

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXPERIENCE EXCITING HISTORICAL FIGURES WITH *HISTORY ALIVE!*
*Travel back in time and meet George Bird Grinnell on February 24th and
Sharlot Hall on March 1st at Arizona Humanities in downtown Phoenix*

Phoenix, AZ – Listen to thrilling tales of adventure in the territorial American West. Arizona Humanities welcomes Hugh Grinnell as George Bird Grinnell, founder of the first Audubon Society and Jody Drake as Sharlot Hall, Arizona’s first female historian to share their stories and history. Hugh Grinnell and Jody Drake will present as historical figures, and answer questions from the figure’s perspective. Each will end by stepping out of character and answering questions as themselves, providing context and insight.

Both programs are free, family-friendly and take place from 6:00-7:30p.m. at Arizona Humanities in downtown Phoenix (1242 N. Central Avenue - Phoenix, AZ 85004). The public is invited to attend these family-friendly programs with refreshments included. Seating is limited and guests are encouraged to RSVP at www.azhumanities.org or by calling 602-257-0335.

Wednesday, February 24th - The Explorations of George Bird Grinnell, The Father of Glacier National Park with Hugh Grinnell

The great West that George Bird Grinnell first encountered in 1870 as a 21-year old man was shortly to disappear before his eyes. Nobody was quicker to sense the desecration or was more eloquent in crusading against the poachers, the hidehunters, and the disengaged U.S. Congress than George Bird Grinnell, the “Father of American Conservation.” Grinnell founded the first Audubon Society, cofounded the Boone and Crockett Club with Teddy Roosevelt, and led the effort to establish Glacier National Park. Audiences will travel back in time to the 19th century, listening to Grinnell’s own words as taken from his field journals, memoirs, personal correspondence, and newspaper editorials.

Tuesday, March 1st - Arizona’s Territorial Historian, Poet, and Activist Sharlot Hall with Jody Drake

Sharlot Mabridth Hall was an unusual woman for her time: a largely self-educated but highly literate child of the frontier. Born October 27, 1870, she traveled with her family from Kansas to the Arizona Territory in 1882. Her impressions of this journey remained with her all of her life. She loved ideas and the written arts and expressed her fascination with Arizona frontier life through prose and poetry. She was the Arizona Territories first female historian. Her diligent efforts inspired others to contribute to the preservation of early Arizona history. After her death on April 9, 1943 a historical society continued her efforts to build the complex that bears her name.

About Hugh Grinnell: *Hugh Grinnell received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The University of Arizona. Since his retirement in 2004, Grinnell has studied the history of the great American West. After discovering an old Great Northern Railway (GNR) passenger car named “Grinnell Glacier,” he researched the car’s name, only to learn that the glacier was named in honor of the efforts of George Bird Grinnell, a distant cousin of Grinnell’s who was a naturalist and explorer. Grinnell continues to carry on his research of George Bird Grinnell and the Grinnell family, writing articles and producing DVDs. In 2010, he presented “Saving the Great American West” at the annual convention of the GNR Historical Society and 100th anniversary of the establishment of Glacier National Park, held in Glacier National Park.*

About Jody Drake: *Jody Drake was born and raised in Prescott Arizona and still calls it home. She is the Founding Director of Blue Rose Theater. The theater worked at the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott AZ for 18 years and has performed throughout the state. Drake has been presenting Sharlot Hall to Arizona audiences for*

the last 16 years. Her first person presentation is rich with poetry and the history of Sharlot Hall's Arizona. She mixes the rich stories of the west with an enchanting combination of humor and fact. She is at ease with all age levels. Jody has presented for Ex-Governors Brewer, Napolitano, and Hull; as well as, Sandra Day O'Connor, Polly Rosenbom, and Raoul Castro.

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About Arizona Humanities

<http://www.azhumanities.org>

Arizona Humanities is an independent non-profit organization and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Arizona Humanities supports public programming in the humanities that promotes understanding of human thoughts, actions, creations, and values. Since its foundation in 1973, nearly \$11 million has been provided to cultural and educational institutions throughout Arizona.

Mission: Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.