

Happy Holidays

2017 Newsletter

Note from our Chair:



A warm hello to the department's community of alumni, current students, and friends. In the following pages, we've highlighted some of the many activities of the Liberal Studies Department over the last eighteen months. Our faculty continue to be busy with a wide variety of teaching, research, and professional service activities. It has been an especially active year for faculty scholarship – five of our current faculty saw the publication of various kinds of book-length projects! (See more on this inside.) The department has also been fortunate to have several excellent new faculty members teach courses with us. I want to highlight, in particular, our new colleagues Prof. Ethan Bushelle (a historian of Japanese religions, with particular expertise in Buddhism and broad interests in the history of ideas and

the intersection between religion and culture in society) and Prof. Katie Brian (a cultural historian with interests in science, medicine, and public health in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S., as well as critical race and disability theory), who are now teaching extensively for the department. In addition, the department is delighted to have had Maureen Christman join us in 2017 as our new Administrative Services Manager. Although new to the department, Maureen has been part of the Western community in many ways—working in Business Services, as an alum, and she even grew up around Western, as the daughter of a Geology Professor! The department also continues to bring a variety of events to the campus community (see page 4 for more!). We will host the 10th annual Liberal Studies Speaker in Spring 2018, and if you are near Bellingham and would like notifications of public lectures and other events on campus, please let us know! (The easiest way to contact the department is by email: Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu). We also hope that you'll join us for our annual reception for alumni, current students, and faculty (current and emeritus) during Back2Bellingham – scheduled this year for Friday, May 18, 2018.

Happy Holidays and all the best to each of you in 2018,

Kimberly Lynn

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Memorial Scholarship
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Save the date!

2018 Liberal Studies

Alumni Weekend (formerly Back2Bellingham)

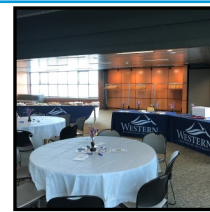
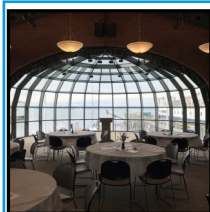
and annual **Scholars Week Symposium**

Please join us Friday, May 18th, 2018

Bellingham Cruise Terminal,

Dome Room

4-7pm



[Faculty Updates](#)



Holly Folk Holly Folk's book, *The Religion of Chiropractic: Populist Healing from the American Heartland*, was published by UNC Press in May. She continues to research the political dimensions of alternative medicine. A report on her presentation at the Association for the Sociology of Religion can be found at <http://www.religionwatch.com/alt-right-embraces-alternative-healing/> Since last year, Folk also has been researching the Church of Almighty God, a banned Chinese Christian sect. This June she visited Henan, China to participate in a dialogue about the group. The meeting was followed by a conference involving Western and Chinese academics, Chinese law enforcement officers, and leaders of the official "anti-xie-jiao" association in Hong Kong in September. Folk and other participants hoped these encounters would soften Chinese policies against religious minorities, who have sometimes been falsely accused of horrific crimes. In December her report on one such case, "Cult Crimes' and Fake News: Eye-Gouging in Shanxi," was published in the Journal of CESNUR. Available at http://cesnur.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/tjoc_1_2_5_folk.pdf



Andrea Gogröf This year, Andrea Gogröf has co-published and co-written the introduction to a special issue on Surveillance for the Canadian journal *Seminar*. She gave a talk entitled "Trust is Must. Byung Chul Han's Transparency Society" at PAMLA (Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association). Additionally, she chaired a session entitled "Kafka and the Kafkaesque" in which Riley Jessett, a double major in Liberal Studies and English, participated with a paper entitled "From the library of F. Kafka: Rainer Stach's "Is That Kafka? And the Role of Biography in Kafka's Critical Tradition." Prof. Gogröf also participated in this year's Art Department's and Western Galleries' panel discussion on surveillance with artists Neill Kennedy and Evan Lee. Within the context of the Western Gallery's exhibit of Arne Svenson's controversial because deemed voyeuristic photography, she introduced Michael Haneke's film "Caché" at the Pickford theatre. Currently she is president of PAMLA and continuing her work on surveillance in Western culture.



