



“Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future”

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Celebrate Making West Home

Stories and recipes from Boise's refugee communities debut at Historical Museum

Over the past several months, the Western Folklife Center has enlisted Boise-based photographer Guy Hand and ethnographer Sarah Barsness to document the stories and food ways of Somali Bantu, Congolese, Bhutanese, Burundian, Meskhetian Turk, Colombian, Ethiopian, Burmese and Bosnian families all living in the Treasure Valley. The fruits of their labor, a newly published cookbook, *Making West Home in Idaho: Stories and Recipes of Boise's Refugee Community*, will be celebrated Saturday, May 1 at the Idaho State Historical Museum from 1 to 4 p.m. The event, featuring food sampling, stories and book signing, takes place in conjunction with the museum's related exhibition, *The Comforts of Home: Crafting a New Life in the Treasure Valley*, scheduled to close on May 2, 2010.

Katie Painter, director of the Idaho Office for Refugees' Global Gardens and partner in the *Making West Home* project writes in the introduction to the new cookbook: "While many Boiseans are aware that we are a refugee resettlement community and

welcome new neighbors of many ethnicities, rarely do we know very much about how and why our new neighbors arrive here. We don't have the opportunity to go into their homes, meet their families, or taste the wide variety of food traditions they've brought with them to Boise. Sarah and Guy have brought us that opportunity through this beautiful new cookbook."

The stories and recipes collected by Guy and Sarah bring a deeper understanding of how these refugee communities have made the American West - and in particular Boise - their new home. *Making West Home* is a series of events produced throughout the West by the Western Folklife Center, a regional non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and preserving the living stories and traditions of the varied communities of the American West.

The Idaho State Historical Museum is located in Boise's Julia Davis Park at 610 N. Julia Davis Drive. Museum hours are Tues.-Fri. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sat. through April. May – September the museum is open Tues.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5 adults (13+), \$4 seniors (65+), \$3 children 6-12 and students with a valid student ID.

Making West Home in Idaho is a project of the Western Folklife Center produced in partnership with the Idaho Commission on the Arts' Folk and Traditional Arts Program and Idaho Office for Refugees' Global Gardens project. The Western Folklife Center's *Making West Home* project was made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, MetLife Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Ford Foundation, the J.R. Simplot Company and other community partners.

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About the Idaho State Historical Society:

The ISHS is a state government agency with a goal of protecting the cultural heritage of Idaho by preserving historic and prehistoric resources and providing access to documents, artifacts, sites, and information of historic significance for the benefit and appreciation of the public. Dedicated to serving its statewide community, the agency carries out its mission through education programs, technical assistance, development of publications and exhibits, and by encouraging local, state and regional entities to preserve history. Learn more about ISHS at www.idahohistory.net.