

October Newsletter

In looking back at my work over the past thirty years, I found a commonality among the Montana culture heroes and heroines about whom I've written or whose work I've published. They have been, without exception, people who possessed generosity of spirit, an exceptional openness to the New, and a profound sense of curiosity.

~ Rick Newby, accepting the Governor's Humanities Award, June 4, 2009
(comments continue below)

October is Arts and Humanities Month—Celebrate!

Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger has declared October Arts and Humanities Month in Montana. Let's celebrate these vital and interconnected human achievements, the performing and reflective arts. You'll find many possibilities below, ranging from participating in book festivals and conferences to bringing the humanities to bear on some of the most pressing public affairs issues of our day.

We'll add that Humanities Montana is coordinating with the Missoula Cultural Council to sponsor a panel, "Art Forum: Art and Civic Engagement," Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm at a location in Missoula to be determined. We have already confirmed that art historian Rafael Chacon and Speakers Bureau presenter Katie Knight will participate. Check out this [website](#) for updates.

"Humanities Montana is considering many new programs. Please rate the appeal of the following ideas."

As part of our five-year Self-Assessment, Humanities Montana has developed a [survey](#) to find out how we're doing and where we might go from here. Click [here](#) and you're good to go—the survey will only take a few minutes. Feel free to encourage others to do so as well. And if you need a paper copy, please let us know your name and address and we'll get that to you. Our deadline for receiving all responses is December 1, 2009. We'll share the results next spring.

Montana Festival of the Book, October 22-24, Missoula

The 2009 Montana Festival of the Book schedule is up on the [website](#). Some events may change, so check back frequently. The full schedule with author bios and panel descriptions will appear in the *Missoulian Entertainer* on Thursday, October 15. Special events this year include:

- "The (Mis)Education of Archilde Leon: The Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools," moderated by Jodi Rave, with Raymond Cross, Kathleen Little Leaf and Mary Jane Charlo, Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 pm, Missoula Public Library
- "The Last Good Kiss: An Appreciation of James Crumley," moderated by Michael Koepf, with Dennis Lehane, George Pelecanos, Laura Lippman, and James Grady, Thursday, October 22, 3:00 pm, The Wilma
- An interview with the creator of *The Wire*, David Simon, along with *Wire* co-producer and co-writer, and best-selling novelist, George Pelecanos, Saturday, October 24, 1:00 pm, Holiday Inn Downtown

- Montana Poetry Salon, with poetry advocates from around the state, Saturday, October 24, The Governor's Room, Florence Hotel
- Three nights of Gala Readings featuring David Sedaris, Dennis Lehane, Andrew Sean Greer, Maile Meloy, Kevin Canty, Marianne Wiggins, and James Lee Burke.

Henry Real Bird Named Montana's Poet Laureate

Governor Brian Schweitzer has appointed Henry Real Bird of Garryowen as Montana's poet laureate. Real Bird is a rancher and former rodeo cowboy who raises champion bucking horses. He has been featured at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada and has published 12 children's books, a poetry book, *Where Shadows Are Born*, and has an audio compact disc, *Rivers of Horse*. Real Bird has won the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and was featured in the award-winning documentary *Why the Cowboy Sings*. He is the third Montana Poet Laureate and succeeds Greg Pape. Congratulations many times over.

Join the Discussion: One Book Montana, *The Surrounded*

The statewide discussion of D'Arcy McNickle's *The Surrounded* is already well underway and will continue fall, winter, and spring. We've set up a [resources page](#) at the Humanities Roundtable. Drop in to see what others have to say about this influential early Indian novel—and share your own views in the discussion forum. Dorothea Susag will serve as discussion moderator. She is a retired English teacher, Indian Education Curriculum Specialist, and author of the NCTE publication, *Roots and Branches: A Resource of Native American Literature Themes, Lessons, and Bibliographies* (1998). Dottie also will be leading a town discussion of *The Surrounded* at the Montana Festival of the Book, Saturday, October 24, 1:00 pm, Missoula Public Library.

Grants Awarded, July-September

- **Carroll College Literary Festival**, Carroll College, Helena, \$600. A two-day festival organized by the students and faculty of the Senior English Seminar, features Carroll students and members of the larger community reading their own writing along with author Maile Meloy, November 12-13, 2009.
- **2009 Helena Festival of the Book**, Helena Festival of the Book, Helena, \$1,500. The 8th annual Helena Festival, will feature Great Falls-born poet George Economou, a lecture and panel on the life and works of Thomas Savage, and a presentation on the 2009 One Book Montana selection *The Surrounded*, September 25-26, 2009
- **The Big Read: Love Medicine—a Bold Look at Native American Culture**, Young Men's Christian Association, Billings, \$3,800. Public readings, panel discussions, theatrical presentations, historic exhibitions and writing workshops in Billings, six counties in south central Montana and on the Crow and Cheyenne Reservations from September 25 to November 1, 2009.
- **Failure to Inform: Is There a Looming Media Crisis in Montana?** Burton K. Wheeler Center, Bozeman, \$4,500. A conference co-hosted by University of Montana on the belief that the maintenance of democracy is directly linked to an accurately informed

citizenry, featuring Dorothy Bradley, William Marcus, David McCumber and others, Missoula, September 30-October 1.

