

## Idaho Humanities Council awards 38 grants at fall meeting

The Idaho Humanities Council awarded **\$92,043** in grants to organizations and individuals at its October 2009 meeting in Boise. Thirty-eight awards include five Research Fellowships, six Teacher Incentive Grants, seven Planning Grants, 14 public humanities programs, including six projects funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities *We the People* program exploring American history and culture, and six awards to libraries for the NEH *Picturing America* program exploring American art masterpieces. Seven organizations also received planning grants. The following projects were funded:

### Major and Mini Grants:

**Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston)** received **\$2,000** to help support the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Native American Awareness Week scheduled for March 8-12, 2010 in Lewiston. This event features PowWows, panel discussions, storytelling, a banquet, and speaker presentations on topics related to preserving the culture and history of Native Americans. The project director is **Bob Sobotta**.

**The College of Arts and Sciences at Idaho State University (Pocatello)** was awarded **\$2,000** to help support funding of a special retrospective issue of the journal *Rendezvous*, which recently lost funding due to state budget cuts. This 40<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary edition will consist of two commemorative volumes featuring a sampling of some of the best essays and articles published over the last four decades. The first volume was launched in early November; the second will be released in the spring of 2010. The project director is **Sharon Sieber**.

**The Salmon Arts Council (Salmon)** received **\$1,500** to host the Improv Shakespeare Company of Seattle, on January 16, 2010, at the Sacagawea Center in Salmon. The evening will feature actors in full Shakespearean costume, offering a performance, workshop, and lecture, followed by audience discussion. The community will have an opportunity to learn more about Elizabethan times through an interactive experience. The project director is **Mary Cerise**.

**Idaho State University's Reading Project (Pocatello)** was awarded **\$2,000** to help bring Greg Mortenson, Director of the Central Asia Institute, to Pocatello to speak about the CAI and his book *Three Cups of Tea*. *The New York Times* bestseller is about the author's work to build schools in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan over a 15-year period. Mortenson's book has received numerous awards, and Mortenson was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize this year. He has established over 90 schools, providing education to over 34,000 students, the majority of whom are girls. The ISU Reading Project encourages students and community members to read the same book, and offers opportunities for discussion among ISU students and the community. Activities will begin in November and continue through February. **Bonnie Frantz** is the project director.

**The University of Idaho (Moscow)** received **\$1,750** to help fund the eighth annual Native American Film Festival, titled *Sapatq'ayn Cinema*. The festival will be held at Moscow's Kenworthy Theater on March 26-27, 2010. The festival helps facilitate dialogue on issues of history, race, and contemporary Indian and American life. The films are primarily written, directed, and acted by Native Americans. The opening evening will feature a drum song welcome and remarks by Nez Perce Elder Horace Axtell. The project director is **Janis Johnson**.

**The University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media (Moscow)** was awarded **\$5,668** to develop and professionally videotape a Readers Theatre presentation exploring the history of court cases surrounding freedom of the press. The public program scheduled for Constitution Day, September 17, 2010, will be a dramatization of five key events in history, using word-for-word excerpts from cases tried in the U.S. Supreme Court. The program will highlight the relationship between freedom of expression and a democratic society. It will be recorded and a free DVD will be made available to teachers for classroom use. **Dinah Zeiger** is the project director.

**Idaho Public Television (Statewide)** received **\$12,300** to help support statewide broadcast of the 22<sup>nd</sup> season of the *American Experience* series. This award-winning series will feature new shows this season, including eight new documentaries on the life of Dolly Madison, the beginnings of the modern environmental movement, the stories of James Earl Ray and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the "Triangle Fire" (the largest industrial disaster in American history), the life of Wyatt Earp, the conflicts among early American dinosaur paleontologists, the history of the American whaling industry, and the WW II bombing campaign against Germany. Five programs examining the 1930s also will be re-aired. The project director is **Penny Traylor**.

**The Provo Theatre Company (Provo, Utah)** was awarded **\$3,000** to complete a documentary film tentatively titled "Moscow Classics." The film focuses on Professor Louis Perraud, a recently retired Classics professor at the University of Idaho. Perraud was the university's last remaining Classics professor, and after he retired in 2008, the Classics major was discontinued. While the film focuses on Perraud as a gifted teacher, it also explores the decline of education in the Classics throughout the U.S. The film is expected to be completed in early 2010. **Craig Harline** is the project director.

