

Arizona Humanities Council

Sharing cultures. Enriching communities.

Arizona Humanities Council E-Newsletter

September 2009

Message from the Executive Director



It has been said that real peace comes from enlightenment and educating people to behave in a more divine manner. Perhaps then it can be said as well that the humanities are agents of peace, illuminating the intersections between faith and reason, poetry and science, offering an urgently needed counterpoint to the shrill noise of current debate.

The launch of the Arizona Humanities Council's new e-newsletter coincides with our initiative to highlight and celebrate the value and relevance of the humanities in cultivating a more civil society: During the month of October (National Arts and Humanities Month), the Arizona Humanities Experience is the Council's invitation to citizens throughout the state to sample the vast array of programs in museums, libraries, community colleges, and universities, and churches that collectively fuels habits of the mind. The Experience culminates with the Lorraine W. Frank Humanities Lecture on October 9th, featuring the renowned international poet, Naomi Shihab Nye. Her presentation, *Our Shared Humanity*, will provide a framework for what we

believe is a necessarily longer and deeper probing of the ingredients that define our 'sense of place' in a civil society and ensure its sustainability. Over the next few years, as we approach Arizona's Centennial in 2012 and AHC's 40th anniversary in 2013, we will strive to promote habits of the mind and employ this e-newsletter as a portal to the activities dedicated to that end.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Arizona Humanities Council e-newsletter!

Herb Paine
Executive Director

19th Annual Lorraine W. Frank Lecture & Awards



On Friday, October 9th, the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC) presents the 19th Annual Lorraine W. Frank Lecture and Awards, a free event held at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. This annual event highlights the humanities and honors AHC's founding executive director Lorraine Weiss Frank, whose dedication to the humanities was recognized by presidents, governors, colleagues and friends. Over the past nineteen years, the lecture has featured many renowned speakers including David McCullough, Stewart Udall, Rita Dove, Sonia Nazario and Dennis Ross.

We are proud to present acclaimed award-winning poet, writer, anthropologist, and educator, Naomi Shihab Nye, as this year's speaker. Naomi describes herself as a "wandering poet." She has spent 33 years traveling the country and the world to lead writing workshops and inspiring students of all ages. Nye was born to a Palestinian father and an American mother and grew up in St. Louis, Jerusalem, and San Antonio. Naomi Shihab Nye will share her stories as a wandering poet in Asia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Middle East and offers her insights and inspiration about our shared humanity in addressing these challenges.

Naomi has received numerous awards for her works which include: *You and Yours* (a

In This Issue

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Arizona Humanities Council

The Ellis-Shackelford House
1242 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

www.azhumanities.org

602-257-0335

bestselling poetry book of 2006), *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*, *Fuel* (a collection of poems about the Middle East), *Red Suitcase* and *Hugging the Jukebox*. Most recently, her collection of poems for young adults entitled *Honeybee* won the 2008 Arab American Book Award in the Children's/Young Adult category.

Meet Naomi Shihab Nye at an exclusive pre-lecture cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. The reception will also take place at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel from 5:30 - 7p.m. Tickets for the reception are \$100 per person which is a tax-deductible gift that supports the work of the Arizona Humanities Council.

The recipients of this year's humanities awards will also be honored at the event. The Dan Shilling Public Humanities Scholar Award and Juliana Yoder Friend of Humanities Award will be presented. These awards recognize humanities scholars, individuals, and organizations that have made lasting contributions to the cultural life of their communities.

Please join us for this remarkable evening on Friday, October 9th at 7:30pm at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. The event is free and open to the public; however reservations are highly encouraged, as space is limited. You may reserve your seat(s) by calling 602-257-0335 x 25 or emailing jgavin@azhumanities.org

Dr. James Byrkit - The First AHC Humanities Scholar Awardee, 1990

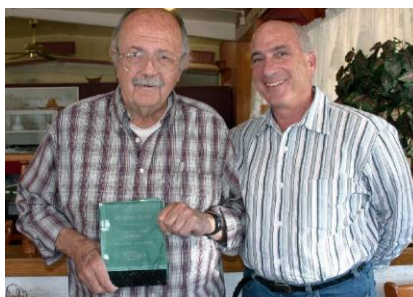
By Herb Paine, AHC's Executive Director

In only a few years, the Arizona Humanities Council will embark upon its fifth decade of operation. In this context, I have been mindful often of the countless individuals who have shared the commitment to bring the humanities to the people and on whose shoulders we build. Among these champions of the humanities have been the recipients of AHC's Humanities Scholar and Friend of the Humanities Awards.

Dr. James Byrkit, professor emeritus at the Department of History at Northern Arizona University, was the first recipient of the Humanities Scholar Award in 1990. From 1975-76, he created the first media project funded by AHC, a 16 mm movie, *The Verde Valley: A Fragile Refuge*. The film received great acclaim for its expressed concerns regarding the environmental degradation of the area. It was he who wrote the proposal and secured AHC funding for the Arizona Women's Commission's initiative to create the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. As a public scholar of conscience, he authored *Forging the Copper Collar*, the most detailed political history of the 1917 Bisbee Deportation. Jim created a number of other AHC-supported mixed-media programs, and, in turn, in the course of over two decades, reflecting his dedication to the humanities, made dozens of humanities presentations to the public all around Arizona.

