The Idaho Humanities Council awarded $86,767 in grants to organizations and individuals at its recent board meeting in Boise. Thirty-eight awards include 18 grants for public humanities programs, four Research Fellowships, 15 Teacher Incentive Grants, and one Planning Grant. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education. The following projects were funded:

Public Programs:
The Ada Community Library, Boise, received $2,000 to help support the community-wide reading project in February and March. The library will partner with The Cabin to bring Susan Orlean to Boise to discuss her book *The Orchid Thief.* Several speakers and activities are planned to engage the public in discussion of the book and its related topics. Mary DeWalt is the project director.

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

The Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, was awarded $1,950 to help construct a feature exhibit focusing on the story of rural electrification and how it changed life in Kootenai County in 1939. The exhibit will explore that history through photographs, artifacts, and oral histories, and will be on display from April through October 2014. The project director is Dorothy Dahlgren.

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

Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received $3,000 to help support *Shakespearience,* the traveling program that visits many high schools throughout Idaho. Actors will perform *Romeo and Juliet* with full set and costumes to students in grades 9-12, followed by question/answer sessions and workshops. The tour connects Shakespeare’s work and the project director is Barbara Lujano.

Susan Orlean will speak in Boise in March.

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

*By Lisa M. Brady*  
Boise State University

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

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

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

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

The meadow is remote, high up in the mountains. But despite its location and abundance of wildlife (cattle excepted), the meadow cannot technically be called wilderness. That designation is reserved for areas “where the earth and its community are unrestrained by man, more than himself a visitor who does not remain,” and where roads, motorized vehicles, and other trappings of modern life are not allowed. This definition of wilderness is remarkably new and fiercely debated. It gained legal status on September 3, 1964, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, setting aside over nine million acres of the public domain and protecting it from mining, logging, and agricultural use. In the fifty years since, America’s wild lands have increased to over 100 million acres—a stunning victory in the eyes of some, a terrible waste of resources in the view of others.

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

These two competing visions of wilderness—antithesis and antidote—are at the root of the Wilderness Act. The Act states “in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of...” (See WILDERNESS, Page 3)
The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. An early accomplishment of President Lyndon Johnson’s vision of The Great Society—the war on poverty, Medicare, civil rights, voting rights, and so much more—the Wilderness Act passed by an astounding bipartisan vote of 73 to 12 in the Senate and 371 to 1 in the House and was signed by Johnson into law on September 3, 1964. Since Idaho is home to the largest wilderness in the lower 48 states, and with talk of new protections in the news of late, the Idaho Humanities Council board thought it worthwhile to explore the meaning of wilderness in public forums, starting with a series of public 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 on 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 Erin Day’s iconic photo of Castle Peak (see page 3) may become even more familiar to Idahoans, as factions line up in favor and opposed to the restrictions such designation would impose on the place if monument status appeared imminent. Only Congress can formally preserve Wilderness with a capital “W,” but for many, preserving large tracts of land and restricting access and road-building amounts to the same thing.

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

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

Does the geographical presence of the largest designated Wilderness in the lower 48 states influence and help shape the character of Idahoans, of all Americans? This year we’ll explore that idea and the legislation approved by Congress with such overwhelming support 50 years ago. ❈

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

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

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

Susan Gibson (Boise), a new gubernatorial appointee, is a retired Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center administrator, where she served for over a decade as Vice President of Mission and Human Resources. She holds M.A. degrees in sociology from the University of Notre Dame and business administration from Centenary College (Shreveport, Louisiana). She is currently completing a doctoral program in leadership studies at Gonzaga University.

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

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

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Idaho Humanities Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.
wilderness.1” The Act’s language clearly aligns with the idea that wild nature provides both tangible and intangible benefits far beyond any material gains that might be had from harvesting its resources, even as it made special exceptions for certain uses contrary to its stated goals.2 Moreover, it had already been declared in numerous places that the wilderness areas managed by the US Forest Service were to be used in ways where they were already prior to September 3, 1964, and anywhere in the system if they were necessary to protect threatened or endangered species, or to provide for the enjoyment of wilderness areas by the American public.3

The Interior Harold L. Ickes recommending that roads in the early 1930s a correspondence with Secretary of the Interior writings, and articles on the need for wilderness protection began in 1956, but its origins go back another twenty years. Under the leadership of Howard Zahniser, the founding executive director of the Wilderness Society.4

