



Nebraska  
Humanities  
Council

# Nebraska Humanities Council Newsletter

*Cultivating an understanding  
of our history and culture*

## The Making of the Great Plains

**Nebraska Humanities Council programs in 2012 will help connect Nebraskans with the history and impact of 1862 as we observe a year of significant sesquicentennials in Nebraska and the Great Plains.**

December 2011

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### Calendar of Events

*Visit our website for other events in your area*

16th annual "Winter Tales" storytelling festival in Kearney Jan. 16-21.

"Winter Lecture Series: North Africa from the Maghreb to Egypt" begins at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, with additional lectures Jan. 29, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, and March 4.

Community Cinema series at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24.

El Museo Latino in Omaha presents exhibits "Graphics of Latin America" through Dec. 28; "Folk Arts in Latin America," Feb. 11-March 31; and "Holiday Traditions in Latin America," Dec. 3-Feb. 25.

2012 will be a year of significant sesquicentennials in Nebraska and the Great Plains. In 1862 Congress passed the Homestead Act, the Morrill Act, the Pacific Railway Act, and the act establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture. How did these acts and events drive regional development over the ensuing decades in some directions and foreclose it in others? How did they shape the culture, economy, environment, social customs, land use, demographics, history, technology, literature, and politics of the Great Plains as well as the nation? How do they continue to have relevance today and in the future?

These themes and others will be discussed at the 38th Interdisciplinary Symposium sponsored by the Center for the Great Plains Studies and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in collaboration with the Homestead

**1862**  
**The Making of the Great Plains**  
**2012**

National Monument of America and the National Park Service. Partially funded through a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council, "1862-2012: The Making of the Great Plains" symposium will mark the 150th anniversary of these four landmark pieces of legislation that shaped our commerce, culture, and society.

The symposium opens March 28 with Donald Worster of the University of Kansas, lecturing on "An Unquenchable Thirst: How the Great Plains Created a Water Abundance and then Lost It" as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum, which in 2011-12 focuses on water issues. Other speakers include Elliott West of the University of Arkansas, Richard White of Stanford University, Martin Jischke, past president of Purdue University, William G. Thomas of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Myron Gutmann of the National Science Foundation and the University of Michigan, David Van Drehele, editor-at-large of Time magazine, Sarah Carter of the University of Alberta, Daniel Wildcat of Haskell Indian National University, and David Wishart of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information on the symposium, visit [www.unl.edu/plains](http://www.unl.edu/plains).

Two Nebraska Humanities Council programs in 2012 further connect Nebraskans with the history and impact of 1862.

### Related Events Exploring 1862

- **March 28-30**, "Making of the Great Plains" Symposium, Great Plains Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **March 29, 7 p.m.**, "Railroads, Art and the Making of Modern America," by William G. Thomas, Ethel Abbott Auditorium, Sheldon Museum of Art
- **May 20-25**, "Free Land" Chautauqua in Beatrice
- **June 15-17**, Homestead Days in Beatrice
- **June-July**, "Journey Stories," Smithsonian exhibition, Trails & Rails Museum, Kearney

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"Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America," our newest Chautauqua, will be hosted May 20-25 by the city of Beatrice and Homestead National Monument. Continuing the Nebraska Humanities Council's 27-year tradition of presenting educational and entertaining Chautauquas throughout the state, "Free Land" will address the collective impact of the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railway Act, and the Morrill Act on Nebraska, the Great Plains, and the nation.

The influences of these three pieces of legislation, all passed within six weeks of each other in 1862, will be explored through scholar portrayals of six prominent historical figures: Grenville Dodge, Union general and railroad builder; Willa Cather, author; Standing Bear, Ponca chief; Laura Ingalls Wilder, author and homesteader; and George Washington Carver, homesteader and inventor; with author and humorist Mark Twain as moderator. (*See story on this page.*)

"Journey Stories," a Museum on Main Street program and Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, will visit six Nebraska communities and the State Capitol in 2012-13. It tells the story of our nation's history through stories of journeys—coming to and traveling across America, migration by choice and by force, mobility and the American spirit, and the impact of the railroad, the automobile and the airplane on American life. "Journey Stories" will debut in Kearney at the Trails & Rails Museum in June and then travel to North Platte, Cozad, Fort Calhoun, Madison, Lincoln, and Alliance.