Kimberly Lynn Early in 2017, Kimberly Lynn's edited book, *The Early Modern Hispanic World: Transnational and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, was published by Cambridge University Press. A tribute to Professor Lynn's doctoral advisor, which she edited with her colleague Erin Kathleen Rowe (Johns Hopkins University), the fourteen chapters in the collection are organized into four sections on City and Society; Religion, Race, and Community; Law and Letters; and Performance and Place. She was also happy to see two more chapters appear in print in another collection which compares important aspects of Protestant and Catholic societies in the early modern world, in *Judging Faith, Punishing Sin: Inquisitions and Consistories in the Early Modern World*, ed. Charles H. Parker and Gretchen Starr-LeBeau (Cambridge UP, 2017).



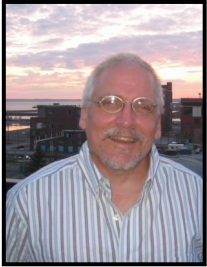
Jonathan Miran completed two essays which are currently in production: a book chapter, "The Red Sea," in D. Armitage, A. Bashford and S. Sivasundaram (eds.), *Oceanic Histories* (Cambridge UP) and a journal article, "The Testamentary *Waqf* as an Instrument of Elite Consolidation in Early Twentieth-Century Massawa (Eritrea)," *Islamic Law and Society* [co-authored with A. Layish, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem]. This year Jonathan was especially pleased to learn that Spencer Pennington, a History Major and a Study of Religion Minor, was inspired by his course 'Islam in the Indian Ocean World' (LBRL 362) and will soon be joining the UW's South Asia Graduate Program to pursue his interests in Indian Ocean religious and cultural connections and circulations.



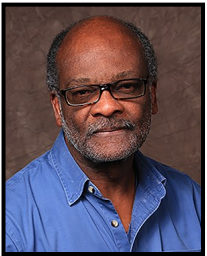
Tom Moore published a collection of poetry, *Acceptable Time*, with Ravenna Books. The poems in this book all center on the concept of time, and represent a sample of the work he has completed over the last 20 years.



Seán Murphy has had the great pleasure of directing two senior theses this year: Ben Killorin wrote on the ethics and politics of Virgil's Golden Age; Kellen Head-Corliss is writing about the depiction of parents and parental authority in twelfth-century biography and autobiography. In 2016, Professor Murphy published two new works: "A Minority both Jewish and Christian: The Condemnation of Religious 'Mixing' in European Law, c. 1100-c. 1300," the lead chapter in *Religious Minorities, Integration, and the State* from Brepols; "The Corruption of the Elements: The Science of Ritual Impurity in the Early Thirteenth Century," appearing in *Robert Grosseteste and the Pursuit of Religious and Scientific Learning in the Middle Ages* from Springer.



Scott Pearce In 2016-2017, Pearce has been finishing a volume on the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534), building on work done last year during Professional Leave. This will fill a gap in East Asian history, Wei being a new form of empire there that combined elements from the Chinese and Inner Asian worlds. He has also been working on a sources volume for Chinese history that he is producing for Cognella Academic Publishing, as well as developing a new course that will be taught next year for the first time on "The Wanderings of the Monk Xuanzang: From History to Myth to Fiction."



Errol Seaton teaches courses in the Humanities sequence, LBRL 121, 122, 123. His additional teaching interests include modern English and American literature, poetry of WWI, postcolonial writings.



Michael Slouber has been active teaching basic and advanced courses on Indian civilization, including a new one on literature and film for the Honors program this Spring. He was recently elected to the Hinduism group steering committee of the American Academy of Religion, and appointed as a convener of the Tantra and Agama section of the World Sanskrit Conference. He continues as book review editor for the journal *Asian Medicine*. His first book, *Early Tantric Medicine*, appeared in December 2016, and he is also editing a new sourcebook of translations of rare Indian goddess narratives expected to appear next year.



Robert Stoops taught the department's first online course during the 2016 summer session, a section of LBRL 332: World Religions. Stoops reported on the trade-offs between online and face to face teaching. One advantage, especially in the summer, is geographic and temporal flexibility. One student took the course while in Israel. The use of graded discussion boards produced thoughtful discussion, because students had time to formulate their responses. The online format also generated a lot of individual interaction with the instructor. The department will continue its experiment with online courses this summer.