Eisenhower’s administration did not favor the bill, and Republican Rep. John Saylor of Pennsylvania first introduced the bill in 1956, calling for the protection of wild areas already within the jurisdiction of several federal agencies, including areas within the national parks and monuments, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and on Indian reservations. In 1964, Idaho Sen. Frank Church was the floor sponsor of the bill that would finally become the Wilderness Act. Congress conducted eighteen hearings on the bill between mid 1957 and May 1964. Much of the opposition to its passage came from natural resources industries, not because they did not support the idea of wilderness areas, but because they anticipated that more lands proposed for designation as too extensive and in the wrong places. Initially the Forest and Park Services also opposed the bill because they believed that wilderness areas would impede their work. But by the time they signed up, they believed that wilderness protection would enhance the nation’s economy and security. As an ostensibly pure form of nature – we obscure, in Cronon’s words, “what an ethical, sustainable, honorable place in nature might actually look like.” Cronon noted that wilderness has been used to dispossess indigenous peoples the world over, including Native Americans in the nineteenth century and Indian peasants in the twentieth. He also argued that wilderness tends to promote the majestic over the humble, the iconic over the mundane, thus preserving landscapes deemed sublime and not those that are less inspiring.5

I appreciate Cronon’s warning and try to live my life mindful of my impact on the places where I work and live, but in the end, I think he’s wrong. Wilderness is not a distracting illusion; it is, to slightly misquote Thoreau, “the preservation of the world,” quite literally.6 The existence of wilderness areas helps to mitigate biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and provides space for recreation, reflection, and research. This is what the authors of the Wilderness Act recognized fifty years ago and what supporters of it continue to argue today.

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

3. Frome, 139.

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

Suggested further reading about Wilderness and the Wilderness Act


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GRANTS
(Continued from Page 1)


The Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls, was awarded $5,000 to help bring an international traveling exhibition titled Race to the End of the Earth to the museum, January through September 2014. The 7,000-square-foot exhibit features original artifacts and interactive elements, recounting the 1911-1912 expeditions of arctic explorers Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott and their 1,800 mile race to the South Pole. The museum will host additional educational opportunities during the nine-month tour. David Pennock is the project director.

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

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

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

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

Coeur d’Alene Public Library Foundation, Coeur d’Alene, received $2,000 for a storytelling project in the schools. They will host a featured lecture by University of Idaho anthropologist Rodney Frey and oral history workshops by Barbara Mueller. Ruth Pratt is the project director.

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

Boise State University, Boise, was awarded $5,000 for a weeklong festival of Mexican culture, April 7-14, 2014, exploring the arts, history, and politics of Mexico and Mexico’s close country’s relationship with the U.S. The festival will involve Eduardo Medina-Mora, who was appointed as the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., photographer Alejandra Regalado, poet Victor Manuel Mendoza, Mexican Consulate Guadarrama Ordonica Robles, Idaho Trade Representative to Mexico Armando Orellana, Boise journalist and author Cindy Kaye, E.M. Forster, and Jim Kaye, George Malleson, Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, E.M. Forster, and Jim Corbett. Thukar will elaborate on the theory that human and nonhuman interactions define the myth of the colonizer.

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

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

Teacher Incentive Grants:

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

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

Lorre Heleker, Payette County School District elementary teacher, Payette, received $572 to develop a unit studying multicultural neighborhoods and traditions. The classroom will include Japanese, Western European, Basque, and Mexican cultures, and will include guest speakers, reading from historical fiction about children from each culture, and a field trip to the Four Rivers Cultural Center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(See GRANTS, Page 9)
Shimomura

to attend these conferences. The volume also features

hosted by the College of Southern Idaho, and many

West Coast to 10 camps in the interior west. Minidoka,

relocated Japanese and Japanese Americans from the

warehousing of Farrer’s paintings, the book

surely will revive interest in a near-forgotten artist

whose delightful eccentricities and grand presence—
described as “an Idaho Coco Chanel”—inspired other

writers, journalists, socialists, and cultural

movers and shakers. Rodriguez met Farrer in 1971

soon after moving to Boise from Virginia, and the two

became instant friends. The book was 20 years in the

making and now is available in a handsome edition

for $17 plus $3 shipping from Dilkoosa Press, 308

N. 18th Street, Boise, Idaho 83702, or from Boise’s

Rediscovered Bookshop.

