

# Friends

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NESLETTER

FALL 2005

## 2005 NEVADA HALL OF FAME honors Wiley and Barber

**Richard Wiley**, an English professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is the author of five novels: *Soldiers in Hiding* (winner of the 1987 Pen/Faulkner Award for Best American Fiction), *Fool's Gold*, *Festival for Three Thousand Maidens*, *Indigo*, and *Ahmed's Revenge*. His new novel, *Commodore Perry's Minstrel Show*, will be published next year.

"All of my books are set in places I have lived, but generally show themselves long after I've moved from the place," says Wiley, who has lived abroad and studied other languages. "Since I'm still living in Nevada, therefore, it has no relationship to my writing at all. Not yet, at least."

A graduate of the University of Iowa with a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Creative Writing: Fiction, Wiley says he became a writer through "practice, practice, practice."



He is inspired by the idea that "reality isn't singular, but dictated by grammar and culture" and says all of his books investigate that "quite simple, but to me deeply interesting, phenomenon."

He serves on the Executive Board of the North American Network of Cities of Asylum, which provides refuge for persecuted writers.

**Phyllis Barber**, a Nevada native who traces her roots here back to the 1860s,

has written books in many genres – fiction, nonfiction, and children's books. She began her career as a classical pianist and performed with the Utah Symphony. After her last son



was born, she switched gears and began writing. Her first published book was for children, *Smiley Snake's Adventure*; she also became a feature writer for *Utah Holiday*

magazine for ten years.

After receiving her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Vermont College, she published her first novel, *And the Desert Shall Blossom*, followed by a collection of short stories, *The School of Love*. Her next collection of stories evolved into a memoir, *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir*, which won the AWP Prize for Creative Nonfiction. She has also written another children's book, *Legs, The Story of a Giraffe*, and another collection of short stories, *Parting the Veil: Stories from a Mormon Imagination*.

Although she now lives in Utah,

**Hall of Fame** (continued on page 2)

### Join us in honoring this year's HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS & SILVER PEN AWARD WINNERS

October 4, 2005

Montrêux Golf and Country Club

6 p.m. — No-host cocktails, silent auction, and book signing

7 p.m. — Awards ceremony

\$20.00; hors d'oeuvres included

Please reserve: 784-6500, ext. 265

Credit card payment accepted by phone or mail payment to:

Writers Hall of Fame, University Libraries/322, University of Nevada, Reno 89557

Sponsored by the Friends of the University of Nevada, Reno Library

**Hall of Fame** (continued from page 1)

Phyllis still feels “attached to [Nevada’s] landscape, stories, weather, sunshine, and weird juxtapositions of growing up in the early years of Las Vegas.” Her artistic sensibilities have been shaped by her father’s love of reading and her many years as a musician. “I think music is the highest form of communication and teaches many things that can’t be spoken. I only wish that my written words could be read the way music can be heard.”

She is a faculty member of Vermont College’s MFA in Writing program, co-founder of the Writers at Work Conference in Park City, Utah, a visiting writer at the University of Missouri in Columbia, and is completing a work of “nonfictive” fiction entitled *Body Blue*.

—Janice Jones

**HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE**

- Andrea Crowell, chair**
- Aliki Barnstone**
- Stephen Brown**
- Deborah Nelson**
- Tom Meschery**

# 2005 Silver Pen awardees: Revell and Winkler

**Donald Revell**, who lives in the desert south of Las Vegas, is an English professor and Director of Creative Writing Programs at the University of Utah. He has published many books of poetry including *My Mojave*, which won the Academy of American Poets’ Lenore Marshall Prize in 2004. A two-time winner of the PEN Center USA award for *New Dark Ages* (1990) and *Arcady* (2002), Revell is also the recipient of the Gertrude Stein Award in Innovative American Poetry and has twice been granted fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts.