The NHC also will bring related programming directly to your community. Several dozen NHC Speakers Bureau programs explore the history and impacts of the 1862 legislation. For a small processing fee a speaker will travel to your school, library, senior center, museum, church, or community center and provide a one-hour program about the development of the transcontinental railroad, the pioneer experience, the overland trails, the impact of the Homestead Act on the Plains Tribes, the histories of ethnic groups that settled Nebraska and much more.

For more information on "Free Land" and "Journey Stories," visit our website, [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org).

## "Free Land" Chautauqua comes to Beatrice

Plans are taking shape as the community of Beatrice and Homestead National Monument prepare to host the **"Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua** the week of May 20-25, in conjunction with the kick-off of a year of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Homestead Act.

Audiences will have an opportunity to examine five themes that were set in motion by the catalyst of the 1862 legislation and that remain relevant: the unfolding of the "free soil, free labor" ideal for America held by Republican policy-makers of the time; the rapid economic development of the West and the nation, especially through the building of railroads; the accelerated displacement of Native Americans; a broader access to public education that resulted in more opportunities for people of the West; and an increasingly landed and educated populace—both emigrants and immigrants—who had more potential for social mobility in a developing American West.

Homestead National Monument will have the Homestead Act of 1862 document on loan from



the National Archives in the month of May and will observe the actual 150th anniversary of the signing of the Homestead Act on May 20 with an evening program featuring a variety of special guests, including the historical figures of the Chautauqua.

Chautauqua events will continue May 21-25 with a different scholar portraying his or her character each evening under the tent. Each will give a 40-minute, first-person presentation as the historical character, then answer questions. Workshops for children and adults along with other activities will be held during the day throughout Chautauqua week.

Keep up to date with the events of the "Free Land" Chautauqua through [www.nebraskachautauqua.org](http://www.nebraskachautauqua.org) and the related programs at Homestead National Monument at [www.nps.gov/home](http://www.nps.gov/home).

## Recommended reading on the Great Plains

- "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War," by Eric Foner (Oxford University Press, 1995)
- "The Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild," by Michael Forsberg, Dan O'Brien and David Wishart, with introduction by Ted Kooser (University of Chicago, 2009)
- "I Am A Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice," by Joe Starita (Macmillan, 2010)
- "Railroaded," by Richard White (W.W. Norton & Company, 2011)
- "The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America," by William G. Thomas (Yale University Press, 2011)
- "O Pioneers!" by Willa Cather (Penguin Classics, 1994)
- "A Lantern in Her Hand," by Bess Streeter Aldrich (University of Nebraska Press, 1994)
- "Rachel Calof's Story" by Rachel Calof and edited by J. Sanford Rikoon (Indiana University Press, 1995)

# Nebraska Prime Time pilots two new series

Two pilot programs representing exciting new partnerships were among the eight **Prime Time Family Reading Time** series offered in Nebraska this fall.

After more than a year of planning and consulting with experts and stakeholders, including the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, the Nebraska Humanities Council has designed a Prime Time series for American Indian families. The basic Prime Time structure will not change except to incorporate more storytelling, inviting parents and elders to tell stories that complement the readings. Selected books, a mixture of American Indian stories and stories from other cultures, will help families discuss values such as humility, equality, bravery, honesty, trust, generosity, fortitude, and wisdom.

On Sunday afternoons Nov. 6-Dec. 4, the Lakota Lutheran Center in Scottsbluff piloted Nebraska's first American Indian Prime Time. Storyteller Teri Ramirez and discussion leader Andrea Miller shared with families the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing storybooks, while younger siblings participated in age-appropriate pre-reading activities in



*Parents and children gathered in Scottsbluff for a Prime Time session several years ago. The NHC has helped design a new series for American Indian families.*

another room. The last session, Dec. 11, was at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library.

After the series ends, NHC Director of Literary Programs Erika Hamilton will meet with the Scottsbluff team to discuss what went well and what can be improved for future American Indian Prime Time programs.

Another new and exciting Prime Time partnership is with Omaha Public Schools. On Monday evenings, Nov. 7-Dec. 12, Omaha Public Schools piloted their first bilingual Prime Time for Spanish-speaking families at Field Club Elementary School. Four bilingual

liaisons from Field Club, Spring Lake Magnet School, Beals Elementary, and Gilder Elementary teamed up to read children's books in English and Spanish and to lead discussion with families on themes of greed, cleverness, determination, compassion and kinship.