Surviving Minidoka is available in hardcover for

$36 from the BSU Publications Office, College of

Social Sciences and Public Affairs, 1910 University

Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725, by calling (208) 426-1368

(or online at uprdesign@boisestate.edu.)

New biography of Idaho artist published

The Blue Doorknob: The Artistic Life of Cornelia Hart Farrer, by Boise writer Reita Brannah Rodriquez, is

the story of the life of a prolific Boise painter (1897-

1991), known not only for her colorful artwork, but

for her colorful life promoting art and enhancing the cultural

community of Boise. The book explores a bygone time

in Boise, when Chinese still lived in the area in late-19th

early-20th century, and when artists strove through the early decades of the

20th century to bring culture to a remote area of the

nation. Illustrated with photographs, drawings, and

a well of color images of Farrer’s paintings, the book

surely will revive interest in a near-forgotten artist

whose delightful eccentricities and grand presence—
described as “an Idaho Coco Chanel”—inspired other

writers, journalists, socialists, and cultural

movers and shakers. Rodriguez met Farrer in 1971

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Rediscovered Bookshop.

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The online application deadline is April 1, 2014. Interested teachers may visit www.idahohumanities.org to apply online, or contact the Idaho Humanities Council at 208-345-5346 or by email at ihc@idahohumanities.org.

**Wallace District Mining Museum receives $10,000 honor**

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

The award is named for Sister Alfreda Elsensohn, who founded the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in the 1930s. Sister Alfreda sought to collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts from Idaho County and the surrounding area to better educate the public.

“A museum is a bridge which links the present with the past,” she once said. It is her vision of Idaho museums as interactive and educational institutions that the award seeks to recognize by honoring one outstanding Idaho museum each year.

“The Idaho Humanities Council encourages public awareness and understanding of history and other humanities disciplines,” noted Rick Andingor, Executive Director of the Idaho Humanities Council. “The Wallace District Mining Museum is an exemplary small museum that explores the rich mining history of the Silver Valley in an accessible way.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to some very generous individuals and organizations who helped share the evening with are students through their donations to the student scholarship fund:

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

Hundreds hear historian Douglas Brinkley in Coeur d’Alene

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

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

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

The IHC is grateful to Benefactors for their added generosity, including the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Tables: Idaho Forest Group, Intermax Networks, Paine Hamblen, Coeur d’Alene Press, Idaho Public Television, Margaret Reed Foundation and Lewis-Clark State College.

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

We thank IHC’s northern Idaho board members, Kathy Aiken, Fran Bahr, Mike Kennedy, and Jo Ann Nelson, and the Coeur d’Alene planning committee: Virginia Johnson, Cindy Haagenson, Nancy Flagan, Fay Sweeney, Katie Sayler, and JoAnn Nelson, whose dedication to the humanities in their community made this evening possible.

Lastly, tremendous thanks to Karen Yother for her instrumental assistance in helping to arrange, plan, and coordinate this event.
Get your tickets now: Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Isabel Wilkerson to speak in Idaho Falls, April 17

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

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

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

“They migrated their way to an economic and social structure not of their making,” Wilkerson writes.

In her book, Wilkerson explores America as a celebrator of sports, through the story of a diverse group of Americans. It is part of the Smithsonian's traveling exhibitions on American roots music, food and culture, and the history of American labor, everyday visions of the future, barn architecture, on the meaning of fences and borders, and more.

The Warmth of Other Suns — an exodus of six million people between 1915 and 1970 — changed the face of America. The Warmth of Other Suns became a *New York Times* and national bestseller. It won the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, the 2011 Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, the 2011 Hillman Book Prize, the 2011 Lynton History Prize from Harvard and Columbia universities, the 2011 Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, the Stephen Ambrose Oral History Prize, the Independent Literary Award for Nonfiction, the Horace Mann Bond Book Award from Harvard University, the NAACP Image Award for Best Literary Debut and was shortlisted for the 2011 Pen-Galbraith Literary Award for Nonfiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Tickets are available NOW for purchase online at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) under “IHC Events,” or by calling the IHC toll-free at 888-345-5346. General tickets are $45. Benefactor tickets are $75, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Wilkerson in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out. The evening will begin with a no-host reception at 6 p.m. at the Shilo Inn. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with Wilkerson’s talk to follow. Wilkerson’s books will be available from Barnes and Noble onsite and she’ll be available for signing afterwards.