PHOTO Francois Carmain

Revell was born in The Bronx, New York, and received his BA and MA in English from SUNY-Binghamton and a Ph.D.

from SUNY-Buffalo. He has served on the faculties of many universities and colleges, including the University of Tennessee, Ripon College, Denver University, the University of Missouri, and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Since 1994, he has been at the University of Utah. He is also former editor-in-chief of *Denver Quarterly* and now serves as poetry editor of *Colorado Review*.

Revell is married to poet, Claudia Keelan, recipient of the Silver Pen in 2002. They have two children, Benjamin Brecht and Lucie Ming.

**David Winkler**, who teaches high school in Las Vegas, is the author of *Scotty and The Gypsy Bandit* and *The Return of Calico Bright*.



He began writing fiction “for the same reason some people read it – as a means of escape.” His childhood was spent moving from place to place. “In lieu

of real friends, I made up imaginary ones; they went wherever I went and never failed to do what I wanted them to do. It was a satisfactory arrangement, and it formed the basis for my later becoming a writer.”

Winkler didn’t begin writing seriously until arriving in Nevada and taking Richard Wiley’s creative writing classes at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He is currently working on another novel entitled *Lost Leno*. Like his mentor, Richard Wiley, he confesses that he has not yet written about Nevada. “I seem incapable of writing about wherever I happen to be living. In order to write about Las Vegas I’d have to move to Morocco.”

His artistic sensibility “is open to anything and everything.” He says writers have minds “like overstuffed closets or attics that we’re loath to clean out .... We just like to plow through the clutter from time to time, gather up a scrap or two, and fashion it into what eventually becomes a poem, novel, play, or story.” His advice to young writers is the same as Faulkner’s: “Read, read, read.”

—Janice Jones

## This year’s Hall of Fame Silent Auction

features a beautiful set of dinnerware from the Casafina Stoneware Collection from Portugal donated by **Juniper Hill Furniture & Accessories** 850 E. Patriot Blvd., Reno

Juniper Hill owners David and Trish Dietz



Donation consists of the following pieces in a mocha color:

- 8 PLACE SETTINGS including 8 each Dinner Plates, Salad Plates, Soup/Cereal Bowls, Bread & Butter Plates, and Coffee Mugs

**SERVING PIECES**

- 1 Covered Oval Casserole
- 1 Medium Baker
- 2 Small Rectangular Bakers
- 2 Large Rectangular Bakers
- 1 Loaf Pan
- 1 Pie Dish
- 1 Square Tray w/Handles

## Friends will miss Clay Jenkinson

It is with great sadness that the Friends say farewell to Board member Clay Jenkinson who has moved to Bismarck, North Dakota. His reasons for leaving Reno are clear. He needs to be closer to his daughter who lives in Kansas and his mother who lives in North Dakota. He has missed living on the plains where he grew up. But for those of us who felt proud of our "local hero" and who enjoyed living close to an ever-accessible friend and scholar, Clay's absence from the Reno community will be deeply felt.

We wish him the best of everything. We know, too, that he will be back...for engagements, for Chatauqua, to visit friends. But, Clay, no one can replace you in our Friends' community. We thank you for all that you have done for us.



**KUDOS:** Chairs Annie Hall and Carol Johnson deserve the thanks of all Friends for the terrific job with Chair-i-ty

## Library chairs earn \$9,000 at Chair-i-ty Auction

Close to 70 vintage wooden desk chairs painted by local artists and celebrities were auctioned off to the public on July 11, 2005, to raise money for the University's new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center that will replace Getchell Library.

The first part of event was a silent auction, featuring 53 chairs that went to those who wrote the highest bid by a set deadline. Sixteen other chairs were sold during a live auction after the silent version.

On the day of the auction, held at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center in Reno as part of Artown, bidders often stood around the chairs that they wanted.

"They're just wonderful and it's for a great cause," said one bidder, who was keeping a close eye on the silent bids being entered for the chair titled "Georgia on My Mind," painted in Georgia O'Keeffe-ish style with vivid flowers.