The Liberal Studies Department has been fortunate to have several new faculty teach with us recently. They include **Dr. Kathleen Brian** (PhD American Studies, George Washington University; teaching LBRL 123 (Western Tradition III), 231 (Intro to the Study of Religion), and 281 (Representations of Otherness)); **Dr. Ethan Bushelle** (PhD East Asian Studies, Harvard University; teaching LBRL 275 (Humanities of Japan), 231 (Intro to the Study of Religion), and 382 (Religion and Society in Japan)); **Dr. Stephanie Maher** (PhD Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Washington; teaching LBRL 276 (Humanities of Africa)); **Dr. Philip Tite** (PhD Religious Studies, McGill University; teaching LBRL 231 (Intro to the Study of Religion), 332 (World Religions), LBRL 397 (Religion and Violence)); **Dr. Jennifer Webster** (PhD History, University of Washington; teaching LBRL 278 (Islamic Civilization)); **Dr. Siyamak Zabih-Moghaddam** (PhD Middle Eastern History, University of Haifa; teaching LBRL 278 (Islamic Civilization), 397 (Women in Islam)).

Liberal Studies Speaker Series



[Dr. Kathryn Lofton](#)

The department's 9th annual Liberal Studies Speaker event brought Yale University Professor Dr. Kathryn Lofton to campus this past April. Dr. Lofton is a Professor of Religious Studies, American Studies, and History and Chair of Religious Studies at Yale. Her engaging lecture "Popular Religion in American Democracy," considered how religious history and religious thought play a central role in our most contemporary public struggles over the American good. Learn more about Kathryn [here](#).



Save the Date

10th Annual Liberal Studies Speaker

[Dr. Philip Lutgendorf](#), University of Iowa

He is a leading expert of South Asia

Thursday, April 19th, 2018

More information coming soon!

Other 2017 Guest Speakers



[Harvard's Alexander Görlach](#) Presented 'Islam in Europe' December 2017

The department and the Seattle Eric M. Warburg Chapter of the American Council on Germany were happy to present Dr. Görlach, an affiliate of Harvard University.

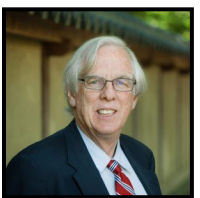
Alexander Görlach is an author, academic, journalist and entrepreneur. He is a visiting scholar at Harvard University where he researches in the field of politics and religion at both Harvard Divinity School and the Center for European Studies, among other affiliations. He focuses on (quasi-) religious identities and narratives and their influence in policy making.



[Jonestown survivor Laura Johnston Kohl](#)—February 2017

As part of its programs in cultural history and the study of religion, the Liberal Studies Department hosted a talk by Laura Johnston Kohl, author of *Jonestown Survivor: An Insider's Look*.

She spoke about the cult of personality in leaders, drawing on her experience with Jim Jones, the founder of the Peoples Temple and the orchestrator of mass deaths in Jonestown, Guyana, on Nov. 18, 1978, who stands as an emblematic "cult leader" in American culture.



[Dr. Donald Baker](#), University of British Columbia, Korean Religious Art—February 2017

Dr. Baker's interests include the cultural and religious history of Korea. He received his Ph.D. in Korean history from the University of Washington and has taught at UBC since 1987. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Korean history and thought (religion, philosophy, and pre-modern science). At Western, he spoke about art as a manifestation of religious diversity in Korea.

Meet The Liberal Studies Leadership Teams

2016-17



Left to right: Names and Humanities Major Track
Kellen Head-Corliss—History of Culture with Thesis
Riley Jessett—History of Culture with Thesis
Britton Johnson—History of Culture
Roselle Flory—History of Culture
Hanna Hupp—History of Culture
Samantha Hansen—History of Culture with Thesis

2017-18



Left to right: Names and Humanities Major Track
Matthew Wilkerson—Religion & Culture with Thesis
Holland Maggard—Religion & Culture with Thesis
Jenna Mauer—History of Culture with Thesis
Jeremy Meehan—History of Culture with Thesis

Our Goal

The mission of the leadership team is to foster communication among the students, alumni, and faculty of the Liberal Studies Department, and to increase the visibility of the department's major and minor programs.

What We are Doing:

Alumni Connection—The 2017-2018 Student Leadership Team is working on building a database of alumni interested in mentoring current students – so you can expect to hear from them in 2018, if you haven't already!

