



Arizona Humanities Council

Sharing cultures. Enriching communities.

Humanities Now

November 2011

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Arizona Humanities Council

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[Upcoming Book Discussion & Speakers Bureau Programs](#)

11/07/2011
Cora Viola Slaughter,
Southern Arizona
Ranchwoman, a Road
Scholar program with Reba
Wells Grandrud
Casa de Esperanza
Community Center, Green
Valley

11/10/2011
Arizona Place Names, a
Road Scholar program with
Greg McNamee
Elsie S. Hogan Community
Library, Willcox



Thank You
to our Sponsor



Thank you to everyone who attended the inaugural [Arizona Humanities Festival: Stories of Us!](#)

On Saturday, October 22, the Arizona Humanities Council hosted an day-long festival at the Civic Space Park in downtown Phoenix that was filled with activities and programs for the whole family. The APS Performance Stage was host to colorful Chinese Lion dancing, animated storytelling, musical performances, lively dancing, and high-energy drum beats from Japanese Taiko Drummers that resonated throughout the park.



Families and children enjoyed the Families Activities Area; having their face painted, enjoying storytelling, making Dia de los Muertos masks and learning Chinese calligraphy. PBS characters Maya & Miguel, Curious George and Clifford the Big Red Dog made appearances throughout the day and posed for pictures with attendees.

Engaging speakers gave presentations on a wide range of topics, including the history of hip hop, the politics of hair and race, and early Arizona women artists. Attendees enjoyed film screenings and interactive discussions with the filmmakers. Authors gave their perspective on writing children's books, engaging teen audiences, and the essentials of having your own book published.

A very special thank you to our sponsors, APS and the Arizona Commission on the Arts, program partners, booth exhibitors, and the volunteer groups who helped make the Arizona Humanities Festival possible.

[Click here to see photos from the Festival on our Facebook page.](#)

11/11/2011

Geologic Field Learning for Archaeologists, a Road Scholar program with Wayne Ranney Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Cave Creek Arizona Archaeological Society

11/12/2011

19th Century Arizona Through the Stereoscope, a Road Scholar program with Jeremy Rowe Rosson House Museum, Phoenix

"Interwoven Traditions: The Cultural Legacy of Southwestern Textiles," an exhibit opening with Barbara Teller Ornelas Amerind Foundation, Dragoon

Monumental Places: Arizona's National Parks and Monuments, a Road Scholar program with Greg McNamee Pima County Public Library, Joel Valdez Main Branch, Tucson

The Pima Villages: Oasis at a Cultural Crossroads, a Road Scholar program with Jim Turner Pima County Public Library, Salazar-Ajo Branch, Ajo

11/13/2011

Healthseekers in Arizona, a Road Scholar program with Robert Kravetz Pinal County Historical Museum, Florence

The Architectural History of the University of Arizona Campus, a Road Scholar program with Albrecht Classen Agua Caliente Park, Tucson

11/14/2011

The Pima Villages: Oasis at a Cultural Crossroads, a Road Scholar program with Jim Turner Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix

The History of the River Runners, a Road Scholar program with Todd Weber Monte Vista Village Resort, Mesa

AHC Board Elects New Chair & Vice Chair

Thomas H. Wilson, Ph.D. & Maire Simington, Ph.D.

The Arizona Humanities Council (AHC) is pleased to announce newly elected **Board Chair Thomas H. Wilson, Ph.D.** and **Vice Chair Maire Simington, Ph.D.**



Board Chair, Thomas H. Wilson, Ph.D. has been a board member for six years and has served as Vice Chair and on the Grants Review, Marketing and Development, Board Development, and Advocacy committees. Dr. Wilson has extensive experience in the humanities and with state humanities councils; he was a Museum Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities, where he oversaw funding for significant museum programs nationwide. Dr. Wilson is the Director of the Arizona Museum of Natural History (Mesa). Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. from the University of New Mexico and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in anthropology, and a J.D. from the University of Maryland.