- **NEH Picturing America—Planning/Focus Group**, Billings Cultural Partners, \$3,760. A planning meeting to develop a full application to the NEH for a Picturing America conference for teachers in Eastern Montana, to be held in the fall of 2010. Billings, September 19, 2009.
- **Butte Digital Film Process**, Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, \$3,500. A video/history program for teens working with mentors to document their communities, ongoing through July 2010.
- **One Book—One Bozeman**, The Bozeman Public Library Foundation, Bozeman, \$1,000. Community-wide program focusing on *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship and the Redemptive Power of Music*, which will include activities throughout the month of September at the public library, MSU campus and other venues.
- **A Conversation on Death with Dignity**, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, \$1,000. This grant will fund a facilitated conference call that will bring together a variety of people to discuss the emergent issues surrounding Death with Dignity and the Montana Supreme Court ruling on end of life decision-making, leading to formal conferences on these issues.
- **Historic Main Street Sidney Audio Tour**, Mondak Heritage Center, \$750. A grant to fund an audio tour for the Historic Main Street Sidney exhibit.
- **Literary Trail Map**, Missoula Public Library, Missoula, \$1,000. This grant will fund the development of an online map focused on the 2009 One Book selection, *The Surrounded*.

Upcoming Grant Proposal Deadlines

Our next grant proposal deadline **for regular grants** (\$5,000 or under) is **November 20**. Our next deadline for **major grants** (over \$5,000), **fellowships**, and **book subvention grants** is **December 20**. Full information on grants guidelines and deadlines is available at [Grants](#).

Rick Newby's Comments Continued

I'd like to conclude with a few words about Frieda Fligelman, who from her birthplace of Helena, spent the 1920s in Paris, where she analyzed unwritten African languages, concluding that they were, in Alex Swaney's words, "as complex as modern European languages." . . . Later acknowledged as a founder of sociolinguistics, Frieda was curious about absolutely everything, and upon her return to Helena later in life, she continued her researches. Frieda was a poet (and Drumlummon Institute has recently published her selected poems), but it was in her inventories of topics she would like to explore that we see the inexhaustibility of her curiosity about language and culture. . . .

October Humanities Montana-Supported Events

- October 2 & 3, 2009 "*The Big Read: Love Medicine-A Bold Look at Native American Culture*," Young Men's Christian Association, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, Western Heritage

Center, MSU Billings downtown campus, Billings (for a complete listing of events, please [click here](#)).

- October 3-4, 2009 “Discover the Seasons of Traveler’s Rest,” Traveler’s Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, each day starting around 10 am, Traveler’s Rest State Park, Lolo
- October 6, 2009 Speakers Bureau “Penny Post Cards: Homesteading Women,” presented by Philip Burgess, 7:00 pm, Drummond School/Community Library, Drummond
- October 10, 2009 Speakers Bureau “Mark Twain in Montana,” presented by Michael Delaney, 7:00 pm Virginia City
- October 14, 2009 Speakers Bureau, “Sidesaddles and Geysers: Women’s Adventures in Early Yellowstone,” presented by Mark M. Miller, 1:00 pm, Big Sky
- October 15, 2009 Grant, “Our Nation, Our Neighborhood: Montana Perspectives,” Western Heritage Center, with John Williams, Mayor, Miles City on the Role of Optimism in Community Leadership, 12 pm, Western Heritage Center, Billings
- October 15, 2009 Speakers Bureau “War Poetry: The Poetry is in the Pity,” presented by Lisa Simon, 7:00 pm, Lewis and Clark Library, Helena
- October 18, 2009 Speakers Bureau “Haunted Montana,” presented by Karen Stevens, 7:00 pm, Lewistown Public Library, Lewistown
- October 20, 2009 Speakers Bureau “Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate,” presented by Katie Knight, 5:30 pm, Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, Bozeman
- October 20, 2009 Speakers Bureau “Soaking Up the History of Montana’s Hot Springs Resorts,” presented by Jeff Birkby, 7:00 pm, Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton
- October 22-26, 2009 “The Montana Festival of the Book,” Humanities Montana, click here for the [event schedule](#) and venues, Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula Public Library, The Wilma, MAM...etc.
- October 26-28, 2009 “Montana Gracious Space Facilitator Conference,” 3-day workshop on civic discourse, for application and further details, call (406) 212-7242, Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell
- October 29, 2009 Dillon Grant “Dances with Words,” University of Montana-Western, 7:30 pm, The CUP Coffeehouse, University of Montana-Western, Dillon

Donate to Humanities Montana

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Thanks to our Generous Supporters August and September 2009

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For More Information...

Humanities Montana is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the humanities to Montana, enriching the intellectual, cultural, and civic lives of its residents. Much more information on Humanities Montana and its many programs and services is available on our [website](#). Write us at 311 Brantly, Missoula, MT, 59812-7848, or info@humanitiesmontana.org, or call us at 406-243-6022, toll-free in Montana, 1-800-624-6001.

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