CLASSES

Creative Jump-In: Seeing Other People: Photography, Difference, and Ethics at the Limit with Sarah Sentilles
Tue, Jan 30, 6:30–7pm
Ketchum Innovation Center (corner of Sun Valley Road and 1st Ave)
FREE with $10 suggested donation, pre-register through The Center
What it means to be someone utterly different from you—someone you are opposed to, confused by, scared of, or can’t understand—was the signal that there was a life in need of your protection. What if “otherness” was the foundation for ethical duty? Focusing on photography’s historical and ongoing role in constructing others, Sarah Sentilles will explore how art and theology offer resources for resisting the forms of observation, capture and certainty encouraged by drones and other machineries of war, and she will propose an ethics capable of seeing difference as divine.

Book Discussion: The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen with Jenny Emery Davidson and Scott Burton
Thu, Mar 1, 6:30–8:30pm
The Community Library
FREE, pre-register through The Center
Join Jenny Emery Davidson and Scott Burton of the Library as they discuss The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to that of Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, the narrator, a communist double agent, is a “man of two minds,” a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who ranges across to America after the fall of Saigon. The Sympathizer is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel and a powerful story of love and friendship.

FREE FAMILY DAY

This Land Is Whose Land?
Sat, Mar 3, 3–5pm
The Center, Ketchum
Family Day events provide special opportunities for multiple generations to explore art and ideas together, building confidence in self-expression through art making. Get inspired by the themes and art in the exhibition to create art that spreads positive messages in our community.

THEATRE

FILMS

Big Sonia with filmmakers Leah Warshawski and Lauren Almquist
Sun, Thu, Jan 25, 4:30pm and 7pm
MagiLCentum Cinemas, Ketchum
$10/$12 nonmembers
Standing tall at 4’8″, Sonia Warshawski is a tiny woman with a personality. Diva, business owner and Holocaust survivor, Sonia has just been served an eviction notice for John’s dying mall in suburban Kansas City. While Sonia struggles with retirement, her life lessons span generations. 93 minutes.

Welcome to Refugeeestan
Thu, Mar 22, 7pm
MagiLCentum Cinemas, Ketchum
$10/$12 nonmembers
Almost 17 million people—refugees, displaced persons, and stateless persons—live in camps. The names of these places do not appear on any map, but together they constitute a virtual country the size of the Netherlands. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs have developed ways of running these camps that are both efficient and absurd. This film explores the land of camps, revealing an immense system that combines humanitarian concerns with the management of “undesirables” who rich countries want to keep out. 71 minutes.

ST. THOMAS FORUM

In conjunction with This Land Is Whose Land?, St. Thomas Episcopal Church presents a series of events considering the refugee crisis.
All events are free and take place at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Sun, Feb 4, 11am
Syrian-American Asmaa Alkubaisa shares her travel journey, reflects on a life in Syria, and describes her experiences in the United States

Give Me Your Tired and Poor (Part 1):
Sun, Feb 18, 11am
a discussion of U.S. immigration policy, current status, policy choices and ethical issues.

Give Me Your Tired and Poor (Part 2):
Sun, Mar 18, 11am
a discussion of U.S. immigration policy, current status, policy choices and ethical issues.

SUN VALLEY CENTER

This Land Is Whose Land?
January 26–March 31, 2018
A BIG IDEA Project of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts

MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The visual arts exhibition features work by artists who consider both the history of refugees in the U.S. and the contemporary refugee crisis. Born in Tehran and now based in California, Shiva Ahmadi draws on the artistic traditions of Iran and the Middle East to consider contemporary political events. The exhibition features her works on paper and a hand-drawn animated film. Asosan, which Ahmadi recently completed in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Tiffany Chung has devoted much of her career to examining migration and displacement resulting from political and environmental causes. Her installation project, Tomorrow Isn’t Here, considers the Dust Bowl and the resulting migration of enormous numbers of people across the U.S. in the 1930s. Tomorrow Isn’t Here asks viewers to think about the ways complex relationships between political, economic and environmental factors can trigger refugee crises.

Fazal Sheikh is an artist who uses photography to document the lives of people living in marginalized or marginalized communities around the world. The exhibition includes a selection of photographs he made in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and in camps in Kenya, where he began making photographs in 1993 when civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia led refugees to flee into camps that still exist today.

Los Angeles-based artist Angie Smith has spent several years making portraits and recording the stories of refugees scattered in Boise, Idaho, after leaving the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Myanmar and other countries. Her work highlights the visual contrast between the backdrop of Boise and the people she photographs, many of whom dress in traditional clothing, pointing to the challenges refugees face in adjusting to a new country while also capturing their successes as they make Boise their home.

Exhibition Opening Celebration
Fri, Jan 26, 5–7pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum

Gallery Walks
Fri, Feb 16 & Fri, Mar 9, 5–7pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum
Start your Gallery Walk at The Center and see The Resettled, a 50-minute film focusing on refugee stories from around the U.S., including a refugee story from a woman who said, “I was not born a refugee, I was made one.”

Evening Exhibition Tours
Thu, Feb 22 & Thu, Mar 22, 5:30pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum
Enjoy a glass of wine while you tour the exhibition with The Center’s curators and gallery guides. Stay after the tour to see the 30-minute film The Resettled (description above).

Nearly 30 years ago, Vietnamese refugee Viet Thanh Nguyen was given the Pulitzer Prize for his first novel, The Sympathizer. The novel is an epic of love and betrayal. The narrator, a communist double agent, is a “man of two minds,” a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who ranges across to America after the fall of Saigon. The Sympathizer is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel and a powerful story of love and friendship.

This Land Is Whose Land? is generously sponsored by an anonymous gift and Marcia & Don Liedich.

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Prompted by national conversation around the topic of immigration, this BIG IDEA project considers the United States’ relationship to the international refugee crisis. What role should our country play in resettling refugees? What responsibilities do we have as a nation? What are the potential risks and rewards of refugee resettlement?

The Center tackles this subject in large part because of Idaho’s commitment to welcoming a growing refugee population, particularly in Boise and Twin Falls, where multiple agencies and organizations work to help recent arrivals adjust to life in a new country. This Land Is Whose Land? uses a local perspective as the platform for a larger conversation about refugees within the national context. The project also considers how we determine who is welcomed in our neighborhoods, towns or country and who gets to decide.

Although the current news media focus is primarily on the Syrian refugee crisis, those seeking asylum come to the U.S. from all over the world. The nation’s debate about how to address the refugee crisis is not a new one. The U.S. is a country composed largely of immigrants, all arriving in search of new opportunities, many having fled conditions such as war, famine, or religious, ethnic or political persecution that made life in their home countries impossible.

The state of Idaho began accepting refugees beginning in the 1970s and has seen more than 20,000 arrive over the last four decades.

While this BIG IDEA project is prompted by current conversation about refugees in the U.S., it explores the topic within the larger framework of this country’s history as a place of resettlement. It also considers the history of the U.S. as a place of contested (and sometimes contentious) claims over land.