News From Emeritus Faculty



David Curley Although enjoying retirement, David is very happy to have returned this Spring Quarter to teach a section of Honors 105, on 'South Asia in the Modern World'. This March he gave a lecture for the South Asia Program of Cornell University, on 'Signs of the Self in Stories of Pre-colonial Bengal: Love, Sex, Marriage, War, and Self-Sacrifice'. His essay 'Economic Interests and Moral Sentiments in the Eighteenth Century Life of Gokul Ghoshal' will be published in September in *In Quest of the Historian's Craft*, a 2-volume collection of essays commemorating the scholarship of Professor B.B. Chaudhuri.



Milt Krieger Milt and Judy Krieger published *Loon Lake, 1862-2017: An Informal South Cariboo History*, about an area in British Columbia with a family connection. The book took twelve years to complete, the last of which was a useful diversion, if not an escape, from the last twelve months.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



WWU Liberal Studies Alum Wins Second Emmy for Portlandia

Schuyler Telleen ('04) joined the creative team on "Portlandia" and quickly began decorating his mantle with awards for his art direction on the show. For more information click [here](#).

Alexander Kelly - 2010

I graduated from the department in 2010, and after spending six years as an editor and columnist at Truthdig, a progressive news and opinion website, I began work March 2017 as Director of Policy Development in the office of Frank Skartados, Assemblyman for New York's 104th District. There, I'll employ the critical reading skills I developed with the help of my devoted professors, of whom I remain fond and grateful.

Keep in Touch!

Old job? New job? Traveling? Graduate school? Marriage? Family? Please write us with your news. Let us know by writing to Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu (include your contact information!). We regularly publish articles about careers our graduates are discovering, and we also try to keep you up to date on the activities of faculty members and fellow graduates.

What do the dollars given to the Liberal Studies Foundation by kind donors help us achieve?

Gifts to the Department of Liberal Studies are crucial in helping us fund guest speakers, including our annual distinguished speaker, a tradition now in its tenth year, as well as our new annual reunion event at Back2Bellingham, in addition to student research opportunities and, most importantly, scholarships.

<http://alumni.wwu.edu/liberalstudies-giveday>

2016-17 Spring Commencement

Spring Quarter commencement student speaker Riley Jessett



Liberal Studies Outstanding Grad: Riley Jessett and Professor Andrea Gogrof



Spring Graduates L to R: Walker Laws, Kellen Head-Corliss, Thomas Tubbs, Analiese Kowalski, Tabitha Mothershead, Rachel Heggie and Tiffany Lawrence

Professors Seán Murphy, Andrea Gogrof and Kimberly Lynn



Back 2 Bellingham



Save the date!

2018 Liberal Studies



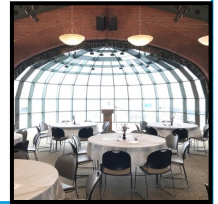
Back 2 Bellingham Reunion and annual **Scholar Symposium**

Please join us Friday, May 18th, 2018

Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Dome Room

4-7pm

More information coming soon!



2017 Annual Liberal Studies Highlights

Back 2 Bellingham Reunion and annual **Scholars Week Symposium**

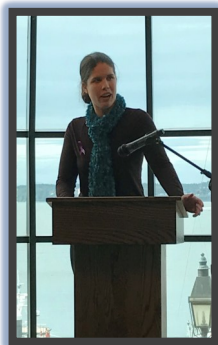


2016-17 Outstanding Graduate Award Recipient: Riley Jessett

2016-17 Meagan Elizabeth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities Recipient: Riley Jessett

2nd Annual (2017-18) Meagan Elizabeth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities Recipient:

Matthew Wilkerson





*The department suffered a heartbreaking tragedy two years ago, with the loss of our major and member of the 2014-15 Liberal Studies Leadership Team, **Meagan Smith**. We're honoring her memory with a scholarship.*

*The 2014-15 Leadership Team was asked,
"Why HUMANITIES?"*



Meagan's Answer—

"Discussing religions and traditions from around the globe as well as from different time periods has helped to expand my cultural understanding of the world immensely. Joining this major has given me opportunities to study a variety of subjects, as well as embarking on a study of Nepal this upcoming summer. The Liberal Studies department has opened my mind to the cornucopia of traditions existing in our world today and the impact we each have on one another."