Prime Time in Omaha Public Schools is coordinated through the OPS administrative office of ESL and Migrant Education. Their next Prime Time series will be held at Spring Lake Magnet School during the spring semester.

The Nebraska Humanities Council is pleased to partner with Omaha Public Schools and the Lakota Lutheran Center in Scottsbluff to offer these new Prime Time programs. They join more than 80 bilingual and English-only Prime Time series held in 14 public libraries, eight elementary schools and two community centers throughout Nebraska.

Prime Time is sponsored by the NHC with funding from the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Carol Gendler and generous donors like you. Funders in Scottsbluff include the C.W. Yount Foundation and Target.

## ***"I Am a Man"* chosen for 2012 One Book One Nebraska**

*"Somewhere along the flanks of the great river, not far from a valley once flush with buffalo, beaver, bald eagles, and yellow-shafted flickers, where two centuries ago the captain explorers looked out and saw both America's past and future, somewhere near these rugged chalk bluffs, lie the bones of a father and son."*

So begins Nebraska's choice for the 2012 **One Book One Nebraska** statewide reading program.

The "father" is Standing Bear, a peaceful Ponca chief whose people were moved from the Niobrara river valley in Nebraska to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. "I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice," by Joe Starita, tells the story of Standing Bear's return to Nebraska to bury his son in the Ponca homeland and the resulting trial in Omaha's federal courthouse where he famously pronounced: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it,

the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a man."

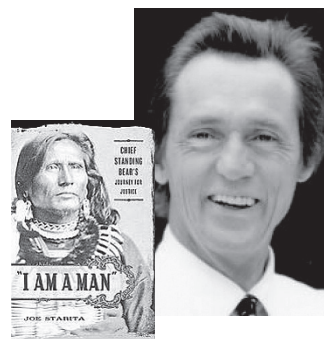
One Book One Nebraska, now in its eighth year, is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book in partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Library Commission. The program encourages Nebraskans throughout the state to read and discuss one book that is tied to Nebraska, either by author or setting or theme.

A committee of Nebraska Center for the Book board members selected five finalists from a list of 48 titles recommended by Nebraskans in an open nomination process. The final selection

was announced at the Celebration of Nebraska Books, Oct. 22 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

Schools, libraries, and other literary and cultural organizations are encouraged to plan book discussions, activities, and events focusing on Joe Starita's "I Am a Man." Resources will be provided by the Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Library Commission to assist local activities. Check the One Book One Nebraska website (<http://onebook.nebraska.gov>)

or Facebook group ([www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska](http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska)) after Jan. 1 for a listing of supporting resources, updates and activities.



# Council awards grants totaling \$116,762

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) recently awarded 28 grants totaling \$116,762. The grant recipients and the amount of each grant:

Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, \$11,630 for "We the People: The Nebraska Viewpoint" traveling exhibit and programming exploring what the Bill of Rights means to Nebraskans.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, \$10,000 to develop the "On the Trail" section of a six-panel exhibit for permanent display at the center.

Emerging Terrain, Omaha, \$10,000 for research and planning for the exhibition "Shifting Thresholds: Investigating the Relationships of Land."

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, \$9,175 to administer statewide 2012 National History Day program for students in grades 6-12.

African Culture Connection, Omaha, \$9,000 for 2011-2012 visits to schools including four new schools.

Nebraska Independent Film Projects, \$8,000 for "Sixties Survivors," a website featuring people profiled by LOOK magazine in the 1960s.

Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Kearney, \$7,500 for "2012 Dancers of the Plains: A Cultural Exhibition," June 15-16.

Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), Lincoln, \$7,000 for educational companion website for documentary "Standing Bear's Footsteps."

Kearney Area Community Foundation, \$5,630 for the 16th annual "Winter Tales" storytelling festival held at multiple locations in Kearney, Jan. 16-21.

Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, \$4,500 for tour and workshop curricula for "Wicked Plants" flower show, January through May 14.

African American and African Studies Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, \$4,220 to support AASP's 40th Year Celebration, Oct. 19-22.

Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Church, Lincoln, \$4,000 for "Winter Lecture Series: North Africa from the Maghreb to Egypt," January through March.

