



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Nebraska Book Fest offers variety of programs

The 2007 Nebraska Book Festival, Oct. 26-27 in downtown Lincoln, offers free programs appealing to a wide variety of interests, including Native American history, murder mysteries, and quilts.

The festival begins Oct. 26 with a keynote address by Joseph Marshall III, award-winning author of nine books on Lakota history and culture, including a biography on Crazy Horse. The 5:30 p.m. address in the Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol will complement statewide One Book One Nebraska readings and discussions of Mari Sandoz' book "Crazy Horse." Secretary of State John Gale, co-sponsor of the event, will give the welcome. Seating is limited.

A 6:30 p.m. reception at the Lincoln Women's Club will follow Marshall's keynote address.

The festival continues its look at biographies with a 9:30 a.m. panel Oct. 27 in Andersen Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Moderated by UNL history professor John Wunder, panelists include Joseph Marshall III, Tim Anderson and Joe Starita. Anderson is author of an introduction for John G. Neihardt's "The River and I" and is currently writing a Neihardt biography. Starita is author of "The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge: A Lakota Odyssey" and is writing a biography on Standing Bear.

Mysteries and crime fiction will be a recurring theme during the festival. The film "Coup de Torchon" will be screened at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. The film is based on Jim Thompson's novel "Pop. 1280." At 2 p.m. Saturday, a "Sweet Savagery" panel will explore and discuss the murder mysteries and crime fiction of Thompson (1906-1977) and Mignon Eberhart (1899-1996). The panel will be moderated by Sean Doolittle, award-winning author of four crime novels.

The Lincoln Quilters Guild will present "How to Read a Quilt" at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Museum of Nebraska History. Quilts will be on display and guild members will talk about their 2007 challenge to design and make quilts that would please their favorite literary characters.

Other Saturday sessions include talks and readings by State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, Mary Pipher, Michael Forsberg, Greg Kosmicki, Hilda Raz, Charles Fort, Marjorie Saiser, Kelly Madigan Erlandson, Greg Kuzma, Matt Mason, Sarah McKinstry-Brown, Mark Sanders, J.V. Brummels, Mary K. Stillwell, and Rajean Luebs Shepherd. Authors will sell and sign books in downtown Lincoln coffee houses.

The complete festival schedule can be found at www.nebraskabookfestival.org.

Festival sponsors include the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Library Commission. The humanities council has provided major funding for the festival since its inception as the Nebraska Literature Festival in 1991. Each year, the event celebrates Nebraska's rich literary heritage and promotes the state's growing population of talented, contemporary writers.

Other partners include the Office of the Nebraska Secretary of State, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Nebraska Arts Council, the Lincoln Journal Star, the University of Nebraska College of Journalism and Mass Communications, the Lincoln Children's Museum, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, the University of Nebraska Press, the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, iUniverse, and the "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.