Meagan Elizabeth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities

This scholarship honors the legacy of Meagan Elizabeth Smith (1993 - 2015). An outstanding student, Meagan was scheduled to graduate with departmental honors in December 2015, with a Humanities major, a concentration in Religion and Culture, and a German minor. She had developed a particular interest in non-Western societies, and especially in Nepal, which inspired the senior thesis she was researching on "Making Sense of Fierce Deities in Indian Religions." Meagan was a member of the first Liberal Studies Leadership Team, a musician, and an athlete, dedicated to serving the many communities of which she was a cherished part. This is the first named scholarship in the more than forty-year history of the Liberal Studies Department, designed to recognize academic excellence in the humanities.

Ways to Give:

Online at <http://alumni.wwu.edu/liberalstudies-giveday>

With a check made payable to the WWU Foundation and mailed to: [WWU Foundation 516 High Street, MS 9034, Bellingham, WA 98225-9034](#) By phone at: 360-650-3027

*Please write Meagan E. Smith Scholarship or Liberal Studies on the memo line of your check.

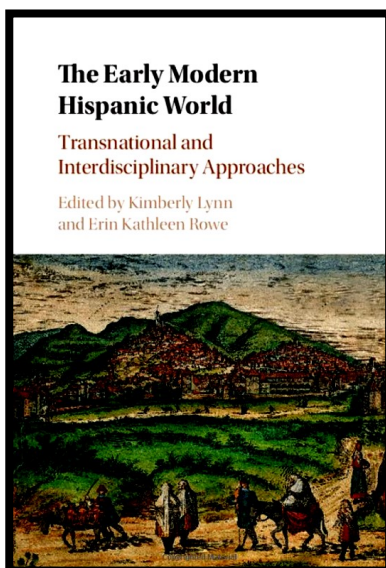
For more information on ways to give, including instructions for WWU employee payroll deduction or gifts of securities, please visit: <https://foundation.wwu.edu/making-gift>

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

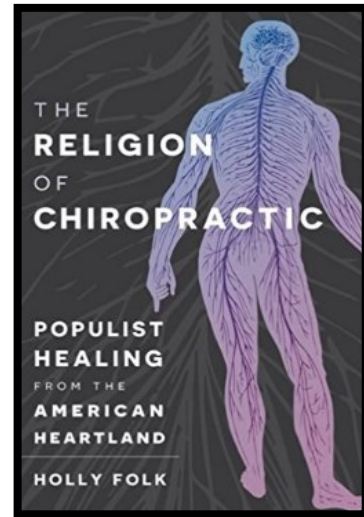
Kimberly Lynn

The Early Modern Hispanic World

Iberia stands at the center of key trends in Atlantic and world histories, largely because Portugal and Spain were the first European kingdoms to ‘go global’. *The Early Modern Hispanic World* engages with new ways of thinking about the early modern Hispanic past, as a field of study that has grown exponentially in recent years. It focuses predominantly on questions of how people understood the rapidly changing world in which they lived—how they defined, visualized, and constructed communities from family and city to kingdom and empire. To do so, it incorporates voices from across the Hispanic World and across disciplines. The volume considers the dynamic relationships between circulation and fixedness, space and place, and how new methodologies are reshaping global history, and Spain’s place in it.



Cambridge University Press, January 2017



The University of North Carolina Press, May 2017

Holly Folk

The Religion of Chiropractic

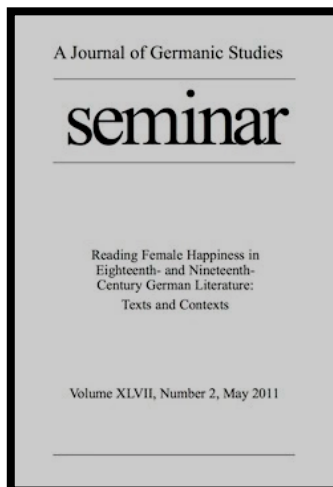
Chiropractic is by far the most common form of alternative medicine in the U.S. today, but its fascinating origins stretch back to the battles between science and religion in the nineteenth century. At the center of the story are the chiropractic’s colorful founders, D.D. Palmer and his son, B.J. Palmer, of Davenport, Iowa, where in 1897 they established the Palmer College of Chiropractic. Holly Folk shows how the Palmers’ system depicted chiropractic as a conduit for both material and spiritualized versions of a “vital principle,” reflecting popular contemporary therapies and nineteenth century metaphysical beliefs, including the idea that the spine was home to occult forces. In this context, Folk reframes alternative medicine and spirituality as a type of populist intellectual culture in which ideologies about the body comprise a highly appealing form of cultural resistance.

