



News Release For Immediate Release

Contact: **Steff Koeneman**
Community Relations Manager
(520) 594-5610 / 419-2272
steffannie.koeneman@pima.gov

Nov. 13, 2008

Conservationist to deliver Pima County Public Library's 8th Annual Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial Lecture

Sample some savory Southwest literary fare with award-winning author and conservationist, Gary Paul Nabhan, who will deliver the 8th annual Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial Lecture hosted by Pima County Public Library.

The lecture takes place 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Pima Community College's West Campus Center for the Arts Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W. Anklam Road. The lecture is free and open to the public. The event also includes presentation of the Lawrence Clark Powell Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nabhan, a research social scientist at the Southwest Center at the University of Arizona, is a world-renowned desert ecologist and conservation scientist, and also is known as a folklorist whose work has long been rooted in the U.S./Mexico borderlands region he affectionately calls "the stinkin' hot desert."

He is co-founder of Tucson-based Native Seeds/SEARCH, and is author of many books, including *Coming Home to Eat*, *The Desert Smells Like Rain*, and *Gathering the Desert*. His most recent works include the 2008 publication of *Arab/American: Landscape, Culture, and Cuisine in Two Great Deserts*.

Nabhan has been honored with the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing, a MacArthur "genius" award, a Western States Book Award, a Lannan Literary Award, a Pew Fellowship in conservation and environment, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Conservation Biology.

Lifetime Achievement Award winner

Dr. Bernard L. "Bunny" Fontana will receive the Lawrence Clark Powell Lifetime Achievement Award.

Fontana is a retired UA Anthropology professor, prolific author and historian who also has championed restoration of the Mission St. Xavier del Bac. He has authored, co-authored or edited 23 books, most of them related to the history and Indians of the Southwest. Some of his better-known works include *Biography of a Desert Church: The Story of Mission San Xavier del Bac*, *Massacre on the Gila: An Account of the Last Major Battle between American Indians, with Reflections on the Origin of War*, and *Trailing the Holy Cross: Soldiers' Feet, Apache Ears and the Santa Cruz Valley*.

Fontana received the Border Regional Library Association awards for literary excellence for *Tarahumara: Where Night is the Day of the Moon* (1979) and *Of Earth and Little Rain: The Papago Indians* (1981).

The Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial Lecture is given by a notable Southwestern author whose body of work reflects the values, landscape, history and culture of the region. The lecture honors the late Lawrence Clark Powell, librarian, literary critic, prolific author, self-proclaimed "bibliomaniac" and long-time Tucsonan.

Previous LCP lecturers include Luci Tapahonso, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Richard Shelton, and Luis Alberto Urrea. The lecture is part of the **Southwest Literature Project**, a series of literary events sponsored by the Library that includes the December publication of *Southwest Books of the Year: Best Reading 2008*, which identifies the best in current southwestern literature as selected by a distinguished panel of scholars and librarians; and the Arizona Historical Society's Bookfair, held Dec. 5 – 6, 2008.

The LCP Lecture and *Southwest Books of the Year* are made possible by the Friends of the Pima County Public Library, and the Arizona Historical Society. It is also supported with funds granted by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For additional information please check www.library.pima.gov, or call 791-4010.

#