John G. Neihardt Foundation, \$3,400 for 31st Annual Neihardt Spring Conference, April 28 at the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft.

The Durham Museum, Omaha, \$3,400 for eight presentations by Kim and Reggie Harris for Black History Month at Omaha schools, Jan. 31-Feb. 2.

El Museo Latino, Omaha, \$3,000 for lectures in conjunction with exhibits "Graphics of Latin America," through Dec. 28; "Folk Arts in Latin America," Feb. 11-March 31; and "Holiday Traditions in Latin America," Dec. 3-Feb. 25.

Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, \$2,000 for "Homestead Days 2012," June 15-17.

WhyArts? Inc., Omaha, \$1,620 for "The Written Word—For All!" poetry writing and interpretation workshops for at-risk youth and others.

Friends of the Midwest Theater, Scottsbluff, \$1,500 for nine film and discussion events in 2011-12 Community Cinema series.

NET Foundation for Television, Lincoln, \$1,500 for "Free Land! A Nebraska Stories Special" program on settlement of Nebraska, scheduled to air in May.

Nebraska Art Teachers Association, Bellevue, \$1,500 for an art history lecture and workshop Sept. 23-24 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Old West Days Inc., Valentine, \$1,500 for workshops and performances at 20th Annual Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Old West Days, Oct. 6-9.

Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island, \$1,356 for speakers for "Race, Diversity, Identity," a conference on cultural diversity, Oct. 20.

Malaika Foundation, Central City, \$1,350 for "Global Education for Humanities Teachers," an initiative to improve international education in K-12 schools.

Third Chair Chamber Players, Lincoln, \$1,200 for presentations on music history through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) through April.

Nebraska Writing Project, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, \$1,000 for "Poetry of Place Celebration 2012," May 4 at State Capitol.

Loup Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council, Ord, \$975 for lectures at Pawnee Arts Center, October and November in Dannebrog.

Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, Plainview, \$543 for talks about quilts in South Sioux City, Hartington and Naper during Oct. 7-9 quilt display along Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway.

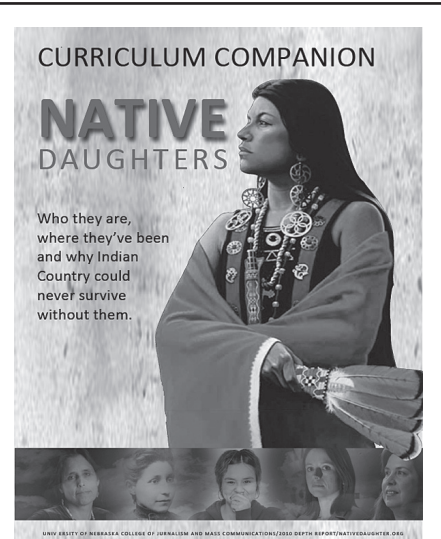
Omaha Corral of Westerners International, \$263 to help fund a speaker for its Oct. 7 meeting.

Grant applications are available at [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org).

Major grants are for more than \$1,500. Application deadlines are March 1 and Aug. 1.

Mini grants are for \$1,500 or less. Application deadlines are Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. Media and website/digital grant deadlines are Jan. 15 and June 15.

For details visit the website or call Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or Erika Hamilton at ext. 104.



*A \$13,120 NHC grant will help to fund an institute to develop a companion K-12 curriculum for Native Daughters magazine.*

## **NHC grant goes to develop K-12 curriculum for Native Daughters**

The Nebraska Humanities Council recently awarded \$13,120 to UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications for an institute to develop a companion K-12 curriculum for Native Daughters magazine.

The curriculum was made available free-of-charge to Nebraska's teachers in early November through the Nebraska Department of Education website ([www.education.ne.gov/mce/](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce/)). The curriculum, written by Nebraska teachers, includes seven units that reflect the seven themes of the magazine—lawgivers, artists, environmentalists, storytellers, healers, warriors and leaders.

The magazine was created by 24 journalism students as an 18-month project to relay the rich and complex contributions Native women have made to both indigenous and American cultures. An accompanying website ([cojmc.unl.edu/native Daughters/](http://cojmc.unl.edu/native Daughters/)) was underwritten by a \$125,000 Carnegie Foundation grant.