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

Remember to send back that envelope…

To read the feature story in this issue of *Idaho Humanities* you had to remove the donation envelope—please don’t throw it away. Show your support for the work of the Idaho Humanities Council today by sending it back with your tax-deductible gift enclosed. The IHC is dependent more than ever on donor contributions from our readers, program participants, teachers, civic leaders, community activists, and others who believe that lifelikening in the humanities helps build a more literate, tolerant, and intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry.

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

Return your envelope with a check, or make your donation online at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://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!**
Donor Comment

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

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

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

Every program brought home the award and a relatively small budget for a statewide network. Morrill provided strong focus on local productions, such as Dialogue, Outdoor Idaho, Idaho Reports, and Idaho in Session, in addition to special documentary productions such as Captive of Light and Trial of the Century that explored Idaho history. As a result, a higher percentage of viewers within Idaho Public Television’s viewing area watch IPTV programming, and watch it more often, than that of any other public TV station in the country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Let’s Talk About It” is a program that educates and builds community relationships, and it touches so many towns throughout Idaho,” Aravich said.

Since the fall of 2013, the program began in libraries from Montpelier to Bonners Ferry. Libraries are hosting book discussions exploring different themes through spring of 2014. Themes include “Idaho at 150,” “Living in the Modern West,” “Our Earth,” “We Are What We Eat,” “American Characters,” and many other themes. Scholars from nearly all of Idaho’s institutions of higher education participate in the program as book discussion leaders in 75 library meetings.

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

The LTAI program, which began in 1985, was developed by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (formerly the Idaho State Library) and the Idaho Humanities Council. Over the past 30 years, programs have been held in nearly 100 Idaho communities.

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

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

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

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

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**GRANTS (Continued from Page 9)**

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

Joseph Lawrence, Mullan School District, Mullan, received $1,000 to help purchase equipment for an electronic check-out system for the library, and to introduce new equipment to incorporate historical films, YouTube clips, and PowerPoint presentations into classroom teaching of the humanities.

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

Salmon Arts Council, Salmon, received $1,000 to bring oral historian Teresa Clark to Salmon for a one-week residency working with 8th grade students on an oral history project. Clark will train the students in interview techniques as well as writing and book publishing. Students will interview members of their community.
own families as well as volunteers from the Lemhi County Historical Society. The project director is Caroline Stivers.

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

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

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

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

**Idaho Territorial traveling exhibit available**

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

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

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

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**What Are You Reading?**

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

The French revere bandes dessinées (graphic novels) as the Neuvième Art (7th art form). The most famous character emerging from the Franco-Belgian school of comics, besides Tintin, has been Asterix. Widely translated into over 100 different languages and dialects, Asterix and his adventures have been employed across Europe to lure audiences to museums, teach recalcitrant students Latin and as inspiration and source material for doctoral dissertations. Filled with the usual allusions and gags based on cultural differences and politics, Asterix and the Picts is a timely album in a variety of place, period, and themes that have earned her awards including the recent Nobel Prize in literature. There is a nice sampling of her well known, small town stories set in 1930’s Canada, which focus on family relationships and conventional characters doing unconventional things. Less in this vein is a beautifully written story, “Mile City, Montana,” where the narrator remembers a childhood tragedy and weaves that memory into both pleasant and troubled memories of the early years of her marriage and young children. These are the kinds of stories you hope to have with you when you are delayed in an airport and have a chance to go off into other people’s lives and reflect on your own life.

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

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

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

Jhumpa Lahiri’s latest book, The Lowland, opens in 1960s Calcutta, a time of political upheaval, and wends its way to the placid calm of Rhode Island. Once again Lahiri accomplishes an intricate weaving of personal relationships. It’s the story of two brothers, a revolutionary who stays in Calcutta and meets a predictable fate, and the older one, Subhash, who emigrates to seek a life in America. That life is changed when he brings Gaia, the pregnant wife of the younger brother, to Rhode Island.

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

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**THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR IHC GRANTS:**

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