One of the great joys of my early days as the Council's executive was to meet Jim. We met at the Amish Café in Black Canyon City last October. Although my initial purpose was to replace his damaged 1990 certificate, we spent several hours together wherein he regaled me with memories of humanities past and the issues that he addressed with passion and insight through his scholarship. I was inspired and immediately in admiration of this gentle man whose sense of history and ethics framed the concerns that are today expressed in conversation regarding sustainability and environmentalism and whose actions define public scholarship.

As our meeting neared its end, he told me how much he treasured the many years of his involvement with the Arizona Humanities Council. When I removed the new plaque from its box, we both gasped as we realized that it was eighteen years to the day since the Arizona Humanities Council had recognized him with the Humanities Scholar Award.



On the Road with Humanities AHC's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

AHC's Speakers Bureau program has a new name! AHC is pleased to announce the launch of the Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, which brings engaging, thought-provoking humanities programs to diverse audiences throughout Arizona. In November 2009, a new roster of Road Scholars will be announced, allowing nonprofit organizations and institutions the opportunity to offer high-quality, free public humanities programs to local audiences.

Interested in hosting a Road Scholar Speakers Bureau program at your organization? [AHC's web site](#) has a complete listing of speakers, presentation abstracts, eligibility and program

info@azhumanities.org

Quick Links

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Upcoming Book Discussions & Speakers Bureau Programs

[Calendar of Events](#)

September 23

The Grapes of Wrath, a book discussion
Prescott Public Library,
Prescott

September 24

The Crooked Trail to Holbrook
with Greg Scott
Payson Public Library, Payson

September 30

*How Wild Was It? An Overview
of Crime and Justice in Arizona
Territory*, with Paul Hietter
Sunland Village East
Auditorium, Mesa

October 7

*Arizona Opera: Introduction to
Cosi fan tutte*
ASU Kerr Cultural Center,
Scottsdale

October 12

*River of History: A Gila
Journey*, a presentation by
Greg McNamee
Heard Museum, Phoenix

October 12

*Arizona Territorial Medicine:
Healers, Hucksters, and
Heroes*, a presentation by
Robert Kravetz
Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale

October 13

Lincoln at 200, a presentation
by Brooks Simpson
Mesa Community College
Library, Mesa

October 14

*Armed with our Language, We
Went to War: The Diné/Navajo*

requirements which will assist you in planning your program.

Interested in attending a Road Scholar Speakers Bureau program in your community? Visit [AHC's Calendar of Events](#) to find a program near you!

Explore Great Books - Together! AHC's Community Book Discussions

Explore a new book by engaging in conversation! AHC's Community Book Discussion program is designed to explore human cultures, perspectives, and values through literature. This exciting, community-based program invites skilled facilitators to guide the discussion and help participants work their way through the meaningful and sometimes challenging issues that good literature evokes. Interested in starting your own community book discussion? Eligible organizations and institutions receive 20 copies of the book, a study guide, and a humanities scholar to lead the discussion.

AHC expanded its library for 2010! Below are seven new books that are now available:

Capirotada: A Nogales Memoir
by Alberto Ríos (2009 ONEBOOKAZ)

In *Capirotada*, Alberto Ríos shares his experiences growing up in Nogales, Arizona where he learned to value the unique cultural mix of the area, much like *capirotada*, a Mexican bread pudding, made with lots of different ingredients and traditionally served at Lent. Ríos came of age among a mixture of peoples, ideas, and traditions in both his community and his family (his mother is from England, his father from Mexico).

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Time and Materials by Robert Haas (Pulitzer Prize Poetry winner, 2008)

The Bingo Palace by Louise Erdich

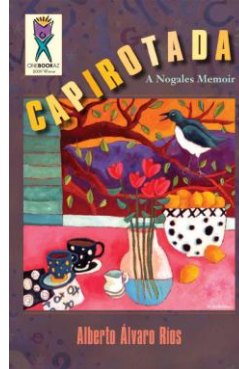
The Pick-up by Nadine Gordimer

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace by Greg Mortenson

Interested in hosting a community book discussion? Visit [AHC web site](#) for a full listing of fiction and nonfiction titles, eligibility, and program requirements.

Interested in attending a book discussion visit [AHC's Calendar of Events](#)!



Code Talkers, a presentation
by Laura Tohe
Sedona Winds, Sedona

October 20
Fahrenheit 451, a book
discussion
Sunrise Mountain Library,
Peoria

October 21
*Science and Faith: Darwin's
200th Birthday*
La Sala Ballroom B, ASU West
campus

October 22
Names on the Land, a
presentation by Greg
McNamee
Payson Public Library, Payson

October 23
¡Que Vivan Los Muertos!
*Annual Día de los Muertos
Festival Exhibit*, a panel
discussion
ASU, Museum of Anthropology,
Tempe

October 29
¡Que Vivan Los Muertos!
*Annual Día de los Muertos
Festival Exhibit*, a public
presentation
ASU, Museum of Anthropology,
Tempe

November 4
Arizona Opera: Intro to Salome
ASU Kerr Cultural Center,
Scottsdale

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