NEWS from the Hazen Public Library

Subject: Heritage Book Series Begins with Lewis & Clark

Release: Immediate

The Heritage Book Series kicks off at the Hazen Public Library at 2:00pm Sunday, March 13. Dr. Michael Yellow Bird will lead a discussion of Lewis and Clark among the Indians, a classic work by James Ronda.

This is the first in a series of book discussions hosted by the library, with additional 2:00pm Sunday sessions scheduled on April 10 and April 24. Books for discussion, along with other informational materials, are available for checkout at the Hazen Public Library.

Details about the discussion series are given at the project website, here - http://heritagerenewal.org/nphf/bookclub.htm

Dr. Yellow Bird, an enrolled citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes, is director of the Tribal and Indigenous Studies program at North Dakota State University. A strong theme in his work is the process known as decolonization—which makes for an interesting take on Ronda's book, since Ronda examines a historic episode in the US colonization of its West. Yellow Bird remarks, "Although a somewhat more balanced view than many popular versions of this story, Ronda's *Lewis and Clark among the Indians* is still a settler colonial account that other-izes the Indigenous Peoples."

Among academic historians, Ronda is remembered as the writer who turned the tables on the Corps of Discovery—who asked not only what Lewis and Clark were trying to do, but what were the agendas and circumstances of the native peoples who encountered them ascending the Missouri River.

The public is cordially invited to join in the discussion on March 13. It is made possible by a grant from the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, as a contribution to educational programming in the Northern Plains National Heritage Area. Organization for the discussion series has been provided by the Center for Heritage Renewal, North Dakota State University.

For book and program information, contact: Val Albrecht, Hazen Public Library, 701-748-2977, hazenlibrary@cdln.info

##