Catherine Simpson

In the mid-90s I fought forest fires based out of Priest Lake’s Cavanaugh Bay. It’s impossible to spend any amount of time up there and not fall in love with the landscape and people who inhabit its space. Since starting my work as the State folklorist I’ve been trying to figure a way to incorporate the lake into some sort of folklife programming. I was given Tales of Priest Lake recently and that inspired me to dig out my tattered copy of North of the Narrows. Both are nonacademic cultural studies that detail the history, people, places, occupational practices, and oral narratives that date back to the early 19th Century.

Though attributed to Reverend Estes of Spokane, Tales of Priest Lake is basically a transcribed series of interviews with the legendary Leonard Paul who in 1906 established a general store in Cuslin at the southeast end of the lake. Still a mainstay after 109 years, the Leonard Paul Store provided goods and services for several generations of miners, loggers, trappers, artists, tourists, and general miscreants. If a story was born or circulated at the lake it eventually made its way to Leonard.

North of the Narrows concentrates specifically on the Upper Priest Lake, a smaller, even more isolated area connected to the larger lake by a thoroughfare or narrows. Teachers from Washington, Claude and Catherine Simpson spent a lifetime documenting, interviewing, and researching above the narrows. Often terse and disjointed, there is still no better document of pre-1980 lake life in the most remote corner of Idaho’s Panhandle. With all the changes since then I’d say it’s time for some new fieldwork.

**Reader: Robin Piet**  
**Occupation:** Retired, Idaho Falls  
**Book:** The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert

I recently read and thoroughly enjoyed The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert. It’s a fictional novel about a well-educated, independent, wealthy woman, born in 1800, who became a botanist, published books, traveled alone to Tahiti, and came up with the theory of evolution at virtually the same time as Darwin. She was born in 1800, so she was an unknowing feminist far, far ahead of her time.

I enjoyed this book because it has many of my favorite themes:

- Very unusual, quirky personalities and the psychological difficulties they cause. There are several people who are quite different, which causes much of the intrigue in the story.
- International travel and other cultures. I enjoyed hearing about the life, people and beauty of Tahiti in the 19th century.
- Fighting for a cause and making changes in the world with a positive outlook. The main character’s sister fought for the Abolitionist cause in Philadelphia.
- History. As far as I could tell, the historical facts were true, even the fact that Darwin wasn’t the only person who came up with the theory of evolution at the same time, although not by a woman.

In spite of the heavy subject matter, this book is light and very readable. I recommend it.

**Reader: Jennifer Ladino**  
**Occupation:** Associate Professor of English, University of Idaho, Moscow  
**Book:** Fourth of July Creek by Smith Henderson

Smith Henderson’s debut novel, Fourth of July Creek (2014), may seem a bit heavy for beach reading, but its plot twists and compelling characters keep you turning the 470 delightful pages. Set in 1980 in rural Montana, the novel follows social worker Pete Snow as he tries to repair his own family relationships and help a young boy who’s living off the land with his survivalist father, Jeremiah Pearl. Stylistically, Henderson has been compared to Cormac McCarthy and William Faulkner, and while I see those resemblances—Snow’s estranged daughter repeatedly uses “wyoming” as a verb, for instance—Henderson’s voice is one-of-a-kind.

The novel’s main characters are classically Western, including a white male hero seeking redemption (Snow) and an outlaw preparing for a shootout (Pearl). But its familiar themes (fundamentalism, poverty, independence, religious fundamentalism, survival) are updated for the late-20th century West. While the novel contains some predictable plot lines, Henderson’s characters are flawed in unique ways, and their flaws make us think about our own. Like the best American literature (Toni Morrison’s Beloved comes to mind), Fourth of July Creek challenges us to reserve judgment and instead find empathy, even for those who are different from ourselves.