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

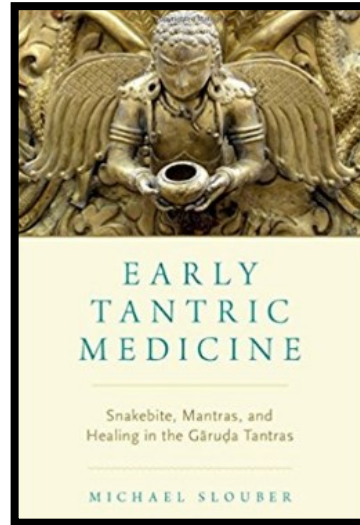
Andrea Gogröf

Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies. Surveillance

This thematic issue of the scholarly journal *Seminar* is dedicated to the topic of *Critical Perspectives on Surveillance in Contemporary German Literature and Film*. *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* was founded in 1965 and is one of the leading journals today for the study of Germanic literature, media and culture. It seeks to publish the highest-quality scholarship on a range of fields including philology, philosophy, aesthetics, media studies, visual culture, gender studies, and transnationalism as they relate to German-language material or other languages in a German-cultural context. This issue, edited by Dr. Gogröf and Dr. Karin Bauer (McGill University), covers topics including surveillance in German literature, surveillance in motion pictures and security management.



University of Toronto Press, Nov. 2016



Oxford University Press, Dec. 2016

Michael Slouber

Early Tantric Medicine

Snakebite may sound like a rare and exotic phenomenon, but in India it is a problem that affects 1.4 million people every year and results in over 45,000 deaths. A traditional medical system that flourished over 1,000 years ago, the Gāruḍa Tantras had a powerful influence on medicine for snakebite, and some of their practices remain popular to this day. In *Early Tantric Medicine*, Michael Slouber offers a close examination of the Gāruḍa Tantras, which were deemed lost until he discovered numerous ancient titles surviving in Sanskrit manuscripts written on fragile palm-leaves. This volume brings to life this rich tradition in which knowledge and faith are harnessed in complex visualizations accompanied by secret mantras to an array of gods and goddesses; this religious system is combined with herbal medicine & a mix of lore on snakes, astrology, and healing.

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NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Tom Moore

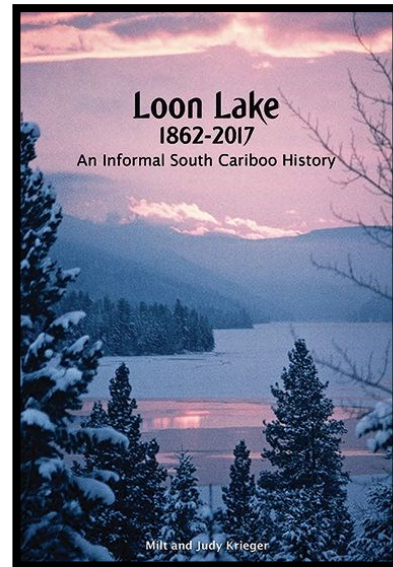
Acceptable Time

Tom Moore has published a collection of poetry, *Acceptable Time*, with Ravenna Books. The poems in this book all center on the concept of time, and represent a sample of the work he has completed over the last 20 years.

Moore quotes Carl Jung's description of a symbol as also a good definition of a true poem: a bridge thrown out towards the unknown. The poems in this collection walk with Moore's soul out into the wilderness and atmospheres of the Pacific Northwest, all the while laying down a bridge for us.



Ravenna Press, January 2017



Milt Krieger

Loon Lake, 1862-2017: An Informal South Cariboo History

Milt and Judy Krieger published *Loon Lake, 1862-2017: An Informal South Cariboo History*, about an area in British Columbia with a family connection. The book took twelve years to complete, the last of which was a useful diversion, if not an escape, from the last twelve months.

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