



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852  
E-mail: [nhc@nebraskahumanities.com](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.com)  
Website: [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**Contact: Michael Cartwright, festival director, (402) 471-4006, [mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us)**

## **Book Fest Oct. 17-18 offers a variety of programs**

The 2008 Nebraska Book Festival, Oct. 17-18 in downtown Lincoln, offers a variety of free programs, including a keynote address by Kent Haruf, poetry slams, a workshop on writing memoirs, and sessions on “The Politics and Press of Fear,” science and fantasy fiction, Nebraska Book Award winners, the life of married writers, and dueling chefs.

The festival begins Oct. 17 with a keynote address by award-winning novelist Kent Haruf, author of “Plainsong” and “Eventide,” at 5:30 p.m. in the Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol. Secretary of State John Gale, co-sponsor of the event, and Leon Satterfield will give the welcome and introduction. Seating is limited.

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

The festival continues all day Oct. 18 with sessions, book sales, readings, author autographs and exhibits at the Museum of Nebraska History, 15<sup>th</sup> and P streets.

Kelly Madigan Erlandson conducts a writing workshop from 9-11 a.m. on “Passing the ‘So What?’ Test: Writing Memoir that Matters.” No registration is required. The free workshop is open to the public on a space-available basis. Participants have the option of presenting their work at an afternoon reading.

The awards luncheon at noon features Maggie Pleskac and Sean Carmichael, co-authors of “Dueling Chefs: A Vegetarian and a Meat Lover Debate the Plate.” Lunch at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Culture Center, 333 N. 14<sup>th</sup> St., is \$10 per person. To make a reservation, go to [www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp), type “festival” in the keyword box and complete the form.

Saturday sessions at the Museum of Nebraska History include Amy Knox Brown and John McNally on the life of married writers, a science and fantasy fiction discussion with Milton Wolf and Meg Burden, Bruce Johansen on writing “tomorrow’s news” about the environment, Stew Magnuson on the death of Raymond Yellow Thunder, and Loren Ghiglione on “The Politics and Press of Fear.”

The Nebraska Writers Collective will host “Night Owl” open-mike poetry slams at 9:30 p.m. Friday at the UNL Culture Center and at 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Box Awesome, 815 O St.

The festival concludes Saturday with a free 8 p.m. reception at the Great Plains Art Museum, 1155 Q St., honoring Paul Johnsgard, noted Nebraska biologist, ornithologist, and author of 50 books on natural history.

The complete festival schedule is at [www.nebraskabookfestival.org](http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org).

Festival sponsors include the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Library Commission. Other partners include the Office of the Nebraska Secretary of State, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln Children’s Museum, Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, Nebraska Writers Collective, Michael Forsberg Gallery, Prairie Fire Newspaper, Lincoln Journal Star, and the “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.