# Teachers statewide chosen for 14th Capitol Forum

Thirty high school teachers from schools across the state have been chosen to participate in the 14th annual **Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future**. Through Capitol Forum, high school social studies teachers and their students engage in discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment.

A program of the Choices for the 21st Century Project of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies, Capitol Forum seeks to develop a foundation for long-term civic engagement by giving students a voice in public consideration of current issues. Students study and discuss various positions on global concerns to better understand options and their consequences. Global issues to be discussed include terrorism, nuclear weapon proliferation, immigration, trade and the global economy, and environmental concerns.

Dennis Fornander of North Platte High School and Heidi Reinhart of Duchesne Academy in Omaha will participate as lead teachers. Together, they have 12 years of combined Capitol Forum experience. Selected teachers represent rural, urban,

public and private schools. Five of the teachers and three of the schools selected are new to the program this year.

Teachers gathered Aug. 1 at Educational Service Unit #16 in North Platte to discuss Capitol Forum curriculum and teaching strategies. Guest speaker Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Scot Davis of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) in Colorado Springs, Colo., led teachers in a discussion of the role of USNORTHCOM and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in a 21st century world in order to gain insights and approaches to address topics of homeland security and terrorism in their classrooms.

This school year, students will study and discuss Capitol Forum issues in preparation for a March 26 visit to the State Capitol, where class representatives will report and deliberate on the international concerns of their classmates and have opportunities to question members of Nebraska's congressional delegation about global issues and foreign policy.

The Nebraska Humanities Council presents Capitol Forum in collaboration

with the office of Secretary of State John Gale and with funding support in 2011 from the Dillon Foundation, A to Z Printing, the "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, and private donations.

Schools and teachers chosen for the 14th Capitol Forum are:

- Ashland-Greenwood High School (Brian Petermann)
- West Holt High School, Atkinson (Chris Nemetz)
- Auburn High School (Bryce Roth)
- Battle Creek High School (Cody Wintz)
- Beatrice High School (Joan Workman)
- Bellevue West High School (Mike McLaughlin)
- Centura High School, Cairo (George Lytle)
- Chadron High School (Joe McCarty)
- Crawford High School (Mary Gould-Traphagan)
- Dodge Public Schools (Mitch Hoffer)
- Falls City High School (Lori Rech)
- Grand Island Senior High School (Tamara Bailey)
- Hampton High School (Patrick Alexander)
- Hastings High School (Robert Kerr)
- Hemingford High School (Dave Chatelain)
- Holdrege High School (Chad Bailey)
- Howells High School (Scott Polacek)
- Lincoln North Star High School (Jace Ahlberg)
- Pius X High School, Lincoln (Tom Seib)
- Louisville High School (Nick Bausch)
- Millard West High School (Ali Bragg)
- Norfolk Senior High School (Katherine Steinkamp)
- North Platte High School (N. Dennis Fornander)
- Creighton Prep High School, Omaha (Kim Meyer)
- Duchesne Academy, Omaha (Heidi Reinhart)
- Marian High School, Omaha (David Anderson)
- Platteview High School, Springfield (Jon Comine)
- Stanton High School (Jacob Blum)
- Sterling High School (Arlo Wusk)
- Wilcox-Hildreth High School (Ken Meyers)

## Pre-lecture benefit raises \$125,000 for NHC

Eric Foner, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, delivered the Nebraska Humanities Council and Foundation's 16th annual **Governor's Lecture in the Humanities** at the Joslyn Art Museum on Oct. 5.

Before the lecture, a crowd of more than 400 humanities supporters filled the Joslyn atrium for a benefit dinner that raised \$125,000 for Nebraska Humanities Council programming statewide.

At the free public lecture, Foner spoke about his book "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery," in which he chronicles Lincoln's evolving views on slavery. In addition to the 2011 Pulitzer Prize, the book received two other prestigious awards for history this year, the Lincoln Prize and the Bancroft Prize.

Earlier in the day, Foner spoke with more than 50 UNO and UNL students and faculty on the UNO campus. Before the lecture, Omaha community leader and philanthropist John Gottschalk was



Lecturer Eric Foner (center) is joined by Governor's Lecture co-chairs William Thomas (left) and Joel Russell.

awarded the 2011 Sower Award in the Humanities.