Vice Chair, Maire Simington, Ph.D. has been on the AHC board for five years and has served on the Executive, Advocacy, AHC Personnel Policies & Benefits, Awards committees. She has chaired the Marketing and Public Relations Committee and currently serves as the Board Development Chair. She is the Director of Physician Resources and Care Management Services at Banner Health. She has an extensive background in marketing and communications and has won numerous awards from the International Association of Business Communicators. Maire earned her Ph.D. in English at Arizona State University where she also earned Master's in English. Additionally, she holds an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix and Bachelor's in English from Hofstra University.



Wilson and Simington will serve a two-year term with fellow Executive Committee Officers: Treasurer Evan Burks, Secretary Shirley McKean, and Past Chair Dr. Neal A. Lester. The Arizona Humanities Council Board of Directors is comprised of 20 members. [Click here to learn more about AHC's Board Members.](#)

11/15/2011

Gilbert History Awards
Town of Gilbert Council
Chambers, Gilbert
"Death Comes for the
Archbishop," a book
discussion
Copper Queen Library,
Bisbee

11/16/2011

The History of the River
Runners of the Grand
Canyon, a Road Scholar
program with Todd Weber
Fountain Hills Community
Center, Fountain Hills
"Wildfire: A Reader," a
book discussion
Sierra Vista Public Library,
Sierra Vista

11/17/2011

Armed With our Language,
We Went to War: The
Navajo Code Talkers, a
Road Scholar program with
Laura Tohe
Florence Community
Library, Florence

11/19/2011

The Changing Face of the
Arizona Border, a workshop
for educators
ASU Memorial Union,
Alumni Room 202, Tempe
John Wesley Powell, a
Chautauqua program Todd
Weber
Church of the Holy Nativity,
Payson

11/20/2011

Pauline Weaver and the
Mountain Men of the West,
a Road Scholar program
with Todd Weber
Prescott Public Library,
Prescott

11/21/2011

Armed with our Language,
We Went to War: The
Diné/Navajo Code Talkers,
a Road Scholar program
with Laura Tohé
Fountain of the Sun
Community Association,
Mesa

"The Age of Innocence," a
book discussion
Sedona Winds, Sedona

Join Our Mailing List!

A Message from Tom Wilson, AHC Chair

The Arizona Humanities Council (AHC) has been extraordinarily fortunate to benefit from the leadership of Dr. Neal A. Lester as chair over the last two years.

Indeed, since Neal joined the AHC board in 2006, he has continually provided the institution with thoughtful, articulate and knowledgeable insights and guidance. In just the last year, Neal has led processes that gave AHC new strategic and development plans with which to navigate the future. The strategic plan will allow us to position AHC more forcefully and effectively as a flagship organization for the

humanities in Arizona. The development plan is a framework for us to build the financial resources necessary for the council robustly to continue support for humanities activities statewide. This fall, AHC presented the first annual Arizona Humanities Festival, *Stories of Us*. The festival allowed visitors young and old to experience the humanities through storytelling, speakers, performances, exhibits, film screenings and other activities. It was a great way to savor the humanities in action.

As we all recognize, a variety of factors today stress many of society's institutions. Many of us are dedicated to the idea that the humanities enrich our individual lives and contribute to a more enlightened and civil dialogue with which to address our common problems. Over the next two years, I hope to build upon the foundation that Neal and the board have given AHC to make the humanities a more active and creative force in our personal and civic lives.

Thomas H. Wilson
AHC Chair

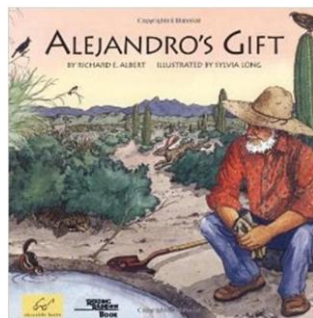


Dr. Neal A. Lester was presented with a doll in his likeness in appreciation for his service as AHC Chair.

Motheread/ Fatheread at the Pascua Yaqui Pueblo

By Frederica Leonardo-Torres

"The Motheread/Fatheread program has helped our tribal people become more confident in their reading. Elders have learned that reading to their grandchildren helps them with their schooling. Young parents have learned that reading to their babies helps their child become better prepared for preschool. Literacy is now an important word for our tribal people." Amalia A.M. Reyes, Supervisor of The Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Dr. Fernando Escalante Community Library and Resource Center.