The chairs, made in the 1930s, served many generations of students at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Bob Nielsen, owner of an affordable

housing company called Shelter Properties Inc., said he bid on three of the chairs d'art.

"I'll take all three if I can get them," he said. "It's just a great event, and all the money is going to the university's library, which is going to be an incredible asset to the whole community."

Nielsen, 59, said he when he was a UNR student in the 1960s, he sat in chairs just like those auctioned.

"Now they're pieces of art," he said. "The people who did these displayed such incredible creativity, and to own a piece of artwork that relates back to the university is really a treat."

The highest bid was \$600 for the only chair that was completely carved. It had been transformed into the shape of a great blue heron by artist Ray Nelson of Reno.

Six other chairs were selected by Friends of the Library for permanent display at the future library. The permanent chair exhibit will also feature photographs of all the chairs auctioned at the Chair-i-ty event.

—Janice Jones

## Travel with Friends

Experience gourmet food and wine. Join the Friends of the Library for a trip to...

### The California Wine Country November 3-6, 2005

Reserve by September 25, 2005

#### Tour includes:

- Round trip coach Reno/Calistoga
- Three nights at Dr. Wilkinson's Hotel and Spa in Calistoga
- Welcome dinner
- Two fabulous gourmet lunches including one at Domaine Chandon Champagne Cellars
- Wine tasting at selected wineries; visits to small towns and art galleries
- Transportation to all included sites and events

**Cost:** \$975 per person based on double occupancy (Includes a \$200 charitable donation to the Friends of the University of Nevada Library.)

Call to reserve:  
Michele Basta—784-6500, ext. 265

Please join us for Arts, Authors & Autos 2005  
"Opening Night Gala" with wine and hors d'oeuvres  
Friday, October 21, 2005  
a portion of \$25 will be donated to  
Friends of the University of Nevada, Reno, Library  
a fine art and book sale hosted by  
Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
National Automobile Museum  
10 S. Lake Street • Reno

*Photo by [unreadable]* *Photo by [unreadable]*

For more information call: Sarah Carrasco at (775) 324-5930

Please present this coupon at the door  
Coupon entry for \_\_\_ x \$25  
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Coupon valid for \_\_\_ x \$25

# Friends

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Friends of the Library/322  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0044

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Dean of Libraries/322  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557

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## Time-lapse photos show progress on "Big Dig"

Every seven minutes, the shutter clicks. Another photo is taken of the excavation of the Knowledge Center.

By the time it is finished in 2008, the university's Teaching and Learning Technologies Department will have accumulated thousands of photos from a high-resolution camera mounted on the Brian Whalen Parking Complex. These photos will then be linked together into a fascinating time-lapse video showing the entire excavation and construction process. In fact, some sample footage will soon be available for viewing.

### Fun facts from the "Big Dig"

- Approximately 3,800 linear feet (or .7 mile) of 6-foot-tall fencing now surrounds the excavation site, half of which has screening material on it.
- Approximately 127,000 cubic yards of dirt is being removed from the site, involving a hauling operation that runs 8 hours per day.
- A "semi" can carry about 12 cubic yards of dirt and a "ten-wheeler" holds about 8 cubic yards.
- Since it takes about 25 minutes to complete a round, each truck can complete about 19 loads per 8-hour day.
- Right now, the site is averaging 20 trucks per day or 380 loads per day.
- The contractor estimates the time frame for the entire hauling operation is 40 working days (or less).
- Excavation began on July 20, which that means they should be finished by about Sept. 13. So far, they are

ahead of schedule, but some new requirements have been added. We'll see how close they get to that goal. Stay tuned!

### NSU Webcam

The New Student Union, also being excavated at the same site, has a live webcam that takes a slightly different angle on the work in progress. It does not record like the TLT time-lapse camera, but allows you to view what's happening at any given time. You can also zoom and print from this page. Go to the NSU webcam at: <http://www.unr.edu/studentunion/newstudentunion/netcam/index.htm>. You may have to install an Active X controller to view it, but it's worth it!

—Janice Jones