Co-chaired by Joel Russell and William Thomas, the lecture was co-sponsored by Carol Gendler, the University of Nebraska, and Valmont and was supported by dozens of other individuals, businesses and organizations. Foner's remarks will be reprinted in the 2011 Nebraska Humanities magazine along with a full list of event supporters.

# NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL DONORS

## Gifts received between June 1, 2011 and October 31, 2011

Many donors make multiple gifts throughout the year.

Donors are listed at the level of their cumulative giving for the year in the NHC Annual Report.

**Join these generous contributors and help to cultivate an understanding of our history and culture. Thank you for becoming part of our mission!**

### Organizations

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Susan Watts

#### Silver Sower \$250-\$499

Anonymous (2)  
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## Vision Circle of Donors

We invite you to join the Vision Circle of donors to the Nebraska Humanities Council. Your tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 or more will honor more than three decades of vital humanities programming made possible by generous Nebraskans and will help ensure continued statewide access to these programs. We are grateful to the following individuals for supporting current programs by joining the Vision Circle in the past year. We encourage you to do the same.

Steven & Sara Achelpohl  
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Joanne Berkshire  
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## Endowment is unique partnership

The Nebraska Cultural Endowment (NCE) is the private partner in a private-public partnership with the State of Nebraska created to provide financial stability for the arts and humanities. The Cultural Endowment supports the statewide educational programs and projects of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Arts Council. Qualifying contributions to the NCE are matched by income from a state fund. For details, call Pamela Snow at (402) 595-2722, e-mail her at [pshsnow@nebraskaculturalendowment.org](mailto:pshsnow@nebraskaculturalendowment.org) or visit [www.nebraskaculturalendowment.org](http://www.nebraskaculturalendowment.org).



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We know you are inundated with charitable gift requests at this time of year. At the Nebraska Humanities Council every gift counts toward providing humanities-based, content-rich programming. Consider making a gift today, either with the enclosed envelope or online at our website, [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org). Thank you!

- Consider these gift ideas and make a difference!
- \$10 purchases one book for a child in Prime Time Family Reading Time.
- \$25 provides a curriculum packet for a teacher participating in Capitol Forum.
- \$50 allows one middle school student to become a young historian as part of the five-day Youth Chautauqua Camp.
- \$125 provides an honorarium for a scholar in the Speakers Bureau.
- \$250 allows four high school students and a teacher to participate in Capitol Forum Day.
- \$900 funds a storyteller for a six-week Prime Time session.
- \$1,500 funds a civil discussion through Nebraska Conversations.
- \$3,500 underwrites a rural community's participation in Museum on Main Street.

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## Nebraska Book Festival March 31 in Lincoln

The 2012 Nebraska Book Festival will be held March 31 at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, and at nuVibe Juice and Java in downtown Lincoln.

The festival is free and open to everyone who wishes to meet, hear and talk with some of Nebraska's many talented authors who published new works in 2011. All participating authors will answer questions from the audience and be available for book signings.

Confirmed authors who will read and discuss their work include:

- Novelist **Ron Hansen**, "A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion"
- Poet **Twyla Hansen**, "Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet"
- Poet **Neil Harrison**, "Back In The Animal Kingdom"
- Poet and anthology editor **Allison Hedge Coke**, "Sing: Poetry from the Indigenous Americas"
- Fiction writer **David Philip Mullins**, "Greetings From Below"
- Poet **Frank O'Neal**, "Fireside Chats: A Surrealist's View of the World"
- **Ferial Pearson** and **Omaha South High** students, anthology of personal essays, "In My Shoes"
- Poet **Amy Plettner**, "Undoing Orion's Belt"
- Novelist and columnist **Rainbow Rowell**, "Attachments"
- Poet **Mark Sanders**, "Conditions of Grace"
- Novelist **Timothy Schaffert**, "The Coffins of Little Hope"
- Fiction and non-fiction writer **Brent Spencer**, "Rattlesnake Daddy: A Son's Search for His Father"
- Non-fiction writer **William G. Thomas**, "The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America"
- Poet **William Trowbridge**, "Ship of Fools"

Trowbridge will also lead a free poetry workshop with opportunities for writers to discuss their craft and receive expert feedback.

A reception with the featured authors will conclude the festival.

The Nebraska Book Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska State Historical Society, with support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Writers Collective, and University of Nebraska Press.

Visit <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov> for updates on newly confirmed readings and workshops, presenter biographies, workshop registration, and other information.