**The National Oregon/California Trail Center (Montpelier)** was awarded **\$3,000** to help support a Heritage Festival to take place in July of 2010 in conjunction with the Smithsonian *Journey Stories* exhibition. The Center is one of six locations in Idaho hosting the traveling exhibition. Festival events will include historical exhibits, film and photography displays, hands-on workshops, lectures and local history projects. **Becky Smith** is the project director.

**The Institute for Pacific Northwest Studies at the University of Idaho (Moscow)** was awarded **\$2,500** to help support publication of a book exploring Idaho history and culture entitled *Idaho's Place: Rethinking the Gem State*. The book features essays,

photographs, and oral histories that offer “scholarly investigation as well as popular understanding” of Idaho history within the broader context and geography of the Pacific Northwest. Featuring essays by some of Idaho’s best historians, the book is expected to be released by the University of Washington Press in 2010. **Adam Sowards** is the editor and project director

**The Basque Museum (Boise)** received **\$6,500** to help develop a major new exhibit entitled “Hidden in Plain Sight: The Basques” that will be on display at Ellis Island and at the Boise Museum in 2010. The exhibit will showcase Basque culture, origins, language, immigration changes, and the history of the Basque people and their place in America. The exhibit is scheduled to debut at Ellis Island on February 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010, and will be in Boise thereafter for the next couple of years, including during Jaialdi: International Basque Cultural Festival in July 2010. **Patty Miller** is the project director.

**Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries (Hayden)** received **\$3,988** to bring independent actor, Melinda Strobel, to Idaho for a tour of a new one-woman show titled *Western Women: Pioneers and Prostitutes*. Beginning February 22, 2010, in Coeur d’Alene, the show will tour to public libraries in Moscow, Post Falls, Pinehurst, Sandpoint, and end in Bonners Ferry on March 1. It will explore the lives of five pioneer women, Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair, Oregon’s first woman doctor; Mathilde Schroeder, who homesteaded a ranch near Keuterville, Idaho; Sister Loyola, one of six nuns from Belgium to begin a boarding school for the daughters of trappers in Oregon; Molly b’Dam, a prostitute in Murray, Idaho; and Charley Parkhurst, a woman stagecoach driver in California. **Melinda Strobel** is the project director.

**Picaresque II (Red Wing, Minnesota)** was awarded **\$6,685** to bring musician Lauren Pelon and poet Gary Holthaus to Idaho to present a unique series of programs of music and spoken word called “The Story of Music, Stories from Home.” They will make presentations in Lewiston, Boise, and Driggs in March of 2010. Pelon is an internationally recognized singer and musician of ancient and modern instruments and Holthaus is a poet, essayist, and scholar. Pelon will play as many as 20 different instruments and Holthaus will read from works of such diverse poets and philosophers as Scott Momaday, Gary Snyder, Scott Russell Sanders, Confucius, and Yupik Eskimo elders. The project director is **Lauren Pelon**.

**The Wallace District Mining Museum (Wallace)** received **\$4,500** to help digitize its collection of artifacts, photographs, and historical paper ephemera related to the mining history of the Silver Valley. The museum is entering the second year of a four-year project to electronically catalog the collection. The main goals of this automation project are to improve collections management, expand accessibility, and improve interpretation. The project director is **Jim McReynolds**.

**Research Fellowships:**

The IHC board awarded five Research Fellowships to Idaho scholars. The board awards a limited number of Research Fellowships once a year to assist humanities scholars in major research for articles, books, and other scholarly efforts.

**Keith Petersen**, Idaho's State Historian (**Moscow**), received **\$3,500** to complete a biography of U.S. Army Captain John Mullan (1830-1909), who led the crew in the 1860s that built the Mullan Military Road across northern Idaho, the first engineered highway in the west, stretching more than 600 miles from Walla Walla to Fort Benton, Montana. The road became the corridor for the first telegraph line in North Idaho, the Northern Pacific Railroad, Highway 10, and later Interstate 90.

**Ron Hatzenbuehler**, Idaho State University History Professor (**Pocatello**), received **\$3,500** to complete a book-length comparative study of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. Hatzenbuehler states that while there are numerous studies of each American political icon, there are surprisingly few comparative studies. He plans his book-length comparative study of their positions on race, federalism, citizenship, the power of the presidency, and more to be accessible to the general public.