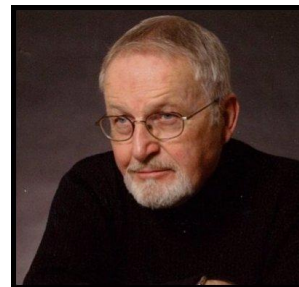
Since 2006, Motheread/Fatheread® has taken place each summer on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Community Library and Resource Center. Motheread/Fatheread, Inc. is a national family literacy teaching organization that combines the teaching of literacy skills with child development and family empowerment issues. Parents

and children learn to use the power of language to discover more about themselves, their families, and their communities. Between 2006 and 2009, AHC provided training in the Motherread® curriculum to family literacy programs, elementary schools, social service agencies, correctional facilities, community centers, and libraries that serve parents and children.

To the many participants in the Pasua Yaqui Tribe's Community Center, the program has sparked a passionate exploration of literacy as an *experience*, as an *art* and as a *process*. Over time, the program has also made a profound effect on the participants' overall attitude about reading, and basic literacy skills they can share with their children. In early 2011 Paul, a young father participating in the program, was instrumental in developing an evaluation specifically developed to the Pascua Yaqui participants and their families. *"I choose my books wisely because my daughter likes baby books as opposed to books for older kids. I look forward to reading time or as she calls it our learning sessions."* Despite budget cuts to the Motherread/Fatheread® program in Arizona, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe program continues to flourish.

In Memory of Richard Wentz

We recently received the sad news about the passing of one of our Speakers Bureau speakers, Richard Wentz, Ph.D. He had been part of the Speakers Bureau since 2004 and gave presentations on Religion, Politics and American Public Life. Dr. Wentz was the founder and chairman of the Religious Studies Department at the Arizona State University. He was the author of numerous articles and books, including "Why People Do Bad Things in the Name of Religion" and "American Religious Traditions: The Shaping of Religion in the United States." AHC was privileged to have Dr. Richard Wentz as part of our organization. Our deepest condolences go out to his friends and family.



October 2011 Grant Awards

Through Project Grants, the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC) supports innovative, community-based projects and partnerships that use history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to strengthen and enhance civic life across Arizona. In its most recent funding cycle, AHC awarded \$73,249 to support thirteen programs that engage the general public with the humanities. The grant recipients and their programs are:

- **The Loft Cinema**, TUCSON "Human Rights Watch Film Festival" \$10,000
- **Arizona Women's Heritage Trail**, RIO VERDE "AWHT Women's Suffrage Centennial Public Forums" \$10,000
- **Pascua Yaqui Tribe**, TUCSON "In Maala Tehwak- My Mother Told Me" \$5,000
- **Maricopa Community College District, KBAQ FM**, TEMPE "Hearing the Century: Voices from Arizona's Past and Present" \$5,000
- **ASU, Department of History**, TEMPE "The Pride: Making History Every Day" \$5,000
- **Arizona Historical Society, Southern AZ Division**, TUCSON "100 Years, 100 Quilts, 100 Days" \$10,000

- **Desert Caballeros Western Museum, WICKENBURG** "100 Years, 100 Ranchers"\$4,800
- **Tucson Museum of Art, TUCSON** "Pre-Columbian Art, an online catalog"\$8,449
- **ASU, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, PHOENIX** "Arizona's Constitution and Our Political Culture: The Progressive Roots"\$5,000
- **University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum, TUCSON** "Basketry Treasured"\$10,000

[Click here for more information about the above programs.](#)

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these programs do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Project Grants are competitive awards for innovative, community-based projects and partnerships that connect Arizonans to humanities scholarship through public programming. [Click to learn more about Project Grants.](#)

Free AHC Grants & Programs Workshops

The Arizona Humanities Council invites you to attend our upcoming Grants & Program Workshops. The workshops are **free** of charge, and open to anyone interested in learning more about the Arizona Humanities Council, its available resources, or how to write a competitive AHC grant proposal.

When: Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Where: AHC's Office
1242 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004

When: Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Where: Tohono Chul Park
7366 N. Paseo del Norte, Tucson, AZ 85704

[Register to attend a workshop today!](#)

www.azhumanities.org