**Cheryl Hindrichs**, Boise State University Assistant Professor of English (**Boise**), was awarded **\$3,500** to complete a book on late modernism in literature, particularly the works of three major writers, American poet Hilda Doolittle (H.D.), British novelist Virginia Woolf, and German critic Walter Benjamin, who developed the poetics of high modernism. She argues that between 1920 and 1940, writing style and innovation was influenced by social, economic, and political tensions, shifting classes, new technologies, gender ideologies, and more. Her goal would be to complete a book about how writers used forms from other arts (music painting, and cinema) in their writing to respond to the culture of their time.

**Leslie Durham**, Boise State University Associate Professor of Theater Arts (**Boise**), received **\$3,500** to complete a book about the difficulty women playwrights confront in getting their plays performed on American stages. Though a number of contemporary women playwrights have won some of the highest awards for their plays, Durham demonstrates statistically how extremely difficult it has been for women playwrights to have their plays performed. Despite public protests on and off Broadway decrying the injustice of this fact, in 2008, fewer than a fifth of the plays performed were written by women.

**Erika Kuhlman**, Associate Professor of history at Idaho State University (**Pocatello**), was awarded **\$3,500** to complete a book on the history of widows and widowhood, fallen soldiers, their relationship to each other, and to the nation's war memories after WW I. In a book about the aftermath of the Great War, Kuhlman explores not just the stories of the immense number of fallen soldiers, but of the culture of grief, the wives and children left to survive without husbands and fathers, the culture of memory, and how nations chose to grieve and honor the fallen soldiers. Kuhlman will explore not just widowhood among Americans, but of other countries as well. Her aim is to argue

against the notion that the battle front and home fronts during the war were somehow entirely separate from one another.

### **Teacher Incentive Grants:**

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 twice a year to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom.

**Susan Stagliano**, a teacher at Valley View Early Childhood Center (**Bonnors Ferry**), received **\$1,000** for several activities related to the Human Rights activities conducted by the school district in collaboration with the Boundary County Task Force. Included in the project are guest speakers, an essay contest, and a field trip to the museum at North Idaho College. Stagliano hopes to teach students about civic engagement and active citizenship. The programs will provide opportunities for creative humanities education in an under-served and educationally under-funded area of the state.

**Lynn Maciosek and Marilyn Mangum**, teachers from Pinehurst Elementary School (**Pinehurst**), were awarded **\$1,000** to conduct four evening workshops focusing on the cultures of four different countries throughout the school year. The workshops will be open to students and their families and will feature music, art/craft, literature, drama, and games from each country. The four countries to be examined are Africa, Russia, Australia, and China. The teachers have integrated literature in their classroom and plan to use this opportunity to expand the information to a larger community audience.

**The Garden City Library (Garden City)** was awarded **\$1,000** to support their “Bells for Books” program, a mobile literacy project to bring the library to neighborhoods where residents would not have the opportunity to come to the library, specifically serving low-income and non-English-speaking families and at-risk students.

**Douglas StanWiens**, Timberline High School teacher (**Boise**), received **\$952** for “The Boise Architecture Project,” an on-going award-winning program for advanced placement history courses and history club members. The main program is a website with posted photos and short summaries of Boise’s historic buildings. It has existed for about four years and has documented over 150 buildings. This year they plan to document about 50 more buildings. The project goals are for students to learn local history, appreciate different architectural styles, and contribute their research to the community. This year they will also expand the project to include a third-grade collaboration with Collister Elementary School.

**Madelaine Love**, English and History teacher at Skyline High School (**Idaho Falls**), was awarded **\$500** to help support the Field Science/English class, incorporating Senior English research and writing with laboratory science classes. The paper is the required senior research paper. Students may write on any subject dealing with Idaho and the environment. The students share their work with parents and also are involved in a Museum of Idaho contest.

**Sandra Gray**, Washington Elementary teacher (**Pocatello**), received **\$1,000** to bring author Gary Hogg to the school for a one-day workshop on writing. Hogg will present an all-school assembly, conduct grade-level writing workshops to each class, and then present a workshop to teachers. The program will also include an ISU student working in the classroom with students on writing skills, and a workshop on new writing skills presented by ISU professor Janice Klug.

### **Picturing America Grants:**

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded several Idaho libraries the ***Picturing America*** package of 40 large, high-quality reproductions of selected American masterpieces. These pictures allow citizens to learn about history and culture in a fresh way. They help introduce library patrons to their artistic heritage, and provide an opportunity for them to gain a deeper appreciation for American history. The Idaho Humanities Council awarded six grants for library programs exploring aspects these masterpieces.

**American Falls District Library (American Falls)** received **\$500** to support a special Veteran's Day commemoration, featuring a scholar lecture and an essay contest. **Harriet Newlin** is the project director.

**Burley Public Library (Burley)** was awarded **\$500** for a presentation by Idaho State University Political Science Professor David Adler on the Bill of Rights. **Valerie Bame** is the project director.

**Jerome Public Library (Jerome)** received **\$650** for both student and adult art classes incorporating several historical photographs from the sets, and the methods of producing the art depicted in the pictures. The project director is **Laura Burnett**.

**The Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center (Blackfoot)** was awarded **\$500** to support classes on Native American history, a day-long program presented by Brenda Honena on local Native American traditions, and a "finger feast" held just before Thanksgiving. **Shirley Virgin** is the project director.

**The Coeur d'Alene Public Library (Coeur d'Alene)** received **\$1,000** to help support a program titled "Fiber & Fabric: Art Born of Necessity." They will host an exhibit of locally crafted quilts, knitting and weaving in November, will have a demonstration day with hands-on introductions to these crafts, and will feature a guest speaker, Idaho State University Art Professor Rudy Kovacs. **David Townsend** is the project director.

**Hayden Library (Hayden)** received **\$1,800** to help support the first three speaker presentations in an eight month series from October 2009 through June 2010. Joanne Klein, Boise State University History Professor, will present "The Murder Mysteries' View of British History," addressing racism and anti-Semitic views in literature. William Johnson, retired Professor of English at Lewis-Clark State College, will present "Thoreau: Wilderness and the Wild," exploring the art of wilderness and the role of

nature in our daily lives. Janet Worthington, an adjunct English Professor at Boise State University, will present an historical portrayal of Louisa May Alcott and discuss the stories woven into quilts, their historical significance and ties that connect a community. **Karen Yother** is the project director.

### **Planning Grants:**

Planning grants are awarded at any time to assist sponsors in planning and developing projects.

**The University of Idaho (Moscow)** received **\$1,000** to support research and planning of a UI History Week for high school teachers. The project director is **Ian Chambers**.

**Idaho State University (Pocatello)** received **\$1,000** to support planning meetings and two “pilot” community presentations in American Falls and Lava Hot Springs for the “Big Read” project, which encourages communities to read and discuss the same literary works. The project director is **Sherri Dienstfrey**.

**Rathdrum/Westwood Historical Society (Rathdrum)** was awarded **\$1,000** to support a planning meeting with several consultants to develop an interpretive plan for renovating the old Kootenai County jail and the annex near it as a museum with historical displays and research space. **Ellen Larsen** is the project director.

**Cassia County Museum (Burley)** received **\$1,000** to support scholar consultants Keith Petersen, Mary Reed, and Tom Blanchard in setting long-range goals to enhance interpretation of the museum’s collections. **Valerie Bowen** is the project director.

**Folksinger Rosalie Sorrels (Boise)** was awarded **\$1,000** to support preparation of a booklet to accompany an album of traditional and regional folk music. The booklet will provide extensive interpretive information about the history and stories behind the music on the recording. **Sorrels** is the project director.

**Trailing of the Sheep Festival (Hailey)** was awarded **\$1,000** to support planning for an archival project that will assemble 13 years of the recorded histories, stories and traditional accounts of sheep life around Idaho and the west. The planning team will include Western Folklife Center scholars. The project director is **Mary Austin**.

**Ana Maria Schachtell (Boise)** received **\$750** to support creation of a CD based on the books *Latinos in Idaho* and *Jesus Urquides: Idaho’s Premier Muleteer*. Alicia Garza, Kathy Hodges, and Maria Carmen Cambliel will serve as consultants. The ultimate goal will be a workshop on corridos (storytelling through music), with the students and local musicians creating a series of corridos about Hispanic historical figures over the past 150 years. The project director is **Ana Maria Schachtell**.

### **The Next Deadlines for IHC Grants:**

The next deadlines for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals are **January 15 and September 15, 2010**. 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 before the deadline. Grant guidelines and application forms, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC's website at [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org), or by calling